



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

## Good Youth Development Practice

Youth development focuses on growing and developing the skills and attitudes young people need to take part in society, now and in the future.

This means Projects: are shaped by the “Big Picture”; assist young people to establish positive connections and quality relationships; are strengths-based; involve young people in both their development and ongoing management; and are informed by good information.

### Effective youth development programmes have:

1. **Staff who are empathetic, skilled, and knowledgeable** about young people’s development, and who believe in the potential of all young people to succeed
2. **A clear focus on the goals of the programme**, framed in positive terms
3. **High expectations of both staff and young people**: that all will commit to the programme, that all are capable of succeeding, and that all will respect each other and observe the rules that have been agreed upon
4. **A programme that is interesting**, interactive, engaging, diverse and flexible; that provides young people with opportunities to develop new skills and competencies which they can use to be of service to others
5. **A programme that is personalised to each participant** or relevant to the target group, recognising and acknowledging each young person’s strengths, aspirations, and learning needs
6. **An environment that is safe**, stable, warm, and welcoming to young people of all ethnicities and cultural backgrounds
7. **Young people playing a part** in shaping the programme, with opportunities and support to take on leadership roles
8. **Life skills** as a part of the learning, so that young people are equipped with the practical knowledge and skills to make good decisions about their lives
9. **Strong community and family links** so that both the programme and participants benefit from family and community support, and the community and the participants continue to benefit from these links after the programme finishes
10. **Regular assessment and evaluation** of the programme, enabling managers to see if the programme is succeeding, whether any adjustments are needed, and to assure funders that the investment is paying off.