

# Youth Plan

Voice, Leadership, Action

Rolling Suite of Actions



MINISTRY OF  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO TAIOHI

Administered by the Ministry of Social Development

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa  
New Zealand Government

## Overview of the Rolling Suite of Actions

To achieve the aims of the Youth Plan, actions will be designed and undertaken by government agencies, youth sector, and community sector partners between 2023 and 2028. The design and delivery of actions should specifically involve young people from the priority cohorts<sup>1</sup>. Emphasis will also be placed on working alongside young people, and within whānau and communities.

The rolling suite of actions under the Youth Plan do not reflect all the work underway across government or the wider sector under the focus areas of voice and leadership. Rather, actions included in the Youth Plan are just one part of realising the overarching vision of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy (CYWS). All named actions are intended to be complemented by other work happening across government, the youth sector, in communities, and beyond.

## Actions Criteria

Youth Plan actions work towards:

- listening to, valuing, and embedding the voices and perspectives of young people in decision-making at all levels
- uplifting the mana of young people
- enabling young people to lead their own lives, have their identities seen, valued and respected, and have increasing influence in their communities and over government policy.

Youth Plan actions should:

- include whai wāhitanga of young people in the design and/or delivery of actions
- follow Mana Taiohi when engaging with young people
- be delivered through collaboration between government agencies and/or with youth sector partners, communities, whānau, and young people themselves
- support the wider wellbeing aims of the CYWS.

Youth Plan actions can:

- set out their own timeframes, whether they are short (six to twelve months), medium (one to two years), or long term (three to five years)
- have a focus on one or more priority cohort (while acknowledging the intersectionality of young people's identities)
- be added into the suite of actions on an ongoing basis.

Youth Plan actions will:

- be reviewed and reported on annually.

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<sup>1</sup> The Youth Plan's seven priority cohorts are identified in more detail in the Youth Plan strategic framework document. They are rangatahi Māori, Pacific young people, rainbow young people, disabled young people, young women, young people from ethnic communities (in particular, former refugees and recent migrants), and young people living in the regions (meaning non-urban, rural, and often isolated regions across Aotearoa New Zealand).

## Tools in our kete for developing Youth Plan actions

The Youth Plan strategic framework document includes four key tools to help agencies and others design and implement Youth Plan actions. These are:

- Mana Taiohi
- Age Range Guidelines
- Priority Cohorts
- Engagement Continuum.

Further links to resources and guidance can be found on the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi website including relevant literature reviews and engagement summaries that can be used to identify opportunities for new actions:

<https://www.myd.govt.nz/young-people/youth-plan/youth-plan.html>

## The Youth Plan Cross-Agency Working Group

The Youth Plan Cross-Agency Working Group is another resource agencies, organisations, and others can engage with to help develop, test, and collaborate on actions. To attend a hui or engage with the group, contact MYD through the MYD website.







## Initial Set of Actions

The Refreshed Youth Plan has launched with a select number of initial actions which will be built on and added to as new actions are developed and initial actions are expanded. Initial actions are intended as stepping-stones to build towards the aspirations of the Youth Plan. While initial actions are led by a smaller set of agencies, all agencies are encouraged to consider what actions they could contribute to in future.

Additional actions will be developed by government agencies and others on an ongoing basis. This dynamic approach to the development of new actions and expansion of initial actions will enable actions to be responsive to existing and emerging needs of young people across Aotearoa New Zealand.

## Summary of current actions

Current Youth Plan actions are summarised below. In-depth information on individual Youth Plan actions is outlined in the remainder of this document.

Actions	Action Leads	Action Supports	Delivery
<b>1</b> Strengthen youth leadership and advisory groups	Mana Mokopuna - Children and Young People's Commission	Ministry of Youth Development - Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi, Oranga Tamariki, Ministry of Education, Te Puni Kōkiri, Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand	
<b>2</b> Continuation of The Hive youth voice initiative	Curative NZ Ministry of Youth Development - Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi		
<b>3</b> Review and realisation of a youth-centric Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey	Ministry of Social Development - Manatū Whakahiato Ora	Ministry of Youth Development – Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi, Te Hiringa Mahara - Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission	
<b>4</b> Embed Mana Taiohi across government agencies	Ara Taiohi	Ministry of Youth Development - Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi, Sport New Zealand, Youth Plan Cross Agency Working Group	
<b>5</b> Provide development opportunities for youth mentors	Ara Taiohi New Zealand Youth Mentoring Network	Ministry of Youth Development - Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi	
<b>6</b> Refresh and administer the Ākonga Fund	Ministry of Youth Development - Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi	Community-based youth development providers, including local iwi	

### Key



Delivered through collaboration within government



Delivered through collaboration between youth/community sector and government

## Action 1: Strengthen youth leadership and advisory groups

<b>Description of Action</b>	Embed youth voice and leadership into government decision-making through formal youth advisory opportunities and strengthen best practice by kaimahi who facilitate youth advisory groups including establishing regular networking and professional development opportunities for youth advisory/leadership groups across government agencies.
<b>Connection to the Vision of the Youth Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ young people are given increasing opportunities in formal leadership and decision-making roles, such as advisory and governance groups</li><li>▶ government agencies understand and follow Mana Taiohi when engaging with young people</li><li>▶ government agencies work innovatively and collaboratively with each other and community youth sector partners to support the voice and leadership of young people</li></ul>
<b>Lead</b>	Mana Mokopuna
<b>Partners/Supporting</b>	MYD, Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children, Te Whatu Ora, Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives, Ministry of Education, Te Puni Kōkiri
<b>Timeframe</b>	2023-2024
<b>Priority Cohorts</b>	All
<b>Age range</b>	Children and young people under 24 years
<b>Key deliverables</b>	Facilitate monthly hui for agency staff supporting youth advisory/leadership groups. Facilitate networking hui and wānanga for youth advisory/leadership groups. Facilitate workshops for agency staff supporting youth advisory/leadership groups.

## Action 2: Continuation of The Hive youth voice initiative

<b>Description of Action</b>	<p>The Hive facilitates a meaningful two-way communication channel between young people and government. This action is delivered through a partnership between MYD and Curative NZ.</p> <p>Young people from across Aotearoa New Zealand will continue to be recruited to be a part of The Hive, as 'Hivers' for one-year tenures or 'seasons'. Approximately 15 young people are recruited into each cohort from a diversity of backgrounds, locations, and lived experience. Each cohort works to strengthen The Hive, online and in their community, by co-designing experiences and content for other young people to participate in. Each cohort is actively supported by the previous year's group, and at times, all seasons of the Hivers are engaged in larger scale opportunities.</p> <p>Learning opportunities, pastoral care, and wrap-around support is provided throughout the year by Curative NZ. This includes fortnightly online hui, and multiple moments to gather and work together in person. During each year, The Hive provides development and capacity-building opportunities for Hivers, facilitates broad youth engagement with government agencies on policy projects, and provides snackable, educational content to help young people better understand Aotearoa New Zealand's political system and how they can meaningfully have their voices heard.</p>
<b>Connection to the Vision of the Youth Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ the whai wāhitanga of young people is recognised and valued through opportunities for them to contribute their voices and leadership</li><li>▶ whai wāhitanga of young people is valued by all government agencies</li><li>▶ voices of young people are actively heard, captured, and acted on as part of government action</li><li>▶ the voices of the priority groups are amplified within government</li></ul>
<b>Co-Leads</b>	Curative NZ and MYD
<b>Timeframe</b>	2023-2025
<b>Priority Cohorts</b>	All
<b>Age range</b>	16-24 years

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## Key deliverables

- Recruitment of a diverse group of young people to become Hivers and a Tuakana-Teina hui with the previous cohort.
  - Capacity-building and development of 12-15 young people as a design cohort each year.
  - Programme of work designed with each cohort that responds to their skills, interests, and the needs of young people, created through a process of:
    - listening (insight gathering),
    - truth-sharing (reporting findings)
    - and activating (showing young people how to participate in political processes).
  - Strong community relationships, with young people and key decision-makers, positioning The Hive as a trusted destination for young people to have their say on issues of importance, and for decision-makers to listen to what young people need.
  - Support of multiple government projects or actions as a vehicle for youth voice, participation, and input annually, driven either by partnerships with government agencies or self-initiated by the Hivers based on youth needs.
  - Production of engaging educational content that is easily shareable in social media environments to help young people better understand how government works, and how they can participate and have their voices heard.
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### Action 3: Review and realisation of a youth-centric Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey

<b>Description of Action</b>	Uplifting youth voice in the next iteration of the Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey by engaging with young people for consultation and sense-making during the reviewing, planning, data collection, and reporting phases of research.
<b>Connection to the Vision of the Youth Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ the whai wāhitanga of young people is recognised and valued through opportunities for them to contribute their voices and leadership</li><li>▶ voices of young people are actively heard, captured, and acted on as part of government action</li><li>▶ the voices of the priority groups are amplified within government</li></ul>
<b>Lead</b>	Ministry of Social Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora
<b>Partners/Supporting</b>	MYD, Te Hiringa Mahara – Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission
<b>Timeframe</b>	2023-2025
<b>Priority Cohorts</b>	All
<b>Age range</b>	Secondary school-aged children/students from years 9 to 13
<b>Key deliverables</b>	Reporting, presentations, findings summaries, products targeted to youth.



## Action 4: Embed Mana Taiohi across government agencies

<b>Description of Action</b>	Government agencies are supported to embed and utilise Mana Taiohi principles which guide positive youth development in Aotearoa New Zealand, in their programmes of work, and enable youth voice and leadership in government decision-making and action.
<b>Connection to the Vision of the Youth Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ government agencies understand and follow Mana Taiohi when engaging with young people</li><li>▶ government agencies resource and support the youth sector and other community organisations who support young people through youth work and other youth services</li><li>▶ whai wāhitanga of young people is valued by all government agencies</li></ul>
<b>Lead</b>	Ara Taiohi
<b>Partners/Supporting</b>	MYD, Sport New Zealand, Youth Plan Cross-Agency Working Group
<b>Timeframe</b>	2023-Ongoing
<b>Priority Cohorts</b>	All
<b>Key Deliverables</b>	Develop a programme of work to embed Mana Taiohi principles across government, in partnership with Ara Taiohi and government agencies.

## Action 5: Provide development opportunities for youth mentors

<b>Description of Action</b>	Training and development workshops are delivered targeting young people aged 16-24 years to enable them to become youth mentors. This enables more young people in the community to take up leadership opportunities.
<b>Connection to the Vision of the Youth Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▶ the whai wāhitanga of young people is recognised and valued through opportunities for them to contribute their voices and leadership</li><li>▶ young people in the priority groups have opportunities to lead and implement change on their own terms</li><li>▶ young people are supported into education, employment, or training with support from their whānau, communities, and government</li></ul>
<b>Lead</b>	Ara Taiohi and New Zealand Youth Mentoring Network
<b>Partners/Supporting</b>	MYD
<b>Timeframe</b>	2024-2025
<b>Priority Cohorts</b>	All
<b>Key Deliverables</b>	Upskilling 200 young people in Mana Taiohi and youth mentoring.

## Action 6: Refresh and administer the *Ākonga Youth Development Community Fund – Strengthening Ākonga Resilience to Achieve Better Pathways to Success*

<p><b>Description of Action</b></p>	<p>MYD will refresh and administer the Ākonga Fund, an initiative that funds youth development providers to deliver targeted support for at-risk ākonga and young people to achieve better pathways for success.</p> <p>Funding will be for community-based programmes that are designed to help young people have an increased level of engagement in their learning and aspiration for their future, or transitioning to further training or employment, and strengthen connections with whānau, iwi, community, and other support services including schools, health, and youth services.</p> <p>MYD will implement an Open Tender procurement process for the Ākonga Fund from August 2023, with successful providers intended to commence delivery from January 2024 onwards.</p>
<p><b>Connection to the Vision of the Youth Plan</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ young people are supported into education, employment, or training with support from their whānau, communities, and government</li> <li>▶ young people are supported to develop their identities and uplift their mana</li> <li>▶ the mauri of young people is fuelled so that young people are seen, recognised, and valued for who they are and who they want to be</li> <li>▶ government agencies resource and support the youth sector and other community organisations who support young people through youth work and other youth services</li> </ul>
<p><b>Lead</b></p>	<p>MYD</p>
<p><b>Partners/Supporting</b></p>	<p>Community-based youth development providers, including local iwi</p>
<p><b>Timeframe</b></p>	<p>2024-2025</p>
<p><b>Priority Cohorts</b></p>	<p>All</p>
<p><b>Age range</b></p>	<p>12-21 years</p>
<p><b>Key deliverables</b></p>	<p>Enable at least 2,750 at-risk ākonga and young people aged 12 to 21 years, annually, to access culturally appropriate programmes delivered by community-based organisations, including local iwi.</p>