

# National Human Rights Consultation Submission

AGWW-7SA7KH

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**Submission Text:**

I would like to see all children have the right to participate in extracurricular activities at school regardless of income. Many children are deprived of opportunities to fully develop themselves as a result of not being able to afford to participate in activities such as choirs, music classes, sport events, dance activities and excursions. This means that from the start of primary school onwards children who cannot afford to participate feel different and disempowered. It also means that they do not get the opportunities to receive accolades for achievements relating to music, sport and arts activities. This reinforces their sense of marginalisation from mainstream experience and lowers educational and social aspirations. All public schools need to be adequately funded so this is prevented and welfare policies need to be consistent and properly advertised and implemented. Too often assistance is too little to prevent these problems and parents are embarrassed at having to approach a Principal or school because of poverty and then depend on arbitrary judgements and individual schools' budgetary ability to assist. If you are in this situation over a long period of time it is exhausting for the parent and the children learn not to draw attention to themselves out of shame. Please address this as a human right. We are a rich developed country we should be able to support all children and young people throughout school enabling them to have opportunity for a well rounded experience that includes arts and sports. No child or young person should ever have to experience fear, shame or marginalisation at school because of inability to pay for normal school activities.