

# YOUTH PLAN 2020-2022

Turning Voice into Action -  
Rebuilding and Recovering

## REVIEW

### Targeted Engagement

In September 2022, the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) - Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi facilitated three engagement sessions with young people to contribute to the review of the Youth Plan.

MYD engaged with a diverse range of young people from The Hive and the recently appointed MYD Youth Advisory Group. The Hive session was held online. The MYD Youth Advisory Group sessions were held in person in Christchurch and Auckland.

## A huge thanks!

Thank you for contributing your time, expertise, ideas, and mātauranga for the review of the Youth Plan. Your voice has helped inform the findings of Phase 1 of the review and will also contribute to future work of MYD.

Thank you also to the MYD and Curative staff who worked behind the scenes to make these engagements possible.

## Focus Areas

Overall, young people were supportive of the four focus areas, in particular Voice and Wellbeing. Young people raised the need for the Youth Plan to better explain the relationship between the focus areas rather than having them sit separately from each other. Young people had the opportunity to discuss and create visual models of the focus areas. Examples of these are included below.

Young people felt that the Youth Plan 2020-2022 represented a predominantly Pākeha worldview, and proposed some options for refreshing the focus areas to better reflect Te Ao Māori. These include:

- 1 amending 'Wellbeing' to **Hauora** and acknowledging models like Te Whare Tapa Wha and Fonofale
- 2 changing 'Leadership' to '**Mana Motuhake**' or '**Rangitiratanga**' with a stronger emphasis on identity and self-determination, as well as acknowledging multiple forms of leadership including collective leadership.

Young people noted that simple language translations is not enough. Deeper understanding of Te Ao Māori, tikanga Māori, and mātauranga Māori is needed to improve the framing of the Youth Plan.

## Priority Cohorts



Young people generally agreed that additional focus on rangatahi Māori, Pacific young people, rainbow young people, and disabled young people was good for the Youth Plan and its actions.



Young people questioned why young people from ethnic communities, specifically from refugee and migrant backgrounds, were not included as a priority cohort in the Youth Plan. Suggestions for additional priority cohorts included young people from ethnic communities and young people from rural areas.



Young people also raised the importance of intersectionality and said that it was a weakness in the Youth Plan that intersectionality is not mentioned or addressed.



Young people also questioned why the priority cohorts were only for those aged 17-24 years and did not include 12-16-year-olds. Suggestions were made to expand the age range of priority cohorts and to emphasise the developmental and evolving needs of those aged 12-16 years and 17-24 years.

## VOICE

Young people told us.....

that listening to the voices of young people should not be a box-ticking exercise. It must be a meaningful, authentic exchange that recognises young people as experts of their own experiences, adding value to conversations and decision-making. Young people need to know they've been heard through feedback loops or by seeing their voices and ideas actioned.

Opportunities to contribute youth voice need to be inclusive and accessible and prioritise the needs of young people especially those in identified priority cohorts.

## LEADERSHIP

Young people told us.....

that many young people do not identify as leaders themselves because leadership is framed in an unrelatable way.

Different types of leadership and ways to be a leader should be celebrated. This includes young people having leadership in their own lives through connection to identity and self-determination, as well as young people influencing decision-making and amplifying the voices of their communities.

## WELLBEING

Young people told us.....

that wellbeing is central and foundational to the three other focus areas. Without wellbeing, young people cannot be 'involved' or 'empowered' or actively participate in voice or leadership opportunities.

Models like Te Whare Tapa Wha and Fonofale better represent what 'wellbeing' means for young people. Hauora better encompasses the multifaceted nature of what it means to be healthy, happy, and well.

## TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

Young people told us.....

they wanted more clarity about what the 'transformative change' focus area is trying to achieve. Young people want tangible and transformative action on issues that impact them including: the climate crisis, decolonisation, cost-of-living, poverty reduction, housing, and mental health services.

Some young people said that transformative change is the natural outcome when young people's wellbeing is supported, their voices are heard, and their leadership influences decision-making.

## What will we do with this information?

The full notes and summary of the engagements will be incorporated into the findings of the Phase 1 report back on the Review of the Youth Plan. This report back to the Minister of Youth will help inform decisions on the future of the Youth Plan.



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



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## REVIEW

### Targeted Engagement with Young People

Young people were asked to draw visual models of the four focus areas to explore what relationship the focus areas have to each other.

Many of the drawings placed wellbeing as a base or foundation from which voice and leadership follow with transformative change as a final result.

Many of the drawings used the symbolism of a tree with wellbeing or hauora as the strong roots, voice and leadership as the growing trunk or branches, and transformative change as the leaves or sky that the tree was reaching towards. Discussions of the tree models noted that the environment can represent an all-of community approach. Rain from transformative change can nourish the soil that builds strong hauora. This idea connects well to the cyclical models that other young people drew.

