

Submission to the Subcommittee on Children's Rights of the Legislative Council
Proposal for establishing a central database for children

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Key concern for the establishment of the central database for children

- A *coherent* and *regular* updated database coordinated by a centralised system is crucial for effective follow-up actions.
- A *multidimensional* measure of child well-being should be adopted (including material well-being, health and safety, educational well-being, family and peer relationships, behaviours and risks and subjective well-being (see [UNICEF Innocenti Report Card 7](#))
- The complex social reality of poverty should be illuminated by using a combined low income and *deprivation* poverty¹.
- An *internationally comparable* databank should be established to compare how children in Hong Kong fare against children from other advanced economies/cities. Empirical evidence show data gaps for a comparative study of the child well-being in the Pacific Rim², and East and Southeast Asia³.
- Children's views on their lives and well-being should be incorporated⁴ (see also [The Good Childhood Report 2017](#), [the Children's Society](#); [Children's Worlds](#); [The Australian Child Wellbeing Project](#)).
- Child well-being measure requires *age-specific* indicators, including early childhood (e.g. [Child Trends](#)), middle childhood (e.g. [Children's Worlds](#); [The Australian Child Wellbeing Project](#)) and adolescence (e.g. [Health Behaviour in School-Aged Children](#)).

¹ Main G and Bradshaw J. (2012). [A child material deprivation index](#), *Child Indicators Research*. 5(3), 503-521; Pantazis, C., Gordon, D. and Levitas, R. (2006). *Poverty and Social Exclusion in Britain*. Bristol: The Policy Press; Lau, M., Pantazis, C, Gordon, D, Lai, L and Sutton, E (2015). [Poverty in Hong Kong](#). *The China Review: An Interdisciplinary Journal on Greater China*. 15(2), 23-58; Guio, A.C., Gordon, D., Najera, H. and Pomati, M. (2017). [Revising the EU Material Deprivation Variables](#). Luxembourg: European Union.

² Lau, M., & Bradshaw, J. (2010). [Child well-being in the Pacific Rim](#). *Child Indicators Research*, 3, 367–383.

³ Cho, E.Y.N. (2015). [Children's wellbeing in East and Southeast Asia: A preliminary comparison](#). *Child Indicators Research*. 123, 183-201.

⁴ Main, G. and Pople, L. (2011). [Missing Out: A Child-Centred Analysis of Material Deprivation and Subjective Well-being](#). London: The Children's Society; Lau, M. and Bradshaw J. (2018). [Material well-being, social relationships and children's overall life satisfaction in Hong Kong](#). *Child Indicators Research*. 11(1), 185-205.