Thursday 8 September 2005

Release: **Developing the Differential Response Model**

Work is underway to design and develop the Differential Response Model that will change the way Child, Youth and Family undertakes its core care and protection functions.

“The Differential Response Model project is one of the most significant and exciting service development opportunities in the past decade,” says Shannon Pakura - Child, Youth and Family’s General Manager Service Development.

“It will have a significant impact on the whole care and protection sector enabling more timely and effective intake and assessment services – it’s about providing the right service, for the right child in the right way,” she says.

The Differential Response Model or DRM is a redesign of the way Child, Youth and Family responds to care and protection reports according to a menu of options outlined in proposed amendments to the Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1989.

Child, Youth and Family would undertake a preliminary assessment for all care and protection reports to determine the most appropriate response from the following options:

- a care and protection investigation by a CYF social worker
- a child and family assessment – by CYF or an approved agency
- a referral to other organisations including NGOs or other government agencies
- other actions or steps to give effect to the CYP&F Act
- a decision no further action is required.

Testing elements of the DRM will begin at selected sites around New Zealand from October 2005.