

**NEW BOOK
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Childhoods
Growing up in
Aotearoa New Zealand

Edited by
NANCY HIGGINS & CLAIRE FREEMAN

Childhoods Growing up in Aotearoa New Zealand

Edited by Nancy Higgins & Claire Freeman

KEY POINTS

- An important and interesting book of use to practitioners and public
- Draws on studies by leading New Zealand researchers
- Explores childhood through the lenses of different disciplines

PUBLICATION DETAILS

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Is Aotearoa New Zealand a good place to bring up children? In fact this country has some of the worst levels of child poverty and poor health in the OECD, as well as exceptionally high child suicide rates.

Children are citizens, with autonomy and rights identified by international agencies and United Nations conventions, but these rights are not readily enforceable. More than a quarter of New Zealand children are living lives of hardship and deprivation in a context of high levels of inequality. Māori children face particular challenges.

The essays in this book are by leading researchers from several disciplines and focus on all of our children and young people, exploring such topics as the environment (economic, social and natural), social justice, children's voices and rights, the identity issues they experience and the impact of rapid societal change. What children themselves have to say is insightful and often deeply moving.

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EDITORS

NANCY HIGGINS is an independent researcher working in the areas of social justice, inclusive education and disabled children and youth. She has recently completed a research project with Ngāti Kāpo o Aotearoa about access to health and education services for blind youth and children. In the past she has worked as a senior lecturer in teacher education. CLAIRE FREEMAN is an associate professor and director of the Master of Planning Programme, Department of Geography, University of Otago. Her interests are in environmental planning, which includes sustainable communities, planning for children and young people, and planning with nature. Her book with Paul Tranter, *Children and their Urban Environment: Changing Worlds*, was published by Earthscan in 2011.



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