# Youth Plan 2020-2022: Turning Voice into Action – Rebuilding and Recovering

July 2020

## Purpose of the plan

The Youth Plan aims to support the wellbeing of rangatahi as we collectively rebuild and recover from COVID-19. It sets out actions that government will take, in partnership with others, to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 for rangatahi.

The Youth Plan drives change as part of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. It aims to ensure rangatahi have a say in decisions about recovery, to support the wellbeing of rangatahi and their family and whānau, to enable leadership and to drive transformative change.

The Youth Plan will be of interest to government agencies, the youth sector, communities and rangatahi.

## Whakataukī

E kore koe e ngaro, he kākano koe i ruia mai i Rangiātea.

You will never be lost for you are a seed born of greatness.

## Vision

New Zealand, Aotearoa is the best place in the world for children and young people.

## There are approximately 800,000 rangatahi in New Zealand Aotearoa

The Youth Plan focuses on ensuring that their voices are heard, amplified and acted on across government. It is for rangatahi aged 12 to 24 years, with particular attention paid to four priority groups:

* rangatahi Māori aged 17 to 24 years
* Pacific young people aged 17 to 24 years
* rainbow young people aged 17 to 24 years
* disabled young people aged 17 to 24 years.

Rangatahi in these priority groups are more likely to experience barriers based on their ethnicity, sexuality, gender identity and disability. COVID-19 is likely to increase some of the issues faced by these groups, including colonisation, racism and discrimination, poverty, homelessness, identity not being accepted, higher rates of mental distress and increased likelihood of not being in education, training or employment.

By prioritising these groups, the Youth Plan aims to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 and drive equitable outcomes.

## Rangatahi have told us that…

In October 2019, we engaged with over 1,200 rangatahi on the development of the Youth Plan. Some of the common themes include:

* We really want to be involved in important government decisions, but the process isn’t easy, and we don’t feel like you listen.
* Positive wellbeing is about more than just mental wellbeing; identity, whānau and community are just as important.
* We want more opportunities to lead but would like support, mentoring and for adults to understand and give space for leadership on our terms.
* Government needs to change how the system works with and for us.

This information has helped to inform the development of the Youth Plan, alongside evidence of the impacts of COVID-19 on rangatahi.

## Overview of the actions in the Youth Plan

The actions in the Youth Plan cover the following areas:

**Voice** – Rangatahi voices and perspectives are listened to, valued, and embedded in decision-making at all levels, particularly in decisions about COVID-19 recovery.

**Wellbeing** –The wellbeing of rangatahi, their family and whānau, and their communities is supported and strengthened.

**Leadership** – Rangatahi are enabled to lead their own lives, have their identities seen, valued and respected and have increasing influence in their communities and over government policy.

**Transformative change** – Government agencies work collaboratively with each other, the youth sector, communities and rangatahi to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 for rangatahi.

## Reporting on the Youth Plan

The Minister for Youth is accountable for the delivery of the Youth Plan, which is being led by the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi. There will be six-monthly reporting to Cabinet on the Youth Plan, as well as six-monthly and annual reporting to Cabinet and Parliament as part of reporting on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy.

## Reviewing the Youth Plan

The Youth Plan will be reviewed in two years’ time, in line with the review of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. Rangatahi will have input into the review to ensure their voices carry through the entire life of the Youth Plan. There will be an opportunity to revise the focus areas and actions following the review.