

# Active Youth Citizenship

## Ministry of Youth Development Blueprint 2012 – 2015

The Ministry of Youth Development will develop and promote Active Youth Citizenship.

For the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD), Active Youth Citizenship is young people using knowledge, skills and experience to participate confidently in their communities.

Active Youth Citizenship benefits society<sup>1</sup> by helping young people to:

- ➔ strengthen their community through leadership and participation in decision-making
- ➔ develop literacy, numeracy and language skills
- ➔ contribute to the economy through paid work
- ➔ have less need for health and welfare services
- ➔ avoid the criminal justice system
- ➔ build trust and relationships
- ➔ develop knowledge of rights and responsibilities.



Young New Zealander of the Year 2011, Jamie Fenton (left) sharing her knowledge with a participant of the Prime Minister's Youth Programme  
Neil Mackenzie, Photographer, Onlinefotos Ltd.

We believe it is important that:

- ➔ young people participate in decision-making, including having the necessary skills to make informed decisions and understanding the big picture
- ➔ young people are connected with, and contribute to their communities
- ➔ people working with young people and decision-makers are adequately supported to ensure active youth citizenship is promoted and informed by good information
- ➔ all work with young people is strength-based, and involves quality relationships.

<sup>1</sup> Source: McNeil, B. *et al.* (2012). *A framework of outcomes for young people*. The Young Foundation. [www.youngfoundation.org](http://www.youngfoundation.org)

# MYD: The Present

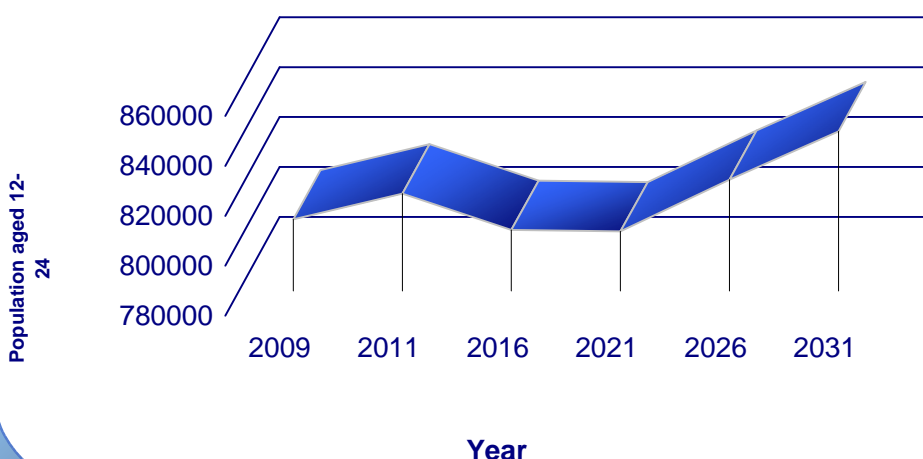
MYD has three key roles:

1. As a direct funder of youth development services. The Ministry has two funds to purchase services that support young people to become active citizens:
  - the Youth Development Partnership Fund provides short-term funding to Territorial Authorities to meet emerging needs and opportunities for young people in their community; and
  - the Services for Young People fund provides for a range of services focused on active youth citizenship development opportunities.
2. To support and facilitate youth involvement and input into decision-making processes. The Ministry runs:
  - Aotearoa Youth Voices network
  - Youth consultations for government and other agencies
  - Training opportunities for young people to develop knowledge of, and skills in, leadership, community participation and public decision-making
  - Training for people working with young people in applying youth development practice and understanding of youth participation.
3. To encourage and support stakeholders to take a youth development approach:
  - Initiates partnerships with non-governmental organisations, philanthropic organisations and corporate entities
  - Leads and contributes to cross-agency initiatives, working groups, programmes and advice with non-governmental organisations, the Ministry of Social Development and other government agencies.

## Did you know?

MYD forms part of the Youth Policy Group within the Social Policy and Knowledge cluster of the Ministry of Social Development. MYD is primarily an agency focussed on the interests of 12-24 year olds in Aotearoa. We have a national office and work across the country through regional offices located in Auckland, Rotorua, Wellington and Christchurch.

**Total population of New Zealand aged 12-24<sup>2</sup>**



Young people aged 12-24 years old represent around 20 per cent of the total New Zealand population.

<sup>2</sup> <http://nzdotstat.stats.govt.nz/wbos/Index.aspx#>

# MYD: The Future

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## More young people contribute positively to their communities

We want more young people to play a positive role in their communities and inform the decisions that affect them.

### The next three years

#### Playing a role in communities

We will fund, influence and support local programmes and initiatives to connect young people to their communities.

We will increase the opportunities for young people to be active citizens. This means helping more young people develop leadership skills and make a positive contribution to their communities.

#### **We will...**

Establish MYD as a key source for information, advice and guidance on Active Youth Citizenship development in Aotearoa

Promote the variety and breadth of training opportunities

#### Influencing decision-making

We want young people to inform decisions that directly affect them. We will train and support young people to contribute effectively to local, regional and national decisions. We will continue to offer initiatives, such as the Aotearoa Youth Voices network, to increase opportunities for young people to contribute to decision-making.

Through Youth Parliament, young people will be actively involved in the parliamentary process. This provides the opportunity to have their views heard by decision-makers and the general public.

#### **We will...**

Increase the quality of Active Youth Citizenship opportunities we provide to young people

Increase MYD's leverage across sectors and stakeholders, and improve the profile of Active Youth Citizenship opportunities to young people

#### Demonstrating success

We will know that we have achieved our outcomes when more young people are positively engaged in their communities and are involved in decision-making.

To be accountable and demonstrate our progress, we will implement improved performance reporting systems.

#### **We will...**

Provide relevant, beneficial feedback and analysis to stakeholders on achievements and progress

Invest in and continue to develop Active Youth Citizenship outcomes via the Investing in Services for Outcomes (ISO)<sup>3</sup> initiative

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<sup>3</sup> ISO is an initiative to provide simpler and a more streamlined approach to contracting with social service organisations to achieve better results for communities.

# MYD: The Big Picture

As part of the “Delivering Better Public Services” priority, the Government has set 10 key result areas for the public sector to achieve over the next five years. The diagram below illustrates how MYD contributes to *increasing the proportion of 18 year olds with NCEA level 2 or equivalent qualification* result area.

## Delivering Better Public Services

Government theme: *Boosting Skills and Employment*

Government result area: *Increase the proportion of 18 year olds with NCEA level 2 or equivalent qualification*



***Active Youth Citizenship is about increasing young people’s confidence, leadership and self-management skills to better participate in society. This leads to better participation and achievement in education.***

**For more information contact the Ministry of Youth Development**

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Our four regional offices are located in MSD offices in Auckland, Rotorua, Wellington and Christchurch.