



# BRIEFING TO THE INCOMING MINISTER



**Working with young people for a better future**



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT  
*Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora*



MINISTRY OF  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO TAIOHI  
Administered by the Ministry of Social Development



## CONTENTS

<b>Overview</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>ii</b>
<b>Part 1: Overview – The Situation Today</b>	
<hr/>	
<b>The nature of our young population is changing</b>	<b>3</b>
‘Youth Indicators’ show areas of improvement	3
Young New Zealanders’ health	3
Young New Zealanders’ educational achievement	3
Young New Zealanders’ transitions from school	3
Youth Transition Services	3
Youth gangs	3
Youth offending	3
Young New Zealanders and violence	3
Lack of housing impacts on young people’s futures	3
<b>Part 2: Current Challenges</b>	
<hr/>	
<b>The health of some young people is still of concern</b>	<b>3</b>
Access to appropriate health services remains an issue	3
<b>Helping families to get the basics right will make a difference</b>	<b>3</b>
Improvements in educational attainment	3
Too many young people have already disengaged	3
<b>Early action on youth offending prevents later problems</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Stable housing is essential</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>We can reduce the effects of violence on young people by acting early</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Youth work and mentoring makes a difference</b>	<b>3</b>

## **Part 3: Opportunities for Action**

---

<b>We can improve the results for young people</b>	<b>3</b>
Better health results can help young people's development	3
The links between schools and our services are important	3
Mentoring, social workers and youth workers can offer the right support	3
Prevention of violence starts early in the life of young people	3
Opportunities exist to extend housing support	3

## **Part 4: How the Ministry Works**

---

<b>Our role</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Our responsibilities</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Our structure</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Our stakeholders</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Working with you</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Appendix: Ministry of Youth Development services and providers</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Services for young people</b>	<b>3</b>
Pathway to Partnership	3
Service providers delivering Conservation Corps Programmes (2008/09)	3
Service providers delivering Youth Service Corps Programmes (2008/09)	3
Service providers delivering Specialist Youth Service Corps Programmes (2008/09)	3
Mentoring and youth support services	3
Sector development activities	3
Other youth development activities	3
<b>Youth development partnership fund</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Endnotes</b>	<b>3</b>

## TABLE OF FIGURES

<i>Figure 1.</i>	<i>Estimated resident population by age, as at 2006</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Figure 2.</i>	<i>Changes in child and youth wellbeing, 1995-1997 to 2005-2007</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Figure 3.</i>	<i>New Zealand child and youth mortality rates, 2004</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Figure 4.</i>	<i>Proportion of 15–19 year-olds not engaged in employment, study or caregiving, by sex, 2004–2007</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Figure 5.</i>	<i>Vote Youth Development budget, July 2008–June 2009</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Figure 6.</i>	<i>Ministry of Social Development’s organisational structure</i>	<i>3</i>

## OVERVIEW

The Ministry of Youth Development helps you represent the interests of New Zealanders aged between 12 and 24 years. We support you to work across government and with a range of non-government agencies so you can make a difference in young people's lives.

We advise agencies and communities on positive results for young people. We provide policy advice on matters that have an impact on young people. The Ministry brings young people's voices into the policy making process. We encourage young people to participate in 'civic' society and to connect to their communities. We provide support to communities and territorial local authorities on local initiatives to support young people's transitions and we support organisations to work with vulnerable young people.

The Ministry works with the youth work sector to develop their capacity and capability so they can help young people to meet some of the challenges they face.

The Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa informs how we work. The Strategy was developed after wide consultation with the youth sector and is the basis for youth development in New Zealand.

Over one in five New Zealanders are aged under 16 years. There is a greater proportion of young people in New Zealand in this age group than in either Australia or the US. The number of young people in the 5 to 16 years age group is bigger at the moment because of the 'baby blip' of the late-1980s and early-1990s.

Young people are a diverse group with a wide range of interests, hopes and aspirations. Some of them are still at school, discovering their identity and beginning to make their way in the world. Others are continuing their learning in tertiary education or are working and starting families. Some are going to, or returning from, their overseas experience. Some are staying overseas, to return later. They all have the potential to make a vital contribution to our communities and our nation.

The Ministry will work with you to understand your priorities going forward.

We look forward to working with you.

Ruth Palmer  
General Manager  
Ministry of Youth Development

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the time of the 2006 Census there were around 757,000 young people aged 12 to 24 years living in New Zealand. There are currently more young people in New Zealand than there will be in the future. These young people are progressively entering the workforce and helping them to make successful transitions is important to New Zealand's social and economic prosperity.

Most young people have positive life experiences and make a successful transition into adulthood. We need to do more for those who don't. Intervening early, in the life of the young person or in the life of the problem, is more likely to bring long-term benefits to the young person, their family and New Zealand. We need to build strong and healthy families and whānau and focus on key areas such as education, health, housing, and offending behaviour. We also need to reduce young people's exposure to violence.

We have made good progress in lifting educational results and in improving young people's transitions from school to education, training or employment. However, about 9 per cent of young people are at risk of not moving effectively into continuing education or training or employment.

In the first instance we need to make sure young people are better engaged in school – whether at primary or secondary level. More effort needs to be put into those young people who have already disengaged from the education system. Working across government, in the school setting and in the community, with an integrated and active service response we can help these young people to re-connect with their schooling.

Good health is fundamental to young people's positive development. Poor health often has a cumulative impact on learning, socialisation and development. From early adolescence young people are more likely to drink, to drive fast cars and to experiment with drugs and sex. A high proportion of young people who come into conflict with the law suffer from unresolved physical or mental health problems. Access to youth-friendly health services can help with some of these problems. Encouraging a healthy lifestyle between the ages of 12 to 24 years can also have life-long positive consequences.

The majority of young people who come into contact with the youth justice system will 'learn their lesson', others will need support and assistance to turn their lives around. Some will become persistent life-time offenders, a proportion of whom will commit serious violent offending. The best time to turn young people away from later criminal activity is before the age of 5 years. Additionally, it is very important to address early the onset of antisocial behaviour – between the ages of 3 and 7 years. Investment at this stage can stop some of the flow of young people into the youth and criminal justice systems as well as have other social benefits. It is also important to have the programmes and services available to those who do enter the youth justice system and who need targeted help.

New Zealand's young people experience too much violence – in the home, at school and in the community. This can lead to negative outcomes such drug and alcohol abuse, problem behaviour, disengagement from school, depression and suicide. We

need to identify the problems early and work collaboratively across government, the non-government sector and the judiciary to develop strong and resilient families, and schools and communities that are free from violence.

Young people are not always seen as ideal tenants and can end up on the fringes of the rental housing market. Groups such as young parents, young people with mental health needs, and young refugees struggle particularly to find suitable accommodation. They can often end up in environments that exacerbate their problems. A range of responses is needed from information and advice, advocacy, support to stay with their family, financial assistance, incentives and more housing stock. Services also need to be delivered in a youth-friendly way.

Organisations that work with young people at risk need support. Timely contact with a youth worker can sometimes provide a young person with one of their few experiences of a supportive and positive relationship with an adult. Such an approach can help young people to return to education or to make a better transition to work. The youth work sector in New Zealand has developed in an ad hoc fashion and is fragmented. There are opportunities to increase the quality, capacity and capability of the youth work sector in New Zealand.

PART

# 1

Overview – The  
Situation Today

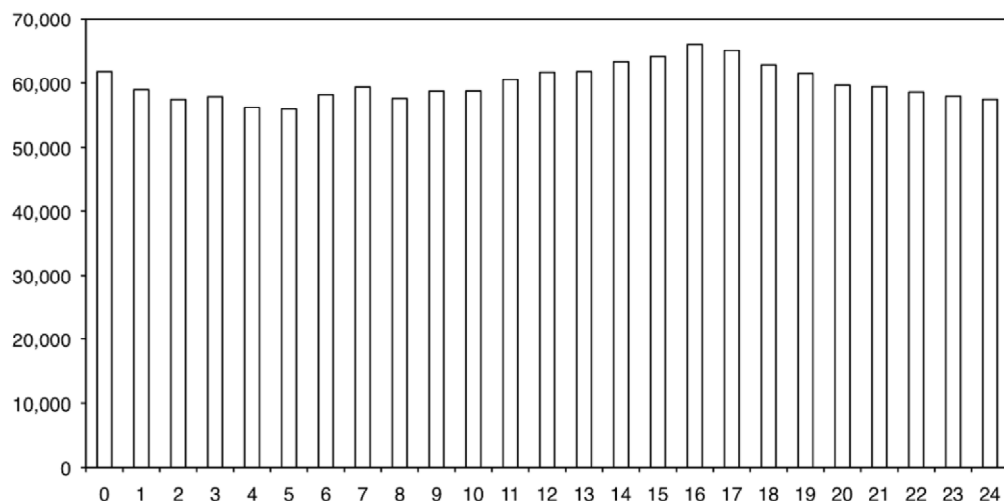
Most young people succeed at school, have good health and avoid becoming involved in offending. We now have better information which helps us know how well our young people are doing and how many young people are at risk.

## THE NATURE OF OUR YOUNG POPULATION IS CHANGING

At the time of the 2006 Census there were around 757,000 young people aged 12 to 24 years living in New Zealand. The 'baby blip' of the late-1980s and early-1990s means we have a larger number of young people now than we will have in the future. This group is progressively entering the workforce over the next few years.

*There are now more young people than there will be in the future*

**Figure 1. Estimated resident population by age, as at 2006**



Source: Statistics New Zealand

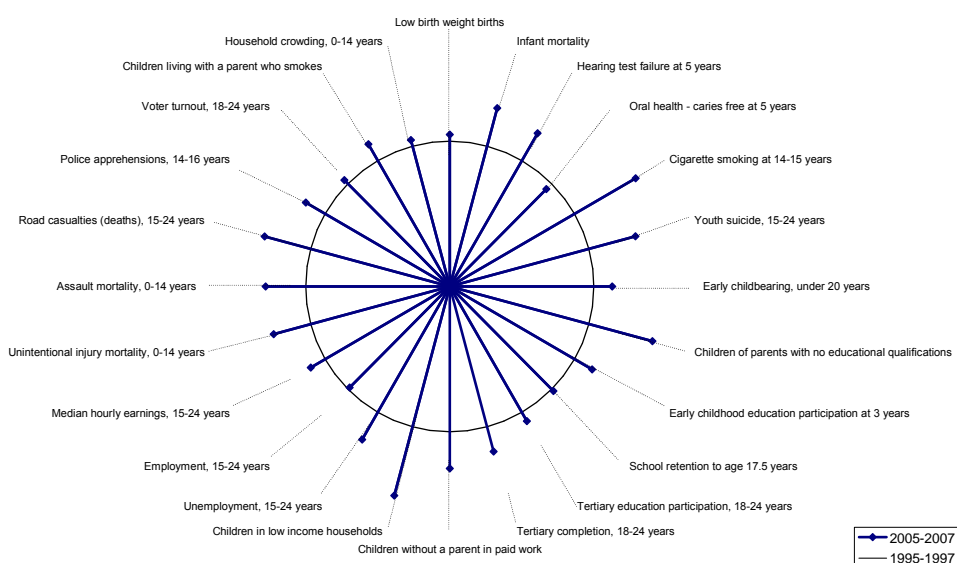
In 2006 the ethnic make up of the 0–24 years age group was predominantly New Zealand European with Māori, Pacific and Asian young people representing smaller proportions of the age group.<sup>1</sup>

The proportion of the working age population made up by young people is falling and will continue to do so. The ageing of the workforce and the changing ethnic mix of the population will change the face of the youth population. By 2026, Māori will comprise 29 per cent of the youth population (up by 5 per cent), Pacific and Asian young people 18 per cent (up by 6 per cent and 9 per cent respectively) and European youth 68 per cent (down by 9 per cent).<sup>2</sup> As the 'baby boomers' retire, young New Zealanders will play an increasingly important role in the economy. This group of young people will be the major source of labour and contributors to the revenue base of future governments. It is vitally important they enter adulthood well educated, healthy and able to make an effective contribution to society.

## 'Youth Indicators' show areas of improvement

The Children and Young People: Indicators of Wellbeing in New Zealand report compares the progress of the lives of young New Zealanders over a 10-year period. The diagram below provides points of comparison across a number of areas between 1995 to 1997 and 2005 to 2007.

**Figure 2. Changes in child and youth wellbeing, 1995-1997 to 2005-2007**



The circle represents average outcomes for each indicator between 1995 and 1997, and the spokes represent outcomes between 2005 and 2007. Where possible, the data is averaged over the three years in these two time periods. Where a spoke falls outside the circle, this means outcomes have improved since the mid-1990s; the further from the circle it falls, the more substantial the improvement. Where a spoke falls within the circle, outcomes in this area have deteriorated since the mid-1990s; the further the spoke is from the circle, the more pronounced the deterioration. There are some important limitations on this style of presentation. In particular we cannot directly compare the size of changes for different indicators. The absence of trend data for some indicators limits the number of indicators displayed above to 24. Most of the latest data is for 2005–2007, with the exception of suicide (2003–2005) and assault mortality (2001–2005). The earlier period is 1995–1997 for all indicators except cigarette smoking, tertiary education participation and tertiary completion (1999 for each of these), and assault mortality (1996–2000).

## Young New Zealanders' health

Most indicators we have show improving health results for young people. The health results for young Māori have improved over the last 10 years but, along with those for young Pacific peoples, they still lag behind those of New Zealand European young people.

Mortality rates for 15 to 24 year-olds have declined by a third since 1990. The youth suicide rate has fallen since the mid-1990s from 26.8 per 100,000 people to 20.1 per 100,000 people, but is still higher than it was in the mid-1980s. More recently there has been a reported decrease in the number of young people attempting suicide. But our death rate from suicide still remains unacceptably high.

*There have been gains in the health of young people in recent years...*

The proportion of 14 and 15 year-olds who regularly smoke cigarettes has more than halved since 1999. The rates of cigarette smoking among 14 and 15 year-old Māori have fallen substantially since 1999, 43 per cent for young men and 34 per cent for young women. Similarly, there have been dramatic reductions in the rates of cigarette smoking among 14 and 15 year-old Pacific students since 1999, 41 per cent for young men and 45 per cent for young females. Asian 14 and 15 year-olds have the lowest regular cigarette smoking rates of young people. Since 1999, rates have declined by 40 per cent for young men and 62 per cent for young women.

While there have been improvements in the health of young people there are still areas where we could do better across a range of indicators. These indicators include sexual health and alcohol abuse.

### **Young New Zealanders' educational achievement**

The achievement of young New Zealanders has improved over the last few years. Since 2001 the number of full-time students aged 16 years and over has been increasing.<sup>3</sup> Many of our students are achieving in the top 25 per cent of students in Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries. In 2006 New Zealand 15 year-olds scored significantly above the OECD average on assessments for reading, mathematical and scientific literacy.

New Zealand 18–24 year-olds have a relatively high rate of participation in tertiary education at diploma and degree level, ranking seventh among OECD countries in 2005. There have been good gains for all ethnic groups but especially for Māori, Pacific and Asian students. Key highlights include:

- There have been gains in Māori educational participation and achievement. The proportion of Māori school leavers with NCEA Level 2 or above increased by 15 per cent between 2003 and 2007, the largest improvement of any ethnic group.<sup>4</sup>
- Pacific students generally have been more likely than other secondary students to stay on at school to age 17 years. The proportion of Pacific school leavers with NCEA Level 2 or above increased by 14 per cent between 2003 and 2007.
- Asian young people do particularly well in education. In 2006, an estimated 21 per cent more of the Asian student population than of the general student population stayed at school to their 17th birthday. Asian students who left school in 2007 had the highest proportion of all students with NCEA Level 2 or above.

There is still some work to be done on improving the engagement of Māori and Pacific young people with school. Māori and Pacific students should also be encouraged to stay at school longer as higher qualifications will increase their employment options in the medium to longer term. It will also improve their chances of moving on to other forms of higher education or training.

### Young New Zealanders' transitions from school

The majority of young New Zealanders make successful moves from school to employment, education or training.

Strong labour market conditions have meant young people without qualifications have been able to enter the workforce more easily than they could 10 years ago. Current policy settings and active service delivery through Work and Income mean we have lower youth unemployment and less long-term youth unemployment than other countries. Long-term youth unemployment is well below the OECD average.<sup>5</sup>

But in a changing labour market going through an economic downturn, young people are likely to be significantly disadvantaged if they do not have basic skills. A major priority is to continue to equip all young people with the skills they need for sustained employment. The results for young Māori and Pacific peoples have improved. Young Māori in the 15 to 24 years age group are much more likely to be in paid employment than they were in the early-1990s. The unemployment rate fell for this group from 39 per cent in 1991 to 17 per cent in 2007. For Pacific youth, the unemployment rate has fallen since 1991 from 37 per cent to 14.6 per cent.

Across government, work is being done to help young people stay engaged or to re-engage with education or training. But there are still around 9 per cent of our young people who are not in employment, education or training or are difficult to locate. We can improve this by providing more pathways from school to further education, training or work for young people. Youth Transition Services can help young people move into further education or employment where young people leave school early.

### Youth Transition Services

Youth Transition Services were established in 2004 to support the government's goal (shared with the Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs<sup>6</sup>) of having all 15–19 year-old youth in work, education or training or other activities that contribute to their long-term economic independence and wellbeing by 2007.<sup>7</sup> This goal was widened in 2008 to include all young people under the age of 25 years.

There are now 14 Youth Transition Services established in areas of highest need. The services are available for young people in 18 territorial local authorities covering approximately 32 per cent of school leavers. Two youth transitions providers, Work'n it Out (Southern Region) and Connections (Nelson/Tasman) will be incorporated under the Youth Transition Services umbrella in 2009. This will then cover approximately 44 per cent of school leavers.

An evaluation of the Youth Transition Services found that 61 per cent of young people who exited from Youth Transition Services benefited from their contact with the service. Māori and Pacific young people made up more than 50 per cent of this group. Māori were more likely to return to education or training, enter employment or take on an apprenticeship.

Future opportunities for the expansion of Youth Transition Services include into rural areas with an identifiable need for the services and where there is a commitment of support from the territorial local authority. The need for a better connection with schools will also be important as the number of young people staying in school increases in the future.

*There are some young people that will still need our help to get back on track*

*There is still more work to do with communities on youth gangs*

### Youth gangs

We have made a strong start on working with young people who are at risk of gang involvement or who are already involved with gangs. In 2006 the Improving Outcomes for Young People in Counties Manukau Plan of Action was implemented. It is having a positive impact on at-risk children and young people.

Early evaluation results have shown that in Counties Manukau the combined activities of youth workers, integrated case management, parent education and teams of non-teaching professionals in schools have been effective. The work that has been done across government in partnership with communities is turning many young people away from youth gang involvement. Challenges remain so we need to maintain our work in this area.

A best practice local response toolkit for responding to youth gang activity has been developed to meet any emerging need for action on youth gangs in other areas of New Zealand. It outlines the best practice approach for government agencies to address the multiple needs of young people (and their families and whānau) involved with gangs or at risk of gang involvement at a local level. Working closely with communities over the coming years is the way to ensure our programmes better support those young people most in need of our services.

### Youth offending

Most young people are law abiding and actively engaged in their communities. While about 30 per cent of young people are apprehended by the Police at least once, only about 1 per cent of all young people become chronic offenders.

Overall, the rates of youth offending have fallen in recent years. The apprehension rate for 14 to 16 year-olds has declined by 16 per cent over the period 1995–2006. Young people are much more likely than people in older age groups to engage in criminal activity – adolescence is a time of risk-taking activity. Offences are most frequently property, public order and drug offences, with violent offences making up a smaller component of apprehensions. There has been a 47.5 per cent increase in apprehensions of 14–16 year-olds for violent offences over the period 1995–2006.

*The youth apprehension rate is going down but violent offending is increasing*

### Young New Zealanders and violence

A major survey of secondary school students' health and wellbeing was conducted in 2000, and repeated in 2007.<sup>8</sup> The 2007 results found that over 45 per cent of the school students surveyed reported being hit or physically harmed by another person in the previous year. One in five young people reported being sent nasty and threatening messages by cell phone or internet. Around 15 per cent had, in their home, witnessed physical violence against a child, 10 per cent had witnessed physical violence between adults.

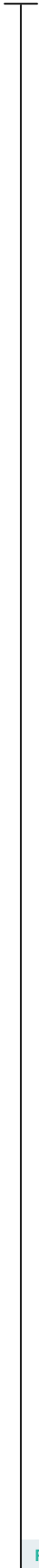
The experience of violence – whether as a victim, perpetrator or witness – is associated with a whole spectrum of adverse impacts. These impacts range from drug and alcohol abuse, increased rates of problem behaviour, alienation from school, relationship difficulties, and depression and suicide attempts.

Many young people who are the victims or witnesses of family violence go on to perpetrate serious violence themselves. It is important that we intervene early and that young people can access youth-friendly health and social services as a first step to helping themselves and their families and whānau end the cycle of violence.

### Lack of housing impacts on young people's futures

Finding safe and secure housing is a challenge for many young people, particularly those who are the most vulnerable. Young people in general are seen as less desirable tenants by many private sector landlords and often end up in overpriced and substandard accommodation. For the most vulnerable young people – sole parents, young people with mental health problems, young refugees, and young people leaving state care – finding somewhere safe and secure to live is doubly difficult. Recently completed research on vulnerable young people's housing needs found that many resort to living in situations where their problems are exacerbated.<sup>9</sup>

*Finding safe secure housing can be a challenge for many young people*



PART

# 2

Current Challenges

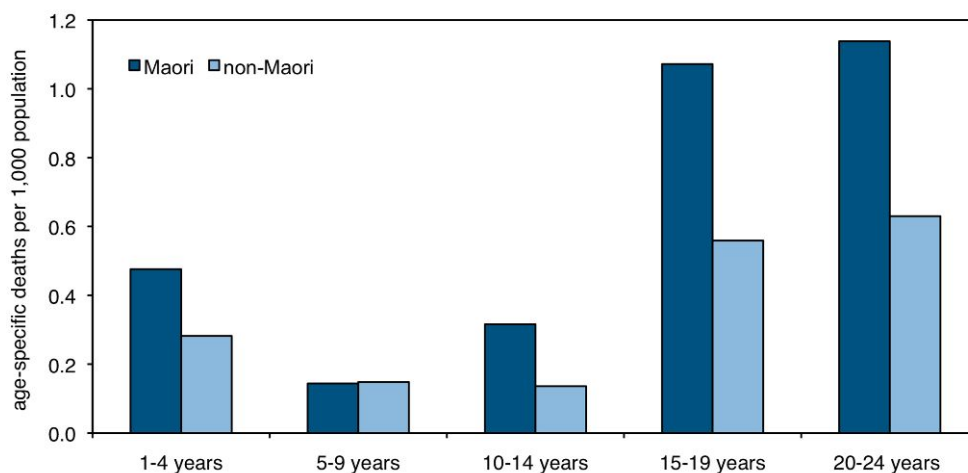
Young people have made gains across a number of areas over the last few years but challenges remain. To address these problems we need to intervene early and work collaboratively across government and non-government agencies.

### THE HEALTH OF SOME YOUNG PEOPLE IS STILL OF CONCERN

There have been some good gains in the health of young people. Other areas of concern remain, especially for Māori and Pacific young people.

By comparison with the total population under 25 years, young Māori are at a greater risk of dying from assault, unintentional injury and motor vehicle accidents. The youth suicide death rate has fallen since the mid-1990s, but is still unacceptably high for Māori, increasing in the years up to 2003–2005.<sup>10</sup>

**Figure 3. New Zealand child and youth mortality rates, 2004**



*Alcohol abuse plays a part in risk behaviours*

Alcohol abuse plays a part in these problems. Young Māori and Pacific peoples, men and women, are more likely to have a potentially hazardous alcohol drinking pattern, compared to young people in the total population.<sup>11</sup> There are longer-term implications of these risky behaviours. Drinking and risky sex often go together. Young New Zealanders have high rates of sexually-transmitted infections, unwanted pregnancies and abortions compared with their international peers. Chlamydia – an infectious disease whose long-term consequence can be infertility – is highest among the youth population.

### Access to appropriate health services remains an issue

Approaches that focus on improving self-esteem and personal development have provided good results to date. These can help young people to identify a pathway out of their issues or the need to seek appropriate assistance. We need to continue to work with young people and with government and non-government agencies on educating young people about their personal choices. We also need to work across government to build the range of mental health and drug treatment services for young people.

The mental health of young people can also influence their behaviours and contribute to substance abuse. Mental health disorders are more prevalent among young people compared with other age groups. A 2006 survey of New Zealanders' mental health status found that young women tend to predominate in the mood and anxiety disorder categories, while for young men it is in substance use disorders. There are challenges for young people in accessing suitable mental health and drug rehabilitation services.

Young people – particularly those in the 15 to 24 years age group – tend to be 'under-users' of health care services. There is a need for youth health services that encourage ready access to youth-friendly care and support. Youth-specific community-based health centres or 'one stop shops' exist across the country. We need to ensure these services continue to grow.

### HELPING FAMILIES TO GET THE BASICS RIGHT WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

A poor home learning environment, developmental delays, behavioural problems, and low socio-economic status all have an adverse impact.<sup>12</sup>

The critical time for influencing future behaviour is in early childhood. Action at this stage, and then as soon as problems first appear, prevents problems from growing. We need to continue to work with families to improve their results so the basis is in place for children to realise their potential.

Between 5 to 10 per cent of primary and intermediate school children demonstrate conduct disorder or severe antisocial behaviour. Factors associated with conduct problems include antenatal maternal stress, harsh, coercive or lax parenting, and parental antisocial behaviour. The difficult to control behaviours are manifested in the home, in the classroom and when playing with children of their own age. The problems include a range of antisocial, aggressive, dishonest, delinquent, defiant and disruptive behaviours. They are the single most important predictor of later antisocial behaviour.

The lifetime cost to the New Zealand justice system of a single chronic antisocial male is estimated at \$3 million. Antisocial behaviours can be managed through early action. But there are currently gaps in the availability of specialist behaviour services, particularly for younger children (0–7 years) and teenagers (13–17 years).

*We need to work with families and whānau to help them give their children a good start in life*

At a broader level there are opportunities to continue getting the basics right through using universal child services as an appropriate entry point with families. There is a need to expand the work on conduct disorder in schools with teachers, parents and with non-government providers where we have not already had contact with families. Not dealing with problem behaviours early will allow them to escalate at a long-term cost to the individual, their families and society.

### **Improvements in educational attainment**

Overall, the educational achievement of young New Zealanders has improved over the last few years, but not for all. The number of full-time students aged 16 years and over has increased since 2001. But in 2006, 25 per cent of students left school without NCEA Level 1. Forty-four per cent of Māori students and 32 per cent of Pacific students leave school with less than a NCEA Level 1 qualification.<sup>13</sup>

Despite positive trends, educational indicators for Māori generally compare unfavourably with those for the total population. Māori still have lower rates of participation in early childhood education, higher truancy rates, and lower mean scores for reading, mathematical and scientific literacy.

Overall, the educational attainment of Pacific young people has improved, with some areas where results are less favourable. However, Pacific students have relatively high school truancy rates and they had the lowest mean scores for reading, mathematical and scientific literacy.<sup>14</sup>

There needs to be a shift in the education system at both the primary and secondary school levels. Young people need to be engaged early after their entry to primary school. In secondary education young people need to be offered pathways that will engage and prepare them for a range of education or employment destinations.

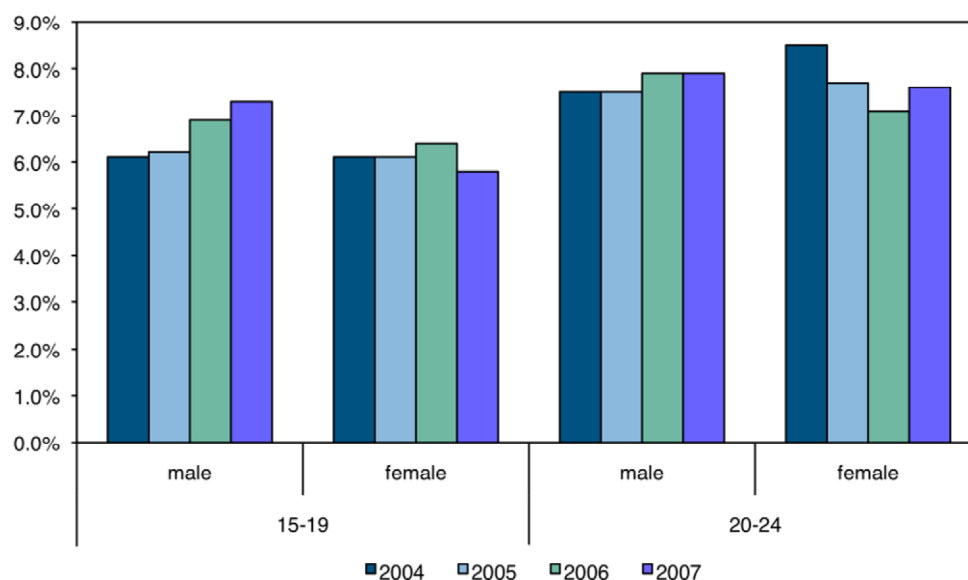
### **Too many young people have already disengaged**

If young people are not in employment and not at school, there are good reasons to be concerned about their current wellbeing and their future prospects. An indicator of those who are likely to be in this group<sup>15</sup> is the number of young persons who are neither in employment nor in education.

In 2007, 6.6 per cent of 15–19 year-olds (20,700 people) were deemed 'inactive' – neither employed, nor studying, nor engaged in home duties. This was just below the proportion who were inactive in 2006 (6.7 per cent) and a slight increase from 6.1 per cent in 2004. The New Zealand youth inactivity rate of 9.2 per cent was higher than the OECD average of 7.7 per cent in 2004.<sup>16</sup>

*Too many Māori and Pacific students are still leaving school not equipped for the future*

**Figure 4. Proportion of 15–19 year-olds not engaged in employment, study or caregiving, by sex, 2004–2007**



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Household Labour Force Survey

Around 9 per cent of young people may remain disengaged for long periods of time and be socially excluded.<sup>17</sup> There needs to be options for young people who struggle at school and who are not yet old enough or educationally ready to move into tertiary education. Tertiary education should also continue to offer an opportunity for second-chance learning. Only when we engage all young people in education will we avoid leaving young people without the best foundations for a successful life.

## EARLY ACTION ON YOUTH OFFENDING PREVENTS LATER PROBLEMS

In 2006, the youth apprehension rate was the lowest recorded over the 1995 to 2006 period, but problems still remain. Male youth offending is tending to be more violent overall. The apprehension rate for violent sexual offending among 14 to 16 year-olds has trended down slightly since 2001.<sup>18</sup> This has meant the number of proven cases has remained about the same over the same period. There is an ongoing need to treat those whose violent sexual offending will have repercussions for society.

Our treatment services for sexually offending adolescents have gained international recognition as being leading edge in their field. But the work done through Community Based Treatment (CBT) programmes and in an institutional setting is dealing with problems that have their origins either early in a young person's life or during adolescence.

Early prevention of youth offending means addressing the multiple causes of the offending. These causes are located early in the life of the child, their families or

*Youth offending has decreased but violent offending has been increasing*

their communities. Helping parents to develop better parenting and relationship skills can help stop abuse, neglect and offending from being passed on to new generations.

If the services and programmes available for young offenders are working well offenders are held accountable for their offending. These services and programmes can also help young people to change their behaviours and address the issues that contribute to re-offending. The long-run costs to society and individuals argues strongly for investing in this treatment. We need to continue to invest in this work to ensure violent offending is contained early on before further damage is done to the individual and society.

## STABLE HOUSING IS ESSENTIAL

State and council housing in New Zealand is frequently prioritised for groups such as families and our older citizens. Young people are under-represented on Housing New Zealand waiting lists and in council housing tenancies. Housing New Zealand does give a priority ranking to sole parents.

Recent research in New Zealand found that some emergency housing for young people exists, but only a limited range of the housing needs of the vulnerable young are met. As with the adult population, the provision of housing support for the vulnerable young needs to be tailored to their differing needs and for different groupings. There needs to be support for young people to stay living with their own families through to the provision of purpose-built housing. Solutions that work for young sole parents will be different from those needed by young people released from custody or by recovering drug addicts and mental health patients.

## WE CAN REDUCE THE EFFECTS OF VIOLENCE ON YOUNG PEOPLE BY ACTING EARLY

Young people who have frequent experiences of violence have fewer strengths or supports. In comparison with other students, students who had frequent experiences of violence have:

- lower rates of getting on well with families and feeling a part of their school
- lower rates of feeling they could 'make it through' if they faced tough times.

Young people who are the victims or witnesses of family violence often go on to perpetrate serious violence themselves.

Challenges exist around working collaboratively across government, the NGO sector and the judiciary to limit the impact of violence, particularly family violence, on young people. To be effective we need to build family strength and resilience and to intervene early, both in the life of the young person and in the life of the problem.

*Housing support needs to be tailored to the needs of young people*

*There are ways we can act early to reduce the effects of family violence on young people*

## YOUTH WORK AND MENTORING MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Youth workers are becoming increasingly involved in the provision of critical services for government and community organisations. They often work with vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations of young people.

International studies show that youth work and mentoring can make a difference in the lives of young people.<sup>19</sup> It can help young people to build relationships of trust and mutual regard and to have a sense of belonging. Youth work and mentoring can help young people re-engage with education and reduce substance abuse.

In New Zealand youth work has developed in an ad hoc way, partly due to limited investment in the area. There is only a small part-time workforce of around 2,000 youth workers.<sup>20</sup> Around half of the workforce has no previous training, with almost three-quarters not undertaking any current training.<sup>21</sup>

Work by the Ministry of Youth Development in partnership with a range of government and non-government organisations has aimed at developing youth work and mentoring in New Zealand. This work includes a finalised set of nine core competencies as a basis for refreshing youth work qualifications.

A code of ethics for New Zealand youth workers has also been developed by the National Youth Workers Network Aotearoa. Work has also been commissioned by the Ministry of Youth Development to develop best practice guidelines for youth mentoring programmes.

We have already recognised that community-based providers of services for children, young people and families and whānau play an essential role in supporting families and whānau and making sure children and young people get the best start in life. There are opportunities to use the funds recently allocated to the child, family, youth and community NGO sector under the Pathway to Partnership plan to continue to build effective youth work and youth mentoring services.



PART

# 3

Opportunities for Action

Young people aged 12 to 24 years in New Zealand are a diverse group of individuals with a wide range of interests, hopes and aspirations. This part of the briefing outlines the ways to make a difference for young people with a focus on youth health, education, offending behaviour and violence.

## WE CAN IMPROVE THE RESULTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The best way we can improve the results for young people is to help their families and whānau at the right stage of a child's life. Getting things right from the start, with a determined focus on high quality and accessible maternity care, primary health care and early childhood education, is critical for all children. The early years represent a cost-effective point at which to invest in vulnerable young children and their families and whānau.

We can make much more of this critical developmental stage. An opportunity exists to work more closely across government and non-government agencies. This will strengthen our ability to help families at the right time. Stabilising and growing non-government services through the use of Pathway to Partnership will ensure the capacity exists to meet these challenges.

When problems continue, and are manifested in behaviour problems, there is a need for specialist behaviour services. Gaps still exist in these services. We need to support and grow the specialist behavioural services already provided by the Ministry of Education. This will ensure children requiring more comprehensive behavioural assistance receive this level of support.

### Better health results can help young people's development

Good health is fundamental to young people's positive development. Poor health often has a cumulative impact on young people's learning and socialisation.

Poor vision and hearing affect young people's grasp of language. Poor nutrition has a direct effect on young people's ability to concentrate. Chronic sores, infections and other illnesses lead to time off school and missed learning opportunities. Anxiety and depression reduce motivation and may lead to alcohol and drug use – which in turn may lead to suspension or expulsion from school.

A high proportion of young people who come into conflict with the law have been found to be suffering from unresolved physical or mental health problems. Access to youth-specific community-based health centres will help moderate some of these problems.

The existing youth-specific community-based health centres across the country need to be expanded and to have greater surety going forward. Most depend on a number of small contracts with a variety of agencies to keep going. There are opportunities to work with the Ministry of Health and District Health Boards to ensure these services are sustainable in the longer term.

*Early identification of problems provides opportunities to help young people and their families and whānau*

*There is an opportunity to improve young people's health*

### **The links between schools and our services are important**

There needs to be multiple pathways for young people to move from formal education to further education and training and employment opportunities. We support other agencies such as the Ministry of Education and the Tertiary Education Commission on creating pathways within schools, across tertiary education and with employers. We can do this by letting young people have their say about what works for them and through our programmes and services for young people. We need to build on what already works. To do this, strong partnerships need to be developed with employers, tertiary education organisations, parents, families, whānau, iwi and communities.

The Ministry of Youth Development funds youth development programmes for at-risk and vulnerable young people at a cost of around \$8.2 million. The programmes are skills focused and help unskilled young people to return to education, employment and training through fostering a sense of inclusion and engagement. The opportunity exists for this work to continue. This will ensure there is a range of options for the most vulnerable young people.

We also need to strengthen links with schools across Youth Transition Services sites to provide support for more young people at risk. There are a number of areas around interaction with schools, truancy officers and other youth-focused and non-government initiatives that can be strengthened. There are opportunities to continue to work with schools, the Ministry of Education and non-government organisations to strengthen the effectiveness of Youth Transition Services as the nature of schooling changes.

### **Mentoring, social workers and youth workers can offer the right support**

Youth mentors and youth workers can give young people the help they need at the right time to make good transitions. Ministry of Youth Development programmes help to develop skills and to provide support for at-risk young people, those on a pathway to criminal offending, and those already offending.

There is an opportunity to consolidate the various streams of youth work occurring across government and non-government organisations. An opportunity exists to work on practical steps to strengthen the youth work sector. This work could provide a coherence to the sector, and expand investment in good quality youth work.

There is also the potential to improve the qualification levels, capacity and capability of the youth sector in New Zealand. There are opportunities for the Ministry of Youth Development to work more closely with the youth sector, public and private tertiary providers and schools to grow the sector and to shape its development.

*We have a role in helping young people get back on track*

*Developing the professionalism of youth workers will support our young people to succeed*

### **Prevention of violence starts early in the life of young people**

Effective strategies to prevent violence are multifaceted. They combine the building of individual skills and competencies, parent effectiveness training, improving teachers' abilities to identify and respond to violence within schools and changing young people's involvement in antisocial peer groups. Specialist services to foster pro-social behaviour need to be available for young people, their families and whānau and their teachers.

Effective approaches for preventing family violence focus on early childhood and on addressing the causes of violence. More could be done to support families and whānau at major transition points such as when they have their first child and when their children are entering adolescence.

Many young people – especially males – do not tell adults about their experiences of violence. 'Youth-friendly' health and social support services are vital if the cycle of violence in communities is to be broken. Further work can be done across government and with District Health Boards to provide increased coverage, especially in areas where the young people are, and surety of funding for such services.

### **Opportunities exist to extend housing support**

An effective response to youth housing problems requires a continuum of support including:

- support to enable young people to remain with their families
- housing information and advisory services
- youth housing advocates
- direct financial assistance to young people so they can access housing
- increasing the housing stock available to young people
- appropriate service delivery to young people
- incentives for private landlords to let to young people.

Some work has begun in Christchurch with the Christchurch Youth Housing project. There is potential for much more.

PART

# 4

How the Ministry Works

*Our role is around  
the issues and  
opportunities for  
young people aged  
12–24 years*

The Ministry of Youth Development works on issues faced by young people aged 12 to 24 years. We support and advise you on key issues facing young people in New Zealand.

## OUR ROLE

The Ministry of Youth Affairs was established in 1988. In 2003 the Ministry of Youth Development was created by merging Youth Affairs and the youth policy functions of the Ministry of Social Development.

The Ministry of Youth Development is interested in the needs of and the issues and opportunities for young people aged 12–24 years. The Ministry works with you on your priorities for New Zealand's young people.

The Ministry's key roles reflect the Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa (YDSA). The Strategy was developed after consultation with a wide range of individuals, organisations, groups of young people and adults. It is widely acknowledged by the youth sector as the basis for youth development in New Zealand.

**The Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa was launched in 2002.** It aims to shift thinking about young people as 'problems' to seeing them as partners and contributors in all sectors of society.

The six key principles of youth development set out in the strategy are:

1. Understanding the 'big picture' for young people
2. Ensuring young people feel connected and have positive links with others in society
3. Taking a consistent, strengths-based approach which builds young people's resilience to risks and challenges
4. Supporting and equipping people and organisations to have successful, quality relationships with young people
5. Giving young people opportunities to have greater control over what happens to them, by seeking their advice, participation and involvement
6. Ensuring we have effective research, evaluation, and information gathering and sharing about young people.

## OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Ministry of Youth Development supports and advises you on the views of young people in New Zealand. We ensure you are informed about the key issues and trends that affect young people and provide you with advice on opportunities for leadership. We support you at an official level so you can work with your Ministerial colleagues to advance youth issues across government.

The Ministry also supports you in responding to parliamentary questions, ministerial correspondence and queries, requests under the Official Information Act, speech notes and briefings, and we support your visits and other activities as our Minister. We also provide you with regular updates on the Ministry's activities and matters of interest to you.

An annual performance agreement is signed between you and the Chief Executive of the Ministry of Social Development. The agreement outlines our work programme, and sets performance measures for our range of services. We report to you against this agreement on a quarterly basis.

In your role as portfolio Minister you are responsible for the appropriations in Vote Youth Development and the priorities for our work programme.

**Figure 5. Vote Youth Development budget, July 2008–June 2009**

<b>Operations Budget</b>	\$5,536,000
<b>Services for Young People Fund</b>	\$8,010,000
<b>Youth Development Partnership Fund</b>	\$889,000
<b>BUDGET TOTAL (GST exclusive)</b>	<b>\$14,435,000</b>

## OUR STRUCTURE

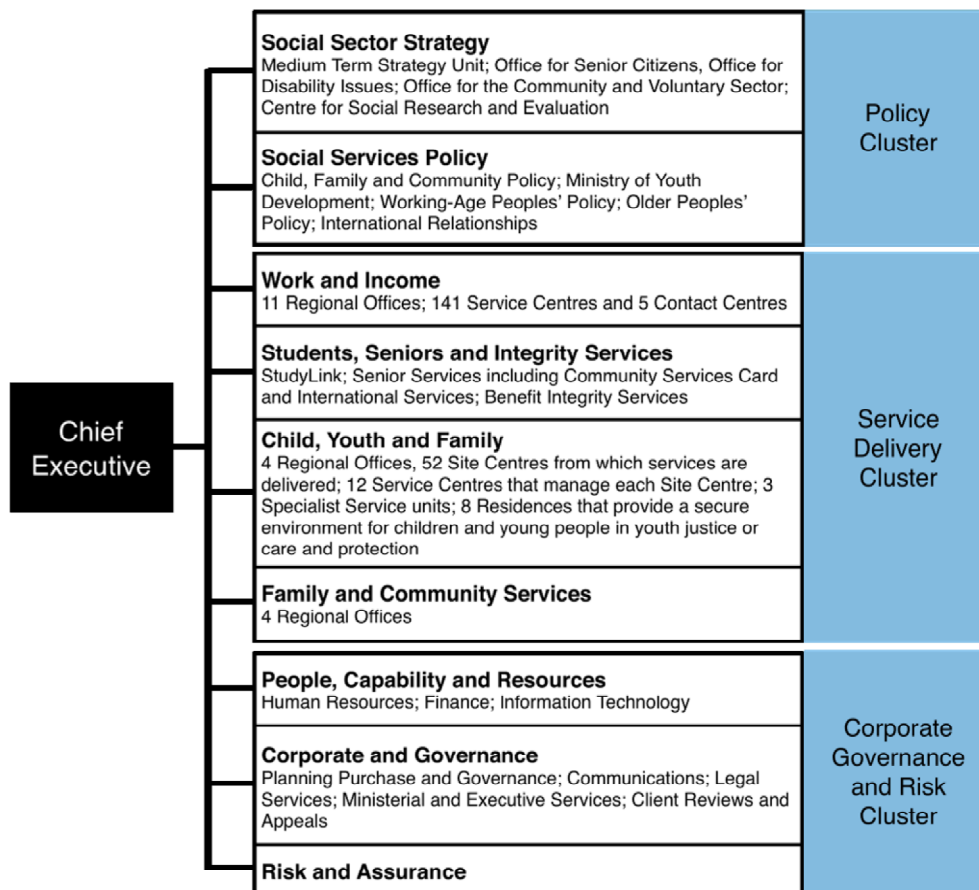
The Ministry has 43 staff, the majority of whom are located at the Ministry of Social Development's campus in Wellington. The remainder of our people operate at a regional level.

Our support and infrastructure – including our finance, human resource management, IT, utility, and accommodation needs – is supplied by the Ministry of Social Development.

The Ministry operates within the policy cluster of the Ministry of Social Development. As part of the policy cluster, the Ministry of Youth Development has direct access to data, research and policy support. As part of the Ministry of Social Development, we are able to provide you with advice that is informed by services delivered by Studylink, Work and Income, Child, Youth and Family and Family and Community Services.

*We bring the support and resources of the Ministry of Social Development to our work with you*

Figure 6. Ministry of Social Development's organisational structure



The Ministry of Youth Development comprises four teams focusing on the following areas.

### Youth Development Policy

We provide the Government with advice on the impact of its policies on young people and their development.

### Youth Engagement

We provide a central point of contact so young people can communicate with and influence central and local government decision-making. We consult with young people on key topics currently relevant to government, connecting young people or forwarding the information gathered to the concerned departments and/or Select Committees.

*We work on engaging young people with their communities*

### Youth Services

We fund services for young people through two contestable funds:

- the Services for Young People Fund
- the Youth Development Partnership Fund.

The Services for Young People Fund enables communities to support their young people through the sustainable funding of good quality youth services.

In 2008/2009 over 1,500 predominantly at-risk young people will participate in services. These range from mentoring opportunities through to structured programmes with environment, recreation and connection themes. Services for Young People contributes to nationwide participation opportunities for over 20,000 young people through Stage Challenge, Youth Week, the Young Enterprise Scheme, and the Young New Zealanders Challenge.

The Youth Development Partnership Fund supports the provision of community-developed youth initiatives, through short-term partnerships with territorial local authorities. Over the last three years 8,000 young people have benefited.

### Regional Youth Development

We provide services and opportunities for young people through our four regional teams. Our regional teams do this both through their own direct efforts and by finding opportunities for the other arms of the Ministry to link in with local initiatives and partners.

Our regions are:

- Northern, based in Auckland, servicing Auckland and Northland
- North-Central, based in Rotorua, servicing the Waikato and Bay of Plenty
- South-Central, based in Wellington, servicing the lower half of the North Island
- Southern, based in Christchurch, servicing the South Island.

## OUR STAKEHOLDERS

We work with six broad networks of non-government stakeholders with whom we regularly interact in support of the government's work programme for young people:

- young people themselves, through our engagement channels
- our providers, through our funding relationships
- the youth work sector, including bodies such as New Zealand Aotearoa Adolescent Health and Development and the National Youth Workers Network Aotearoa
- key stakeholders interested in, or having a responsibility for, New Zealand's obligations as a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCROC)
- the Youth Development Sector Leadership Group, which brings together key non-government representatives to advise on sector development and youth policy issues
- territorial local authorities, through the Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs.

## WORKING WITH YOU

The Ministry of Youth Development will provide you with quality advice, informed by young people's voices. We aim to bring a broad whole-of-government perspective to our work that allows you to balance the interests of young people with those of other parts of the community. The Ministry promotes young people's participation in their communities and in the affairs of the nation. The Ministry will provide programmes and services that will enable you to achieve your priorities. We help you represent the needs and aspirations of young people to your Ministerial colleagues and to the people of New Zealand.

We will work with you to review our work programme to ensure it delivers on your priorities as Minister.

We can provide further briefings as a basis for decisions you may wish to take on the issues and actions we have raised.

We look forward to working with you.

## APPENDIX: MINISTRY OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT SERVICES AND PROVIDERS

The Ministry of Youth Development administers two non-departmental output expenses: Services for Young People (\$8.595 million GST exclusive) and the Youth Development Partnership Fund (\$0.889 million GST exclusive). This funding enables Government to fund services with a youth development focus.

Ministry of Youth Development funded programmes provide a key stepping stone towards transitioning to employment, further education or other training opportunities through the development of key life and work skills, including self-confidence, team working, critical thinking, problem solving, and good communication skills.

### SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Through the Services for Young People appropriation the Ministry funds a broad range of community based social service provider organisations to deliver educational and development opportunities through experiential learning, challenging activities and work experiences to vulnerable and disengaged 15-24 year olds.

The Ministry currently has contracts in place with 55 local youth service providers who between them deliver 77 services and programmes, directly benefiting more than 1,400 young people a year.

In order to provide a balanced response to the needs for accountability on the one hand and predictable funding streams for ongoing services, the Ministry contracts three-year periods. The services funded come within the scope of the Pathway to Partnership initiative.

#### Pathway to Partnership

Pathway to Partnership has been developed to address critical funding, workforce and infrastructure problems facing NGO social services. These issues seriously impact on the ability of social services to help vulnerable families, children and young people. It is a multi-year strategy aimed at strengthening existing community-based family, child and youth focused services. Over the next four years the Government is increasing its investment in these services by \$446 million. Pathway to Partnership will:

- move existing essential family, child and youth focused services to full funding by 2011
- address forecast volume increases
- provide for annual cost adjustment payments
- focus on achieving outcomes
- enable providers to build workforce capability and capacity
- support organisations to work more closely together to reduce duplication.

### Service providers delivering Conservation Corps Programmes (2008/09)

The Conservation Corps programme utilises local environmental opportunities, often in partnership with the Department of Conservation, to facilitate participants' learning and development. These 20 week programmes target vulnerable and disengaged 15–24 year olds and offer participants conservation-based learning opportunities to develop key life and work skills including self-confidence, team working, critical thinking and problem solving, and good communication skills. At the same time, the wider community gets the benefit of better maintained recreational tracks and conservation parks.

Provider Organisation	Location	2008/09 Contract value (\$GST exclusive)
Abel Tasman Educational Trust	Motueka	111,166
Artmakers Community Artist's Trust	Hamilton	111,166
Buller Community Development Company	Westport	117,761
Community Business and Environment Centre	Kaitaia	103,629
Department of Conservation	Dunedin	117,761
E Tipu E Rea	Mount Maunganui	117,761
Elkington Associates	Porirua	117,761
Hamilton Skills Centre	Hamilton	211,971
Mangakino Community Agency	Mangakino	106,146
Ngati Maniapoto Marae Trust	Te Kuiti/ Taumaranui	207,260
Northland Polytechnic	Northland	108,340
Opotiki Learning Centre	Opotiki	103,629
Raukura Waikato Social Services	Huntly	103,629
Salvation Army Youth Services (Wellington)	Wellington	120,588
South Canterbury YMCA	Timaru	103,629
South Waikato YMCA	Tokoroa	103,629
Southland YMCA Education	Invercargill	108,790
Tairāwhiti Polytechnic	Gisborne	113,051
Tamaki Ki Raro Trust	Auckland	103,629
Taranaki Environmental Education Trust	Stratford	105,514

Provider Organisation	Location	2008/09 Contract value (\$GST exclusive)
Te Runanga o Turanganui A Kiwa (Turanga Ararau)	Gisborne	105,986
Te Waiariki Patea Trust	Rotorua	117,761
Te Whakawhiti o te Rangatahi o Kawerau	Kawerau	103,629
The Malcam Charitable Trust	Dunedin	139,429
The Salvation Army Employment Plus (Feilding)	Feilding	103,630
The Salvation Army Employment Plus (Hawera)	Hawera	103,630
The Salvation Army Employment Plus (Oamaru)	Oamaru	103,630
The Salvation Army Employment Plus (Whakatane)	Whakatane	103,630
Tuwharetoa Ki Tongariro Outdoor Pursuits Trust	Turangi/Taupo	209,144
Waiohiki Charitable Trust	Napier	113,051
Whenua Iti Outdoor Pursuits Centre	Motueka	56,525
Y2Y Trust	Porirua	117,761
YMCA Christchurch	Christchurch	108,340
YMCA Masterton	Masterton/ Dannevirke	103,629
YMCA New Plymouth	New Plymouth	117,762
YMCA Wanganui Incorporated	Palmerston North/Wanganui	230,812

### Service providers delivering Youth Service Corps Programmes (2008/09)

Providers of the Youth Service Corps programme engage participants in local community-based opportunities, such as doing voluntary work in a primary school, to facilitate their learning and development. These 20 week programmes target vulnerable and disengaged 15–24 year olds and offer participants opportunities to develop key life and work skills including self-confidence, team working, critical thinking and problem solving, and good communication skills.

Provider Organisation	Location	2008/09 Contract value (\$GST exclusive)
Artmakers Community Artist's Trust	Hamilton	111,166
SENZ Charitable Trust	Auckland	249,653
The Malcam Charitable Trust	Alexandra	207,260
Youth and Cultural Development	Christchurch	108,340

### Service providers delivering Specialist Youth Service Corps Programmes (2008/09)

The Specialist Youth Services Corps programme is structured similarly to the New Zealand Conservation Corps/Youth Service Corps programme in terms of programme length and curriculum design. The key difference being the target group of young people, who are primarily 15–17 year olds identified as moderate risk offenders. Young people can be referred to the programme through either a Family Group Conference or as part of a Youth Court plan.

Provider Organisation	Location	2008/09 Contract value (\$GST exclusive)
Hamilton Skills Centre	Hamilton	146,212
Southland YMCA Education	Invercargill	146,212
Te Runanga o Turanganui A Kiwa (Turanga Ararau)	Gisborne	146,212
YMCA New Plymouth	New Plymouth	146,212
YMCA Whanganui Incorporated	Whanganui	146,212
Youth and Cultural Development	Christchurch	146,212

### Mentoring and youth support services

The Ministry is funding a small number of providers to deliver youth support and mentoring services to young people needing additional assistance to stop offending or other negative behaviour, or to better realise their potential and engage in positive recreation and activity in their community.

Provider Organisation	Location	2008/09 Contract value (\$GST exclusive)
Affirming Works Limited	Auckland	40,000
Aotea College	Porirua	80,000
Foundation for Youth Development	National	398,090
Invercargill Secondary Schools' Network Trust	Invercargill	80,000
Mental Health Foundation	Christchurch	20,000
Ngaitai Iwi Authority	Torere	30,000
Otago Youth Wellness Trust	Dunedin	45,955
Te Ora Hou Otautahi Inc	Otautahi	213,923
Te Ora Hou Northland Inc	Northland	110,293
Te Rakau Hua O Te Wao Tapu	Wellington	80,000
Trinity Youth of Our Future	Kapiti Coast	96,286
Turn Your Life Around Trust	Auckland	206,800
Wesley Community Charitable Trust	Wellington	80,000

### Sector development activities

The following organisations undertake work nationally to support and strengthen the youth development sector through network groups, national forums and conferences and training and development initiatives.

Provider Organisation	Location	2008/09 Contract value (\$GST exclusive)
National Youth Workers Network	National	131,892
New Zealand Adolescent Health & Development	National	75,000
Youth and Cultures Community Trust (Praxis)	National	50,250

### Other youth development activities

The Ministry contributes funding to support the delivery of national programmes and initiatives which offer a wide range of senior school student's new and challenging learning opportunities in safe and supportive environments.

Provider Organisation	Location	2008/09 Contract value (\$GST exclusive)
Enterprise New Zealand	National	31,020
Stage Challenge Foundation	National	21,197
The Young New Zealander's Challenge	National	244,943
Scouting New Zealand	National	50,000

### YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP FUND

The Youth Development Partnership Fund was launched in October 2005 to specifically provide short-term funding directly to Territorial Local Authorities for local-level solutions to the emerging needs and opportunities for young people in their community.

Funding is allocated through an annual funding round.

To date 40 Territorial Local Authorities have been supported to collaborate with young people on projects contributing to employment, education or training outcomes.

Current YDPF Initiatives	Location/Council Partner	Total Contract value (\$GST exclusive)
<b>2007/08 initiatives ending 2010</b>		
Tautoko Teina	Whangarei District	188,053
Learning Towards Earning	Waimakariri District	133,333
<b>2007/08 initiatives ending 2009</b>		
WYPE Participatory Action Research Crew	Wellington City	97,778
Kokiri Taiohi - Phase 2	Gisborne District	117,333
Make It Take It	Wanganui District	100,000
Community Computer Clubhouse Online	Manukau City	39,822
<b>2008/2009 initiatives</b>		
Lovelock arts programme	Auckland City	57,778
A Youth Voice in Horowhenua	Horowhenua District	57,778
HYP - Hurunui Youth Project	Hurunui District	78,222

Current YDPF Initiatives	Location/Council Partner	Total Contract value (\$GST exclusive)
Nga Ara Kete	Hutt City	75,556
Youth Skills Kaikoura	Kaikoura District	53,333
Kawerau Community Project	Kawerau District	35,556
Ka Hao Te Rangatahi	Napier City	51,556
PCC After Hours Youth Support	Porirua City	177,778
E Oho - Awaken	Rotorua District	57,778
CBD Taumaranui Project	Ruapehu District	87,111
Destination Youth Rolleston	Selwyn District	35,556
A PART Animals People and Rehabilitative Training	Tasman District	44,444
Flip Side 24/7	Taupo District	71,111
Upper Hutt Talent Bank	Upper Hutt City	32,622
Youth Action 4 Change	Waitakere City	62,222
Underground Project	Wanganui District	22,222

Examples of projects funded include:

- youth crime and gang membership prevention initiatives
- entrepreneurship opportunities
- development of employment related skills
- developing young people's leadership skills.

## ENDNOTES

- 1 Statistics New Zealand, Census data (2006)
- 2 Statistics New Zealand, National Ethnic Population Projections: 2006(base)–2026
- 3 Education Report: School Leaver Statistics, Ministry of Education (2008), p 2
- 4 School leavers with little or no attainment, Ministry of Education (2008), [http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/data\\_cubes/education\\_and\\_learning\\_outcomes/qualifications/3660](http://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/data_cubes/education_and_learning_outcomes/qualifications/3660) (accessed on 8 September 2008).
- 5 Jobs for Youth, New Zealand, OECD (2008), p 9
- 6 The Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) is a nationwide network of Mayors working on the issues of work and livelihood in their communities. Begun in 2000 with seven Mayors, the Taskforce now has a membership of 71 Mayors (97 per cent of all Mayors). It focuses on youth employment and engagement in local communities.
- 7 This goal was reached in December 2006.
- 8 Adolescent Health Research Group: Youth 2000 (2003) and Youth 07 (2008), The Health and Wellbeing of Secondary School Students in New Zealand, University of Auckland, [www.youth2000.ac.nz](http://www.youth2000.ac.nz)
- 9 Saville-Smith K, James B, Warren J, Fraser R (2008) Access to Safe and Secure Housing for At Risk and Vulnerable Young People, Centre for Housing Research Aotearoa New Zealand (unpublished research)
- 10 The Social Report 2008
- 11 A Portrait of Health – Key results of the 2006/07 New Zealand Health Survey, Wellington, Ministry of Health (2008), p 69, <http://www.moh.govt.nz/moh.nsf/indexmh/portrait-of-health>
- 12 Department for Education and Skills (2007) Research report 828
- 13 Between 2006 and 2007 there was a 6 per cent improvement in the proportion of Māori and Pacific young people attaining NCEA Level 2 or above (37 to 43 per cent and 50 to 56 per cent respectively). At the same time attainment at NCEA Level 2 or above also improved by 6 per cent for Europeans (65 to 71 per cent). A greater proportion of Europeans leave school with NCEA Level 2 or above than other ethnic groups. Ministry of Education (2008) Education Report: School Leaver Statistics, p 3
- 14 The Social Report 2008, Ministry of Social Development (2008) Wellington
- 15 Persons with incomes below or at the poverty-line and who lack the skills to improve their economic situation. OECD (2007) OECD Factbook 2007, p 228
- 16 The OECD definition of youth inactivity does not count those in non-formal education or educational activities of very short duration as 'active'. Carers who are not in the labour force are not specifically mentioned. If New Zealand youth who were engaged in home duties or in informal study are included among the 'inactive', the New Zealand youth inactivity rate in 2007 was 10.1 per cent (32,000 people). The male youth inactivity rate was 10.2 per cent and the female rate, 10.0 per cent.
- 17 Jobs for Youth, New Zealand, OECD, Paris (2008)
- 18 Youth Justice Statistics in New Zealand: 1992–2007, Jin Chong, Ministry of Justice (2007), see table 3.3
- 19 Merton B et al (2004) An Evaluation of the Impact of Youth Work in England, Youth Affairs Unit; Crimmens D et al (2004) Reaching socially excluded young people: A national study of street-based youth work; Young K (2005) People with potential, not people with problems: an evaluation of voluntary sector projects working with disengaged young people; Crime and Justice Research Centre (2007) New Zealand Supported Bail Pilot Programme: Final Research Report
- 20 National Youth Workers Network (2006) Real Work
- 21 Ministry of Youth Development (2007) Report on the 2006 Questionnaire on Professional Development and Training for Youth Workers