

Youth Plan: Turning Voice into Action – Rebuilding and Recovering

The Youth Plan aims to support the wellbeing of rangatahi as we collectively rebuild and recover from COVID-19. It sets out actions 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 and acted on across government. It is for all rangatahi aged 12-24 years, with particular attention paid to four priority groups:

- rangatahi Māori aged 17-24 years
- Pacific young people aged 17-24 years
- rainbow young people aged 17-24 years
- disabled young people aged 17-24 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. Below are some of the common themes:



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.

Overview: Youth Plan Actions

Appendix Two

Note: A3 will look different once design has been completed.

Voice	Wellbeing	Leadership	Transformative change
<p><i>Rangatahi voices and perspectives are listened to, valued, and embedded in decision-making at all levels, particularly in decisions about COVID-19 recovery</i></p>	<p><i>The wellbeing of rangatahi, their family and whānau, and their communities is supported and strengthened</i></p>	<p><i>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</i></p>	<p><i>Government agencies work collaboratively with each other, the youth sector, communities and rangatahi to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 for rangatahi</i></p>
<p>This means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rangatahi participation is valued by all government agencies • government agencies understand and follow best practice when engaging with rangatahi • government agencies regularly share with each other what they have learnt during engagements, and collaborate where possible to reduce consultation fatigue • rangatahi voice is actively heard, captured and acted on as part of the COVID-19 recovery • the voices of the priority groups are amplified. 	<p>This means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rangatahi are able to determine what wellbeing means to them • rangatahi, their family and whānau and their communities are supported to be well • rangatahi are supported to know when and how to access youth-friendly, appropriate information about looking after their own wellbeing • rangatahi have equitable access to psychosocial response services established as part of COVID-19 recovery • rangatahi are enabled to readily access culturally responsive services that accept and respect their gender and sexual identities when they want to connect with others. 	<p>This means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rangatahi are supported to develop their identities and enhance their mana • rangatahi are accepted and respected for who they are and who they want to be • rangatahi leadership is recognised and valued • rangatahi in the priority groups have opportunities to lead and implement change on their own terms, particularly as part of COVID-19 recovery • rangatahi are supported into employment, education or training • rangatahi are given increasing opportunities in formal leadership and decision-making roles, such as advisory and governance groups. 	<p>This means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • government agencies are proactively collaborating and communicating to drive system change • systems are in place to support information sharing • youth sector organisations are provided increased funding by government to offset a decrease in funding from other sources • transparency and accountability in government decision-making is increased.
<p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Enable youth voice in COVID-19 recovery (led by Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi) – Implement the Youth Voice Project (led by MYD) – Develop and share best practice guidance for engaging with children and young people (led by Office of the Children’s Commissioner) 	<p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Understand and respond to the psychosocial impact of COVID-19 on rangatahi (led by Ministry of Social Development (MSD) - Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora) – Create a safe digital environment for children and young people (led by Department of Internal Affairs) – Develop a social marketing campaign for rangatahi promoting healthy and safe relationships (led by MSD) – Collaborate with rangatahi to design and implement a wellbeing campaign (led by Te Hiringa Hauora/Health Promotion Agency) – Increase mental health, addiction and wellbeing supports for young people (led by Ministry of Health) 	<p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Enable community-led solutions (led by Ministry for Pacific Peoples) – Convene a regional rangatahi Māori leaders forum (led by Te Puni Kōkiri and MYD) – Expand the existing Employment Service to disabled young people in their final two years of school (led by MSD) – Expand He Poutama Taitamariki (led by MSD) 	<p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Provide strategic leadership and evidence-informed advice on rangatahi (led by MYD) – Collaborate with disabled rangatahi to facilitate change across government (led by the Office for Disability Issues) – Design and implement the ‘Hear Me See Me’ Campaign (led by Oranga Tamariki–Ministry for Children) – Increase public sector capability and responsiveness to rainbow communities (led by MYD)