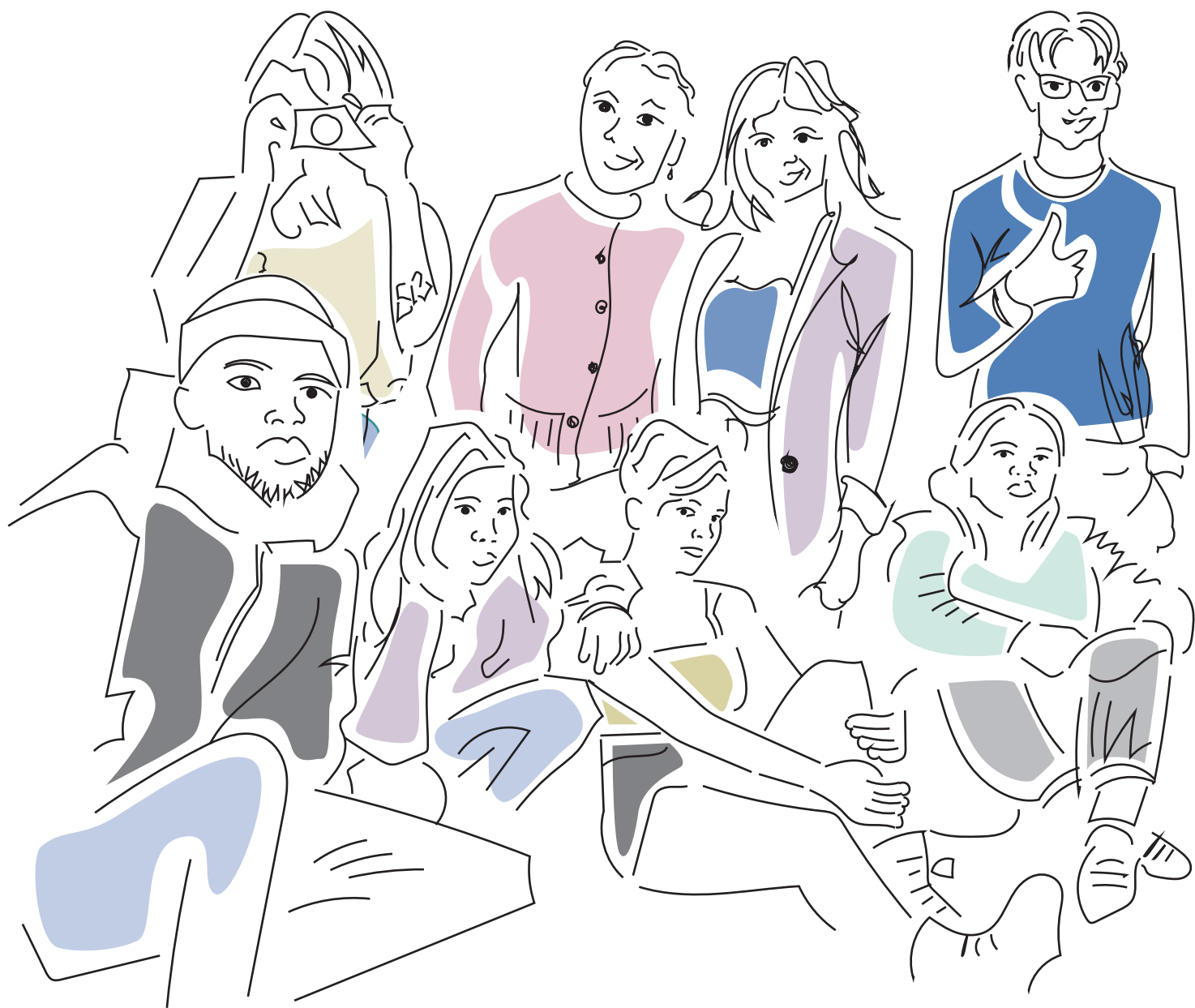


Youth Plan

Voice, Leadership, Action

Strategic Framework



MINISTRY OF
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

TE MANATU WHAKAHIATO TAIOHI

Administered by the Ministry of Social Development

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government



“We want more **opportunities to lead** but would like support, mentoring and for **adults to understand** and give space for leadership on our terms.”

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Foreword from the Minister for Youth

Tēnā koutou

I am excited to present the refreshed Youth Plan: Voice, Leadership, Action.

In my role as Minister for Youth, I have experienced the power of young people leading change for themselves and their whānau, and in their schools, businesses, and communities.

Young people have consistently told government that they want their voices heard in the decisions that impact them and their future. As Minister for Youth, I want to see all young New Zealanders supported and encouraged to take on leadership opportunities, including in and across government.

Young people are often only heard at crisis points – the impacts of climate change, COVID-19, diminishing mental health and wellbeing, the cost-of-living crisis for students, and so on. But young people deserve to be heard in meaningful ways on an ongoing basis, not just at times of crisis.

We know that when young people share their voices, take on leadership, and help influence and impact change, their hauora and wellbeing are enhanced.

The Youth Plan provides a framework, supported with tools and resources, to help agencies, youth sector organisations, and beyond, realise this vision.

By designing and implementing actions in partnership with young people, whānau, and communities, we are collectively helping to create an Aotearoa New Zealand where our young people can thrive.

I want to mihi the many young people who contributed their whakaaro and expertise that helped craft this refreshed Youth Plan. Your voices and leadership are a taonga and we are grateful for your contributions.



Hon Willow-Jean Prime
Minister for Youth



Foreword from Youth Advisory Group Co-Chairs

Tēnā koutou

Being a young person is often an experience of feeling voiceless. As young people, we have limited ability to participate in formal methods of decision-making – many of us cannot vote and find traditional consultation processes unengaging and outdated. The Youth Plan: Voice, Leadership, Action reimagines what effective consultation could look like when young people are genuinely involved in decision-making, recognising that we will be the ones to inherit the outcomes of current decisions.

The refresh of this Youth Plan saw us chatting with young people from around the motu. We heard young people want more opportunities to be heard on the issues that affect them and matter most to them; they want their voices to be valued and treated as equal to that of adults; and they want to see concrete outcomes from their input. Our voices should not be harvested as a tick-box exercise; instead, we want to see transformation driven by our input and to be shown how our voices were incorporated in decision-making.

Across Aotearoa New Zealand, young people play vital roles in our communities as leaders and influencers. From organising protests, championing petitions, mentoring others, and mobilising to support our

communities when disasters strike, we have repeatedly demonstrated our ability to make a positive difference and that we are already leaders. This Youth Plan aims to supercharge the status quo by empowering young people and embedding our leadership ability into government processes and beyond. While specific issues come and go, the presence of youth voice in decision-making should remain a constant.

We want to be heard and we want equitable access to leadership opportunities for all young people across Aotearoa New Zealand – we lay down this wero to Ministers, members of Parliament, government agencies, and others to take up.



Chanay and Piper

**On behalf of the Ministry of Youth
Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato
Taiohi Youth Advisory Group**



Purpose

The Youth Plan aims to amplify youth voice in government policy and decision-making and ensure processes are in place for young people to have meaningful input into decisions. It also aims to increase opportunities for young people to lead their own lives, have their identities seen, valued, and respected, and have increasing influence in their communities and across government policy.

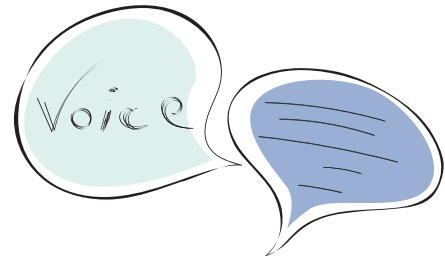
The Youth Plan is for all young people in Aotearoa New Zealand aged 12 to 24 years. It provides a strategic framework that can be used by government agencies, youth sector organisations, and beyond. It sets out actions that government will take, in partnership with others, to help achieve the aims of the Youth Plan.

Background

The Youth Plan drives change as part of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy (CYWS). The vision of the CYWS is for Aotearoa New Zealand “to be the best place in the world for children and young people.” The Youth Plan directs actions under the CYWS outcome area: “Children and young people are involved and empowered.” To realise this vision, the CYWS suggests young people should:

- be able to contribute positively at home, at school, and in their communities
- exercise kaitiakitanga: care of the land and connection to nature
- have their voices, perspectives, and opinions listened to and seriously considered
- be supported to exercise increasing autonomy as they age, and to be responsible citizens
- be supported, alongside their families, to make healthy choices around relationships, sexual health, alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.





The Youth Plan sits alongside a range of other government actions facilitating improved outcomes for young people.¹ The Youth Plan provides a unique focus by specifically promoting young people's voice and leadership to inform, shape, and influence government policies that are important to young people. Youth voice and leadership are protective factors in young people's wellbeing, as well as a driver for transformative change. The Youth Plan should be incorporated across all CYWS work to embed effective youth participation in government action.²

The first Youth Plan (2020-2022) has undergone a review and refresh process

The focus of the first Youth Plan (2020-2022) was adjusted in response to the emergence of COVID-19 during its development. Selected age groups and priority cohorts were chosen based on marginalisation prior to COVID-19 and anticipated impacts during the pandemic.³

A review of the first Youth Plan was conducted from June 2022 to March 2023, intended to assess its effectiveness for young people, particularly its priority cohorts, and to provide guidance for a refreshed plan.

1 A summary of government actions directed toward young people was collated in a mapping exercise which can be found on the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi website: <https://www.myd.govt.nz/young-people/youth-plan/youth-plan.html>. This mapping can be used to ensure new actions avoid duplication of work already underway.

2 Based on findings from the CYWS review in 2022, the next phase of CYWS implementation is focused under four priority policy areas: reducing child poverty and addressing the impacts of socio-economic disadvantage; enhancing child and whānau wellbeing in the first 1,000 days; addressing racism, discrimination, and stigma; and supporting the mental wellbeing of children and young people. The Youth Plan can be used across the four priority areas and their respective work programmes to ensure the voices and leadership of young people help inform and drive action.

3 The priority cohorts in the first Youth Plan (2020-2022) were: rangatahi Māori aged 17-24 years, Pacific young people aged 17-24 years, rainbow young people aged 17-24 years, and disabled young people aged 17-24 years.

The review identified the many strengths of the first Youth Plan. It established cross-agency collaboration across government, increased the visibility of work focused on young people, and highlighted the needs of priority cohorts. However, findings from the review also indicated a need for the Youth Plan to have a refined focus on voice and leadership given this is an area that is not specifically prioritised in any other youth-related action plans or strategies across government. This finding was supported by young people themselves and further reinforced by a literature review on the current threats to wellbeing most often reported by young people in Aotearoa New Zealand, and a mapping exercise of government strategies and action plans that focus on young people.⁴ Findings from the review found that voice and leadership serve as protective factors for wellbeing, giving young people a sense of agency and empowerment.

Findings from the review also supported expanding the priority cohorts of the Youth Plan to address groups of young people who experience higher rates of marginalisation and inequity: 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.⁵

4 Literature review and mapping exercise can be found on the MYD website: <https://www.myd.govt.nz/young-people/youth-plan/youth-plan.html>.

5 Regions refers to non-urban, rural and often isolated regions across Aotearoa New Zealand.

The refreshed Youth Plan embraces additional opportunities in an environment less directly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, addressing existing and emerging challenges impacting young people. A sharper focus on voice and leadership provides clarified purpose. The refreshed Youth Plan will build on cross-agency collaboration and government connections with the wider community youth sector. In addition, the development and introduction of a refreshed measurement framework will strengthen government’s ability to monitor and assess the effectiveness of future actions.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi Commitment

During the review of the first Youth Plan, young people and the youth sector indicated that the refreshed Youth Plan needed to reflect Te Ao Māori and a commitment to upholding The Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Rangatahi Māori told us that integration of supported concepts of wellbeing such as Te Whare Tapa Whā and Hauora as a basis of bi-cultural understanding of wellbeing was essential. Mana motuhake, rangatiratanga, and models of collective leadership better encapsulate how many rangatahi Māori and other young people take up leadership roles in their communities. The refreshed Youth Plan endeavours to better reflect these ideas in the refined focus areas.

The Māori-Crown relationship is foundational to improving the wellbeing of rangatahi Māori and government agencies should work with iwi, hapū, and whānau when implementing the Youth Plan. Equity for rangatahi Māori and commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi are intertwined. The former will not be achieved unless kaupapa Māori approaches are valued and effectively integrated within the Youth Plan and its actions.

The Youth Plan advocates for the utilisation of Mana Taiohi, a youth development framework that is informed by Te Ao Māori, is consistent with Te Tiriti principles, and focuses on positive youth development. The aim of referencing Mana Taiohi as a kete tool and weaving the principles within the Youth Plan is to encourage and enable agencies and others to utilise its framework and concepts to:

- improve the quality of support received by rangatahi Māori and young people across Aotearoa New Zealand, and
- advance the uptake and implementation of Te Ao Māori and mātauranga Māori concepts into all youth-focused mahi.



Implementation

The Youth Plan has evolved to form three interconnected documents. The first is this overarching strategic framework, while the second is a tangible suite of rolling actions that will be updated on an ongoing basis. The third is a measurement framework that provides an intervention logic for monitoring and assessing how the rolling suite of actions contributes towards the key outcomes of the Youth Plan.

The Youth Plan is a collaborative plan working across government and the wider sector

Although the work to review and refresh the Youth Plan was led by MYD and the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora, the plan is a cross-government, collaborative plan. Youth participation, voice, and leadership are relevant across a huge range of issues and for many agencies. Moreover, much of the work to uplift the mana and enable the whai wāhitanga of young people happens within whānau, hapū, iwi, communities, and with community or youth sector providers. Therefore, the Youth Plan should have the greatest impact when enabled by government and supported and actioned by tangata whenua, the wider sector, and in community.

Future actions to give effect to the Youth Plan should be led by a diverse mix of agencies, community, and youth sector partners. The Youth Plan Cross-Agency Working Group will be the main mechanism through which agency-led actions are developed, tested, and collaborated on, with final decisions being made by relevant Ministers and agencies.

Opportunities for agencies to connect and collaborate with sector partners will continue to be explored to support the aims of the Youth Plan and to realise improved outcomes for young people.

Governance and accountability

MYD, with support from MSD, will provide monitoring and oversight of the implementation of the Youth Plan actions, reporting back to the Minister for Youth, and other relevant Ministers through the CYWS Ministerial Group.

A Measurement Framework will enable ongoing monitoring and the future review of the Youth Plan

This strategic framework of the Youth Plan will be reviewed and refreshed in no more than five years to ensure it continues to respond to the emerging needs of young people in Aotearoa New Zealand. A measurement framework will examine the effectiveness of actions in achieving the key intended outcomes of the Youth Plan. The measurement framework is intended to enable self-reporting and agencies are expected to build on its broad focus to create fit-for-purpose measures specific to individual actions. Progress on actions will be reported annually to the Minister for Youth and relevant Ministers within the CYWS Ministerial Group.

Vision

Te piko o te māhuri, tērā te tupu o te rākau

The way in which the young sapling is nurtured (bent), determines how the tree will grow



Embedded in the whakataukī are notions of manaakitanga (nurturing) and guidance in the early stages of a young person's life. Similar to a tree, how a young person develops and what they can achieve throughout their life will depend on how they are nurtured, guided, and supported.

The metaphor of a young tree, or māhuri, is used in the whakataukī to stress the importance of nurturing and guidance in the early stages of one's life. Without ensuring the hauora of young people is intact and looked after, we can't expect strong voices and leadership to flourish. This is reflected in the whakataukī, which symbolises the importance of strong learning foundations for future success included in the Youth Plan.

“If we were shown that the government **genuinely values us**, we would feel safer to engage.”



Aims of the Youth Plan

The voices and perspectives of young people are listened to, valued, and embedded in decision-making at all levels.

The mana of young people is uplifted. Young people 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.

Focus Areas

Voice and leadership are forms of whai wāhitanga.⁶ Young people should be seen as valued contributors and be given space to participate and assume agency.

It is important to understand that participation of young people does not and cannot happen in isolation. Recognising and uplifting the mana⁷ of young people and applying Mana Taiohi principles of whanaungatanga⁸, manaakitanga⁹, and mātauranga¹⁰ alongside whai wāhitanga is essential to ensuring young people can participate fully and safely.

Young people should be supported to choose their level of engagement in decisions that affect them. This means young people should be given a range of opportunities to share their voice and take on leadership.

Voice

Voice is about opportunities for young people to speak and be heard. This can come in many forms: a young person voting, signing a petition, vocalising their views at a protest, or asking questions of a member of Parliament. It can be through formal engagement opportunities or through more informal channels, sharing their views on social media, or advocating for an issue among peers. Important elements of supporting youth voice include making opportunities accessible, youth-friendly, and meaningful. Seeking out and creating opportunities for diverse cohorts of young people is necessary so voices heard are representative of the whole and not just the few.

Decision-makers listening is essential to young people sharing their voice. Listening includes paying attention to non-formal methods of hearing youth voice and going to where young people already are, both physically and digitally. The impact of youth voice is determined by the quality of listening that happens as part of the process. Quality listening includes information-sharing, closing feedback loops, and taking action after decision-makers hear from young people.

Leadership

Leadership looks different for every young person. For some, leadership is about self-determination. For others, it is about having influence in their communities and in decision-making processes. For many, it's about supporting and caring for others through collective action.

Across the wide spectrum of ways to be a leader, young people described the importance of finding their tūrangawaewae, their place to stand. Connection to whakapapa, whānau, community, and whenua all contribute to a rooted understanding of self from which leadership naturally grows.

Young people should be supported in their individual journeys of finding their tūrangawaewae alongside opportunities to influence and take action.

Young people want to have more influence over issues that impact them. Decision-makers should invest in opportunities that foster the leadership of young people while also creating increasing space for young people to advise, influence, and collectively lead.

6 <https://arataiohi.org.nz/mana-taiohi-principle/whai-wahitanga/>

7 <https://arataiohi.org.nz/mana-taiohi-principle/mana/>

8 <https://arataiohi.org.nz/mana-taiohi-principle/whanaungatanga/>

9 <https://arataiohi.org.nz/mana-taiohi-principle/manaakitanga/>

10 <https://arataiohi.org.nz/mana-taiohi-principle/matauranga/>

Outcomes for young people

- Young people are supported to develop their identities and uplift their mana.
- The mauri¹¹ of young people is fuelled so that young people are seen, recognised, and valued for who they are and who they want to be.
- The whai wāhitanga of young people is recognised and valued through opportunities for them to contribute their voices and leadership.
- Young people in the priority groups have opportunities to lead and implement change on their own terms.
- Young people are supported into education, employment, or training with support from their whānau, communities, and government.
- Young people are given increasing opportunities in formal leadership and decision-making roles, such as advisory and governance groups.

Key enablers

- Whai wāhitanga of young people is valued by all government agencies.
- Government agencies understand and follow Mana Taiohi when engaging with young people.
- Government agencies work innovatively and collaboratively with each other and community youth sector partners to support the voice and leadership of young people.
- Government agencies resource and support the youth sector and other community organisations who support young people through youth work and other youth services.
- Government agencies regularly share with each other what they have learnt during engagements, and collaborate where possible to reduce consultation fatigue.
- The voices of young people are actively heard, captured, and acted on as part of government action.
- The voices of the priority groups are amplified within government.



¹¹ <https://arataiohi.org.nz/mana-taiohi-principle/mauri-taiohi/>

Actions

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

This section sets out criteria for Youth Plan actions. Further details about specific actions can be found in the Youth Plan Rolling Suite of Actions document.

Youth Plan actions 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 CYWS. All named actions are intended to be complemented by other work happening across government, the youth sector, and beyond.

Actions Criteria

Youth Plan actions should:

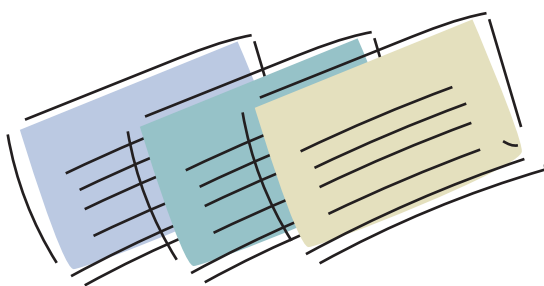
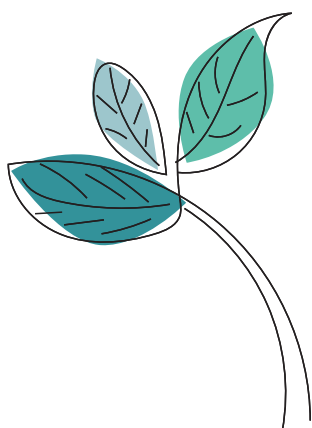
- include whai wāhitanga of young people in the design and/or delivery of actions
- follow Mana Taiohi when engaging with young people
- be delivered through collaboration between government agencies and/or with youth sector partners, communities, whānau, and young people themselves
- support the wider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

Youth Plan actions will:

- be reviewed and reported on annually.



“Utilising your **mana to empower** those around you to achieve a common goal.”



“We need more youth workers and people on the ground in rural communities with **capacity to actually support youth.**”

Tools in our kete

Designing and implementing actions

The following section outlines four key tools that should be used when designing or implementing actions. Links to further information and resources are available on the MYD website:

myd.govt.nz/young-people/youth-plan/youth-plan

Mana Taiohi

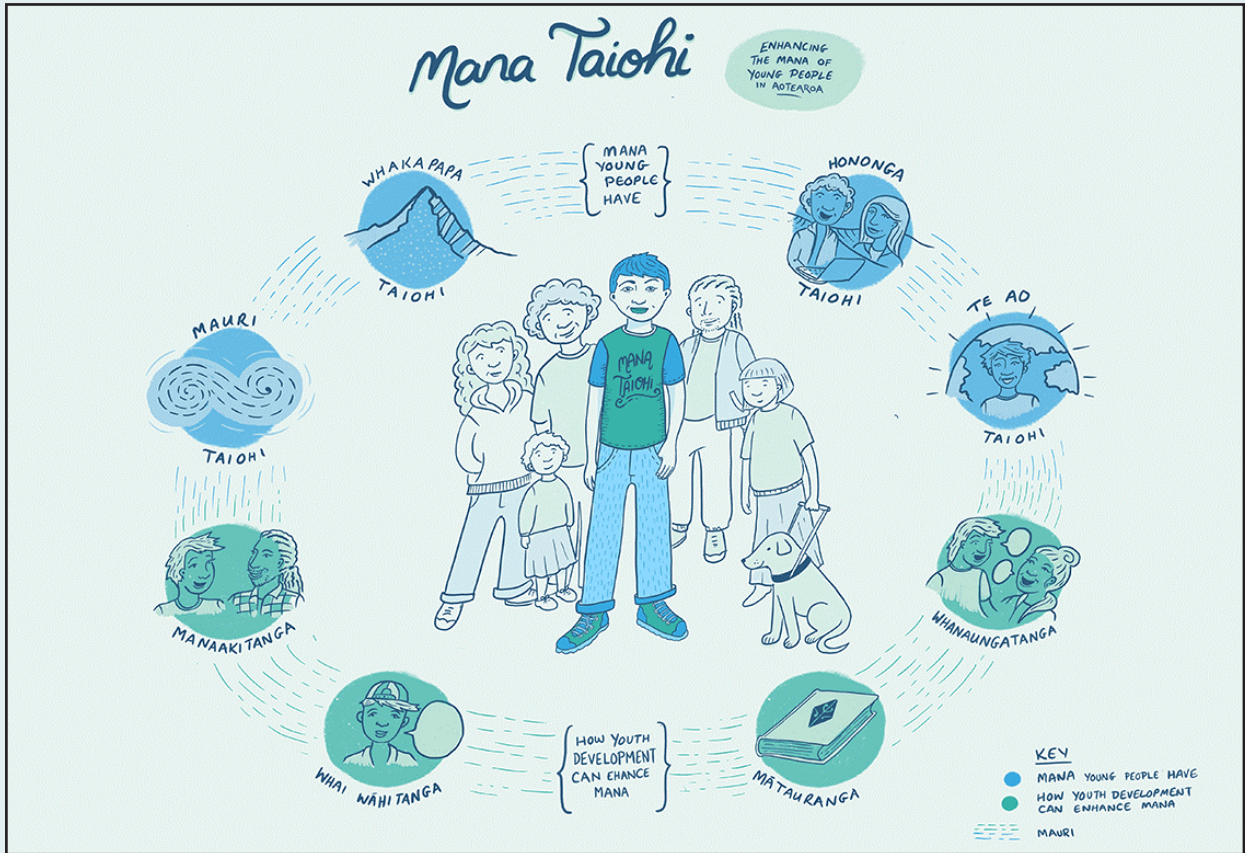
Mana Taiohi is a principle-based framework that informs the way people who work with young people work in Aotearoa New Zealand with a Te Ao Māori worldview. Mana Taiohi is based on the overarching principle of Mana, and a further eight interconnected and holistic principles. The principle of Mana is defined as “the authority we inherit at birth, and we accrue over our lifetime. It determines the right of a young person to have agency in their lives and the decisions that affect them. Young people are supported to have a voice, work to their strengths, and step into leadership”.

These principles acknowledge the mana that young people have, and how we can work to uplift that mana through voice and leadership. From this flows Whai Wāhitanga, participation. Whai Wāhitanga determines the right of a young person to have agency in their lives and the decisions that affect them.

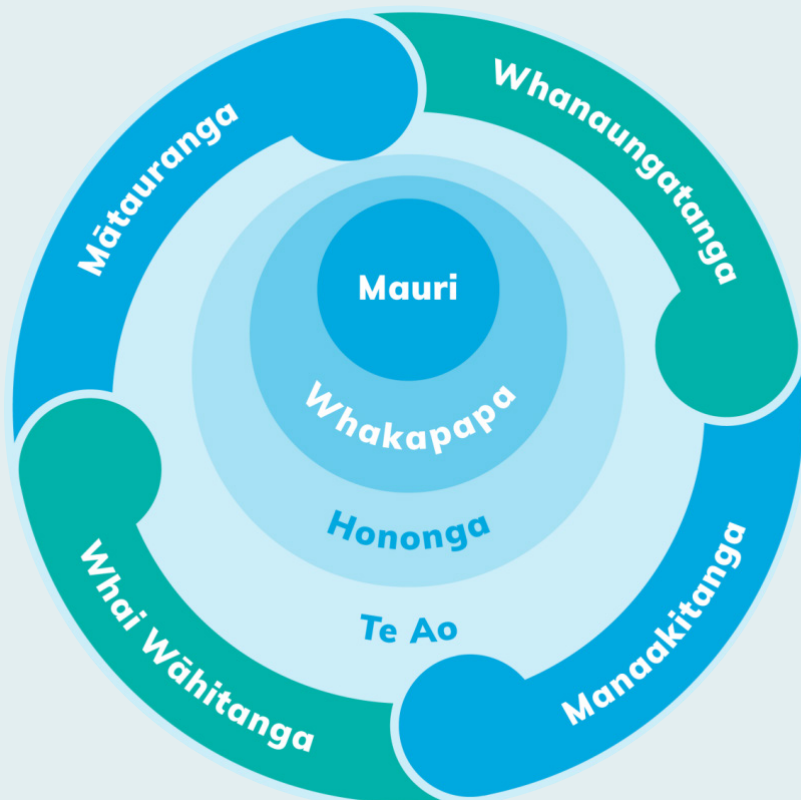
Within the context of the Youth Plan, engagement with young people should create safe spaces that enable young people to express their voice, have it heard, and influence decisions. Whai Wāhitanga is undoubtedly about involving young people in decision-making in all aspects of their lives. This approach recognises the role that active participation can play as a vehicle for positive youth development and highlights the opportunity to achieve a broader range of positive outcomes that contribute to youth wellbeing.

Mana Taiohi principles are holistic, exist in relation to one another, and are stronger when connected. Without any one of them, the others are weaker.





Source: Ara Taiohi – Mana Taiohi



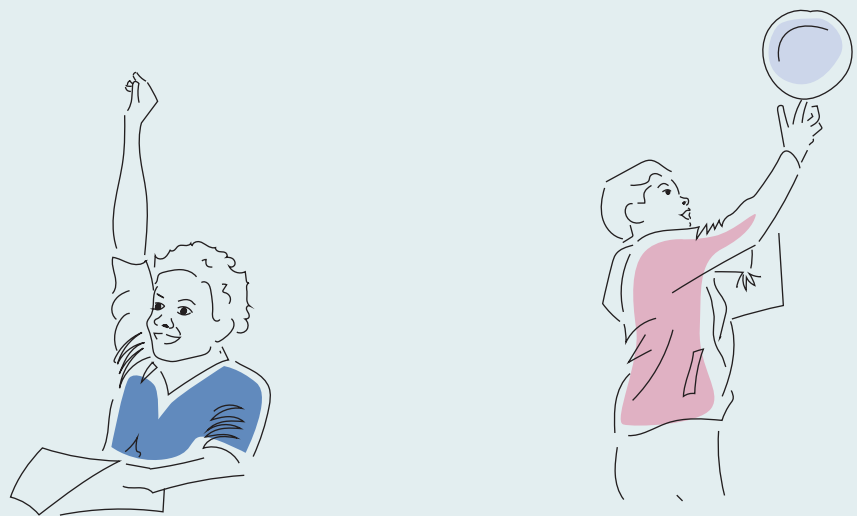
Age Range Guidelines

The Youth Plan is for all young people aged 12-24 years. This wider cohort can be divided into two groups based on common development stages: young people aged 12-17 years, and young people aged 18-24 years.

These age ranges are a general guide for government agencies and others formulating actions for the Youth Plan. Broadly, the 12-17-year-old cohort are functioning in education environments, while the 18-24-year-old cohort are likely to be experiencing life transitions, including but not limited to: entering the workforce, further education, or moving out of home.

Experiences within each cohort are diverse. Young people are not meeting the same milestones or undergoing transitions according to fixed linear progression. Age, developmental stage, context, lived experience, and legal rights are all factors to be considered. For example, the rights and needs of a 12-year-old will not always align with those of a 17-year-old. Additionally, many young people leave school or enter employment at different ages. Those formulating individual actions should consider whether their objectives would better suit a narrowed or more targeted age range.

Engagement with appropriate age groups is important when developing actions to effectively address their needs. Young people have valuable insights and are experts in their own experiences. Government agencies and organisations should acknowledge that the voices and perspectives of young people at all ages are crucial.

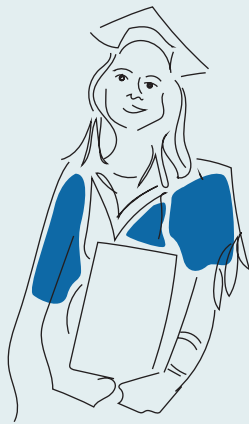


12
years

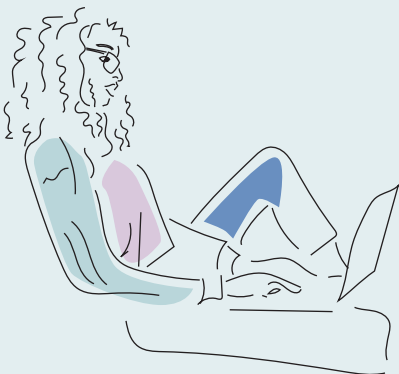




24
years



17
years



Priority Cohorts

Some groups of young people experience higher threats to wellbeing, based on factors such as their ethnicity, sexuality, gender identity, disability, and geographic location. Many of these young people also struggle to access support services, for example, services that are culturally appropriate, accessible, accepting, and gender-affirming.

The Youth Plan will focus particularly on seven priority cohorts. These 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)
- Young people living in the regions.

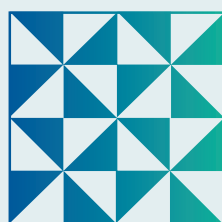
The priority cohorts are not distinct categories, and many young people belong to multiple groups, with intersectional identities that result in unique experiences. When forming actions, this complexity must be considered.

It is important to remember, even within each cohort, individual experiences are diverse. Labels such as 'ethnic' or 'rainbow' are necessary generalisations that capture broad trends, but all people within these groups do not share one common experience. For example, ethnic young people include those born in Aotearoa New Zealand, those who migrated, and refugees undergoing forced migration, all following different paths and belonging to different population sub-groups.

Actions and measurements must embed diverse definitions of voice and leadership. Particular attention should be given to the priority cohorts along with tailored responses to address their unique needs. Young people cannot succeed as a group while those facing disproportionate threats to wellbeing are left behind.



Rangatahi Māori



Pacific young people



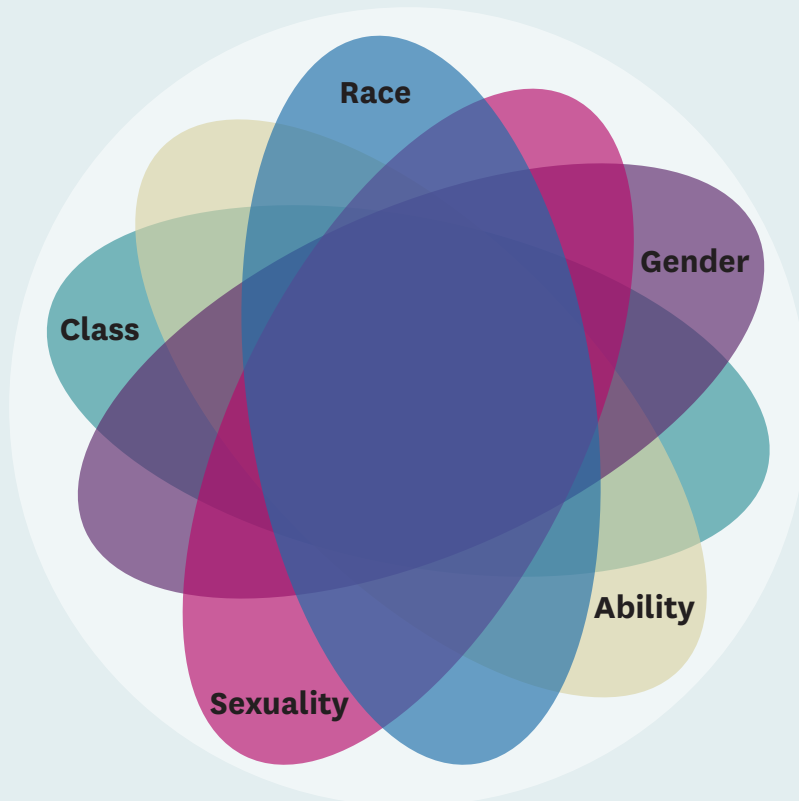
Rainbow young people



Disabled young people

Intersectionality

This graphic illustrates the concept of intersectionality, which is a theory developed by Kimberlé Crenshaw that shows how the overlap of various social identities, such as race, gender, sexuality etc., contribute to systemic advantages and disadvantages experienced by an individual.



Intersectionality acknowledges that people belong to a wide number of identity groups and that lived experience will be impacted by the overlapping and interconnected identities of each person. For example, rangatahi Māori living with a disability may experience the world in distinct ways that are not the same as a Pākeha young person living with a disability. Similarly, the experience of rainbow young people living in urban areas is likely to vary to that of those living in the regions.

Links to more information about intersectionality can be found on the **MYD website**.



Young women



Young people from ethnic communities (in particular, former refugees and recent migrants)



Young people living in the regions

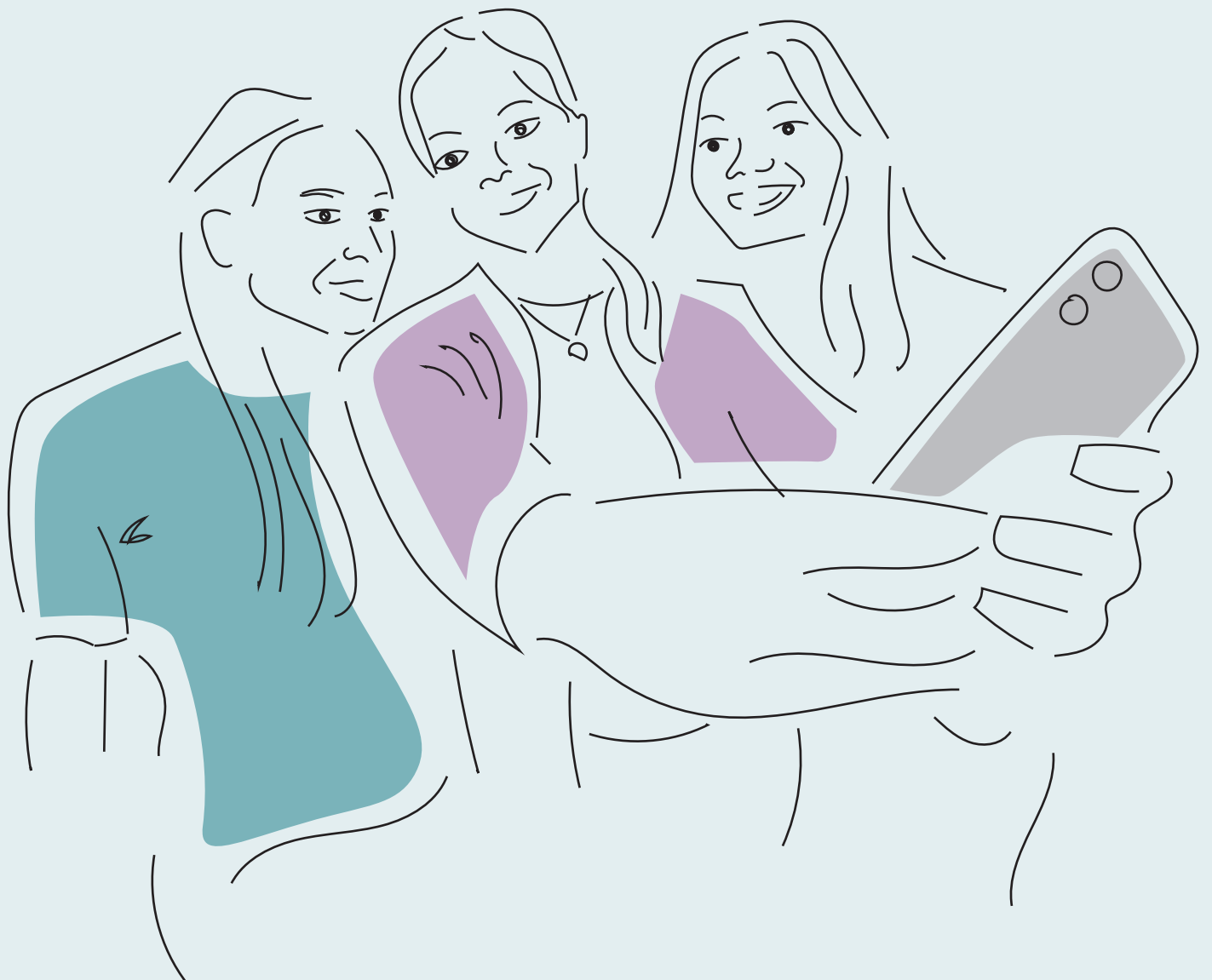
Engagement Continuum

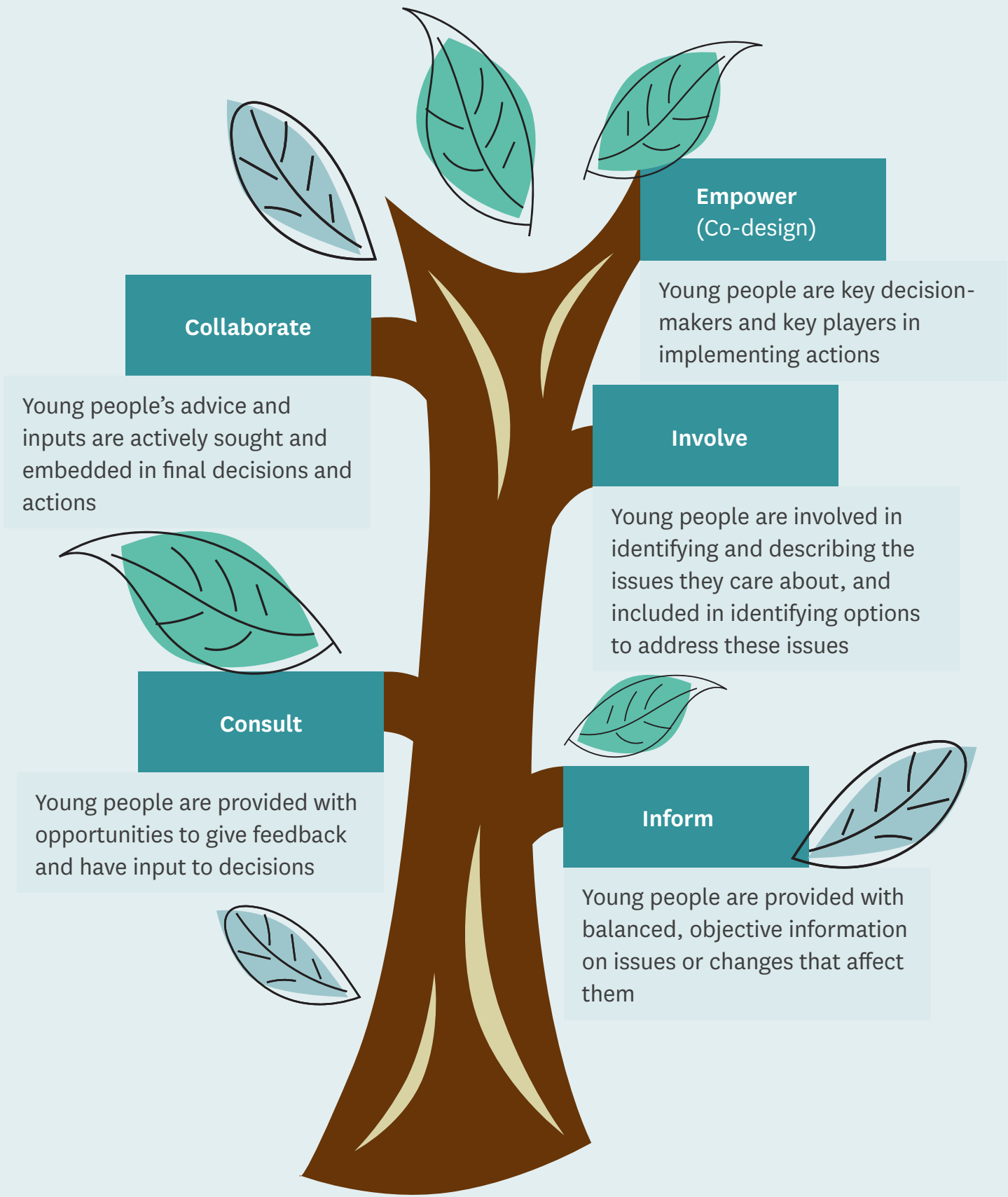
Agencies are encouraged to consider the level at which they wish to engage with young people. This includes considering what level of engagement may be most appropriate for their mahi, the level of resource they have available, and the outcomes they wish to achieve with, and for, young people.

More intensive levels of engagement, such as empower and collaborate, will feature a higher level of youth voice and leadership, but likely with a smaller cohort of young people. Less intensive levels of engagement, such as consult or inform, will feature less concentrated levels of youth voice and leadership but often achieve a wider reach of young people.

The level of engagement can also be different at different points in an action's life cycle. For example, collaboration may be most appropriate during a design and testing phase. During implementation and evaluation, consulting may be more appropriate.

At all levels, communication and transparency is essential to ensure the depth and scope of engagement is mutually understood.





Source: Harvard Catalyst – Community Engagement Continuum

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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 cohorts¹. 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.

¹ 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.

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

<p>Description of Action</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>Connection to the Vision of the Youth Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ young people are supported into education, employment, or training with support from their whānau, communities, and government ▶ young people are supported to develop their identities and uplift their mana ▶ 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 ▶ government agencies resource and support the youth sector and other community organisations who support young people through youth work and other youth services
<p>Lead</p>	<p>MYD</p>
<p>Partners/Supporting</p>	<p>Community-based youth development providers, including local iwi</p>
<p>Timeframe</p>	<p>2024-2025</p>
<p>Priority Cohorts</p>	<p>Rangatahi Māori, Pacific young people, rainbow young people, disabled young people</p>
<p>Age range</p>	<p>12-21 years</p>
<p>Key deliverables</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>

Continuation of The Hive youth voice initiative

Description of Action	<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>
Connection to the Vision of the Youth Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ the whai wāhitanga of young people is recognised and valued through opportunities for them to contribute their voices and leadership▶ whai wāhitanga of young people is valued by all government agencies▶ voices of young people are actively heard, captured, and acted on as part of government action▶ the voices of the priority groups are amplified within government
Co-Leads	Curative NZ and MYD
Timeframe	2023-2025
Priority Cohorts	All
Age range	16-24 years

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.
-

Review and realisation of a youth-centric Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey

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

Strengthen youth leadership and advisory groups

Description of Action	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.
Connection to the Vision of the Youth Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▶ young people are given increasing opportunities in formal leadership and decision-making roles, such as advisory and governance groups▶ government agencies understand and follow Mana Taiohi when engaging with young people▶ government agencies work innovatively and collaboratively with each other and community youth sector partners to support the voice and leadership of young people
Lead	Mana Mokopuna
Partners/Supporting	MYD, Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children, Te Whatu Ora, Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives, Ministry of Education, Te Puni Kōkiri
Timeframe	2023-2024
Priority Cohorts	All
Age range	Children and young people under 24 years
Key deliverables	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.

Embed Mana Taiohi across government agencies

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

Provide development opportunities for youth mentors

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

Youth Plan Measurement Framework



Whether referred to as youth voice, participation, advising, governance, leadership, advocacy, or civic engagement, a common underlying principle is that young people have expertise and insight relevant to decision-making within youth-serving systems, agencies and programs.



(Checkoway, 2011; Landsdown, 2001)

*A toolkit developed by Research and Evaluation, Ministry of Social Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora
Authors: Zoe Taptiklis, Analyst, Research and Evaluation and Sankar Ramasamay, Evaluation Lead, Research and Evaluation*

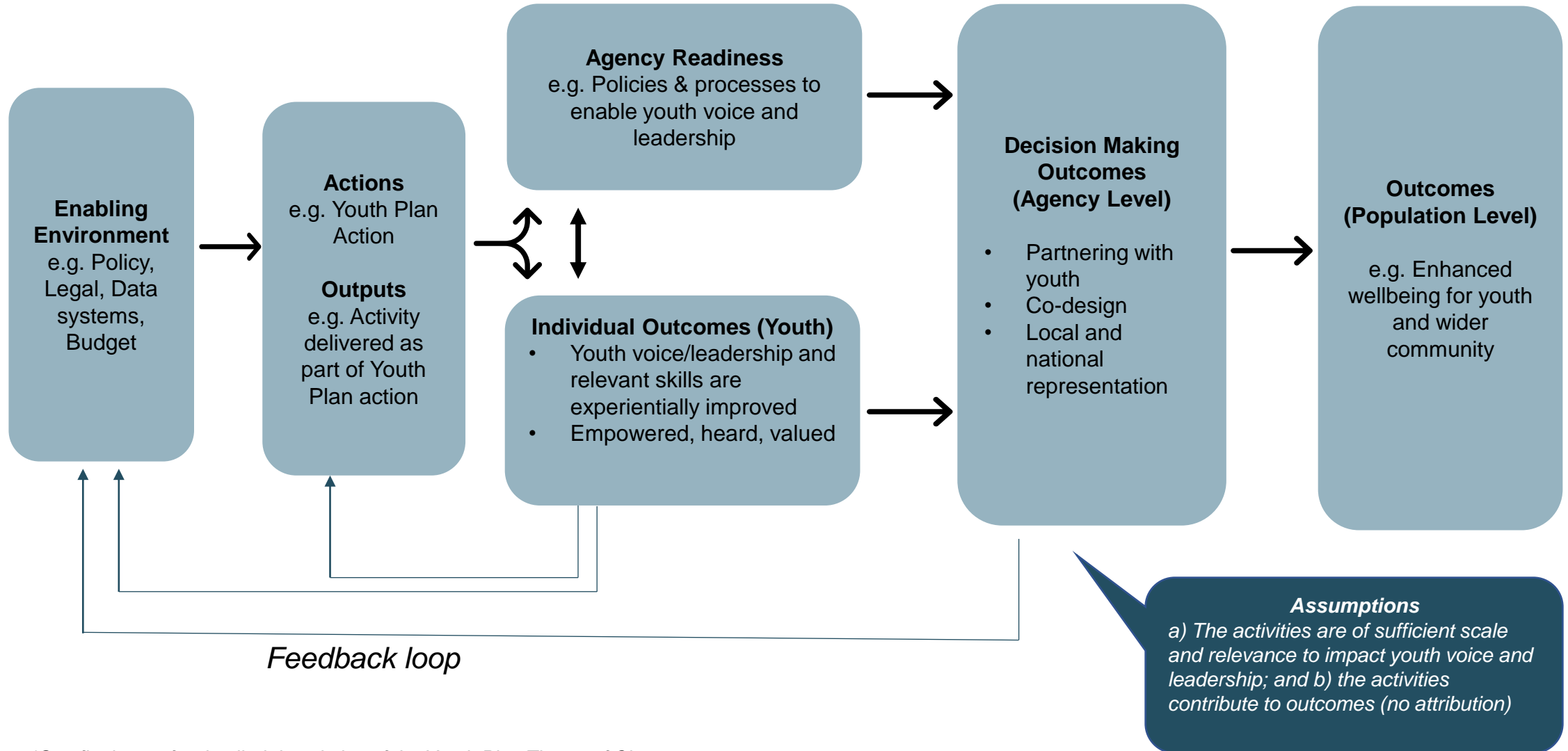
Purpose:

This is a high-level measurement framework toolkit to help monitor the effectiveness of the Youth Plan

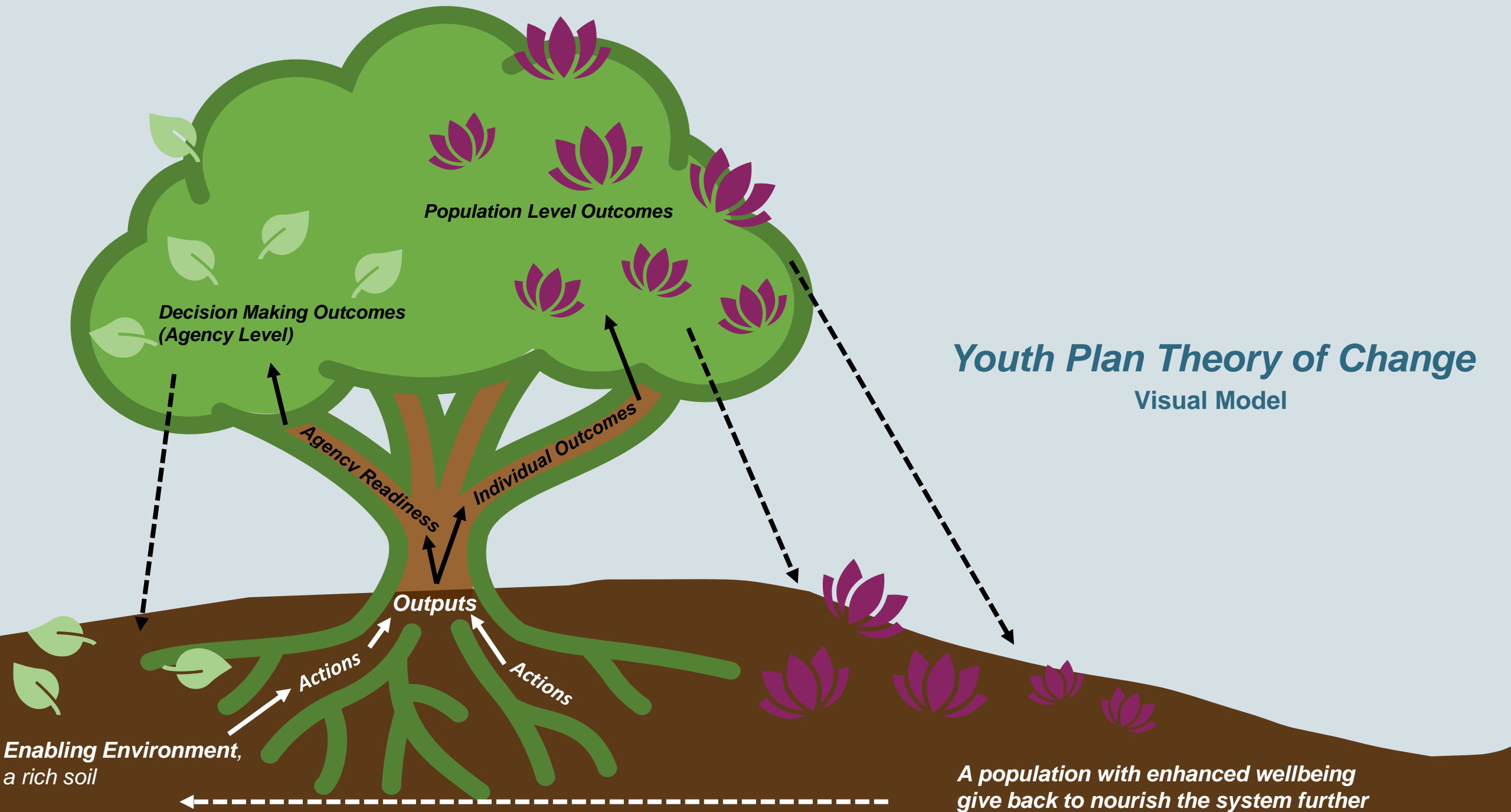
Overview:

1. This toolkit includes a Theory of Change that builds on international research for developing and implementing youth policy with a focus on Youth Voice, Leadership and Wellbeing
2. Youth Plan actions, and Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi youth engagement feedback were used to develop outcomes-centric measures
3. An underlying framework principle is that Youth Plan actions cumulatively contribute to youth wellbeing outcomes and are not attributable to discrete initiatives
4. This framework works to ensure that Youth Plan actions are practical, measurable, youth-centred, evidence-based and achieving their intended outcomes
5. This framework utilises self-reporting on community and agency assurance criteria rather than external data sources

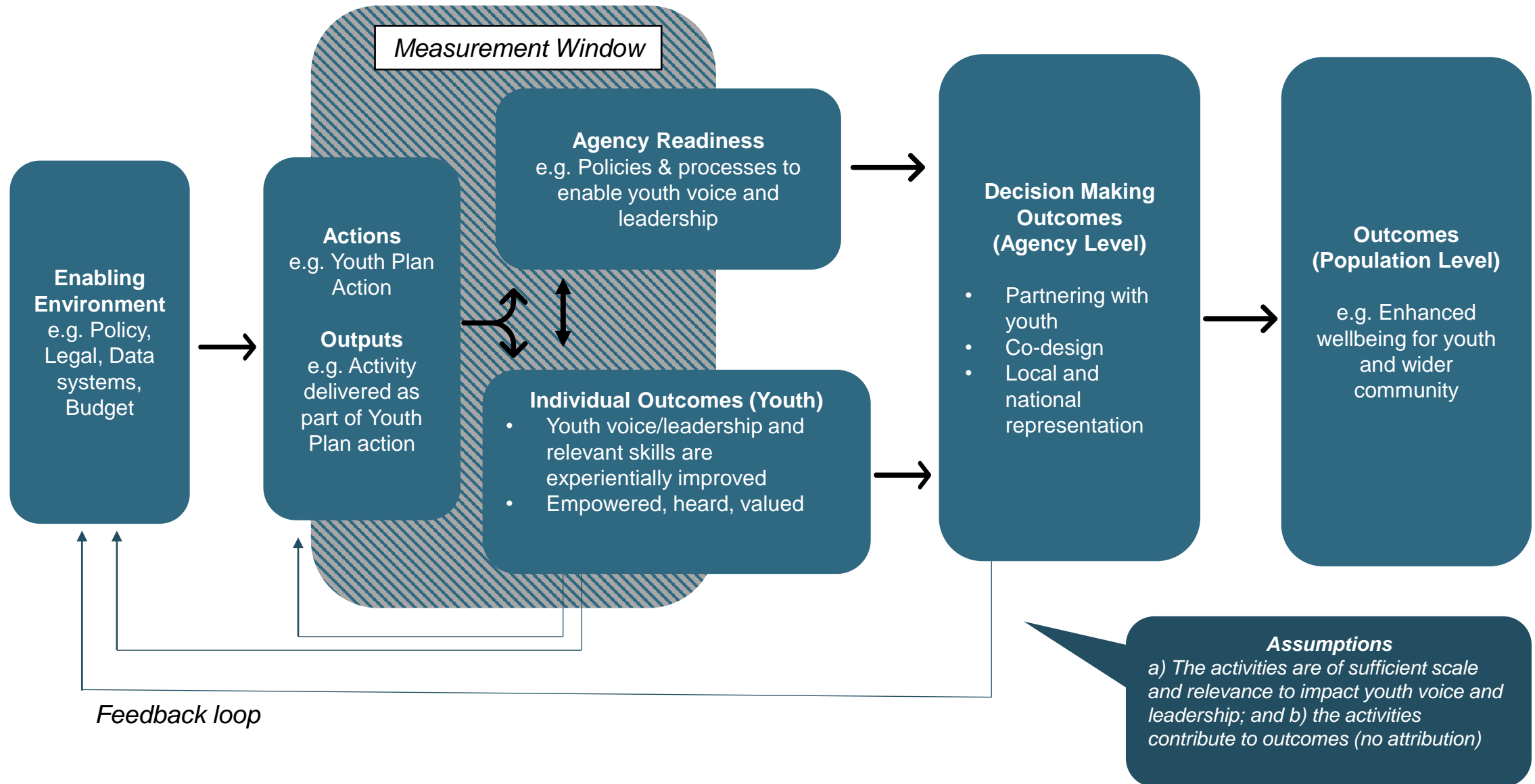
Theory of Change*



*See final page for detailed description of the Youth Plan Theory of Change



Applying Measurement Framework within the Theory of Change



Overview of the Measurement Tool:

A high-level measurement tool has been designed so Youth Plan actions can be assessed against ten criteria annually. Criteria are split into two complementary categories: youth-assessed assurance criteria and agency-assessed assurance criteria.

An assumption of the Measurement Framework is that Youth Plan actions cumulatively contribute to youth wellbeing outcomes and are not attributable to discrete initiatives. Therefore, measurement utilises self-reporting on assurance criteria at individual outcome and agency-readiness levels rather than utilising population-level, external data sources to assess Youth Plan actions.

Utilising the Measurement Tool

The measurement tool will be applied annually to contribute to the annual reporting cycle of the Youth Plan.

The tool should also be used when designing Youth Plan actions to ensure actions align with relevant criteria.

Young people will be engaged (where applicable) to complete their assessment of the assurance criteria prior and separate to agencies completing their assessment to reduce respondent bias in responses.

Youth-assessed criteria ensures that the voice of young people is centred in the monitoring and reporting process.

Some of the youth and agency assessed criteria are exact mirrors of each other. This mirroring enables direct comparison of perspectives.

If there are deviations (young people and agencies reach different conclusions on mirroring criteria) additional work should be undertaken to adjust the action and bring criteria into alignment.

Not all actions will meet all ten criteria, for example: some actions may focus on agency readiness only rather than individual outcomes for young people. In these instances, actions should be assessed against the agency assurance criteria.

High-Level Youth Plan Measurement Tool

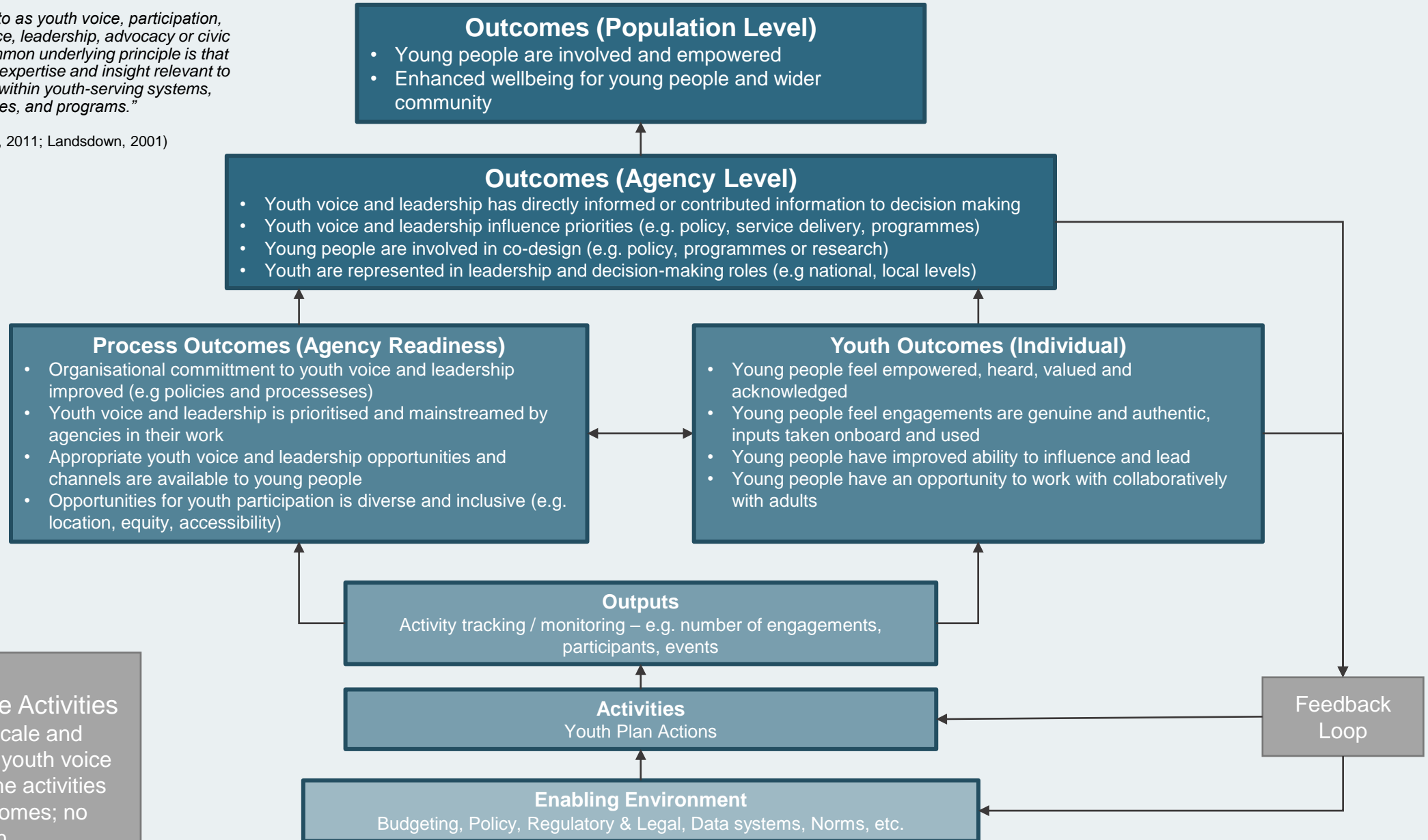
Youth Plan Action		Youth (Community) Assurance Criteria*					Agency Assurance Criteria				
Name	Goal Outcome (Relevance to Youth Voice and Leadership)	1. Youth participation is diverse and inclusive	2. Outcomes improve sense that youth are valued, empowered, and listened to	3. Action and outcome respects youth, and places value of youth determined needs	4. Action improves youth ability to connect and work with adults	5. Young people have contributed to decision making	6. Improves organisations' commitment to youth voice and/or leadership	7. Outcomes add to ways that young people are valued, empowered and listened to in organisations	8. Actions and outcome respect young people, placing due value on youth determined needs*	9. Action improves organisations' and adults' ability to connect and work with young people	10. Young people have contributed to decision making
EXAMPLE Implement the youth voice project	Allow government and rangatahi to partner to develop youth-centric engagement methods. This includes building off existing youth voice initiatives, such as youth advisory groups, as well as exploring the development of new initiatives.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
EXAMPLE Convene a regional rangatahi Māori leader's forum	Rangatahi Māori are provided with opportunities to engage in regional leadership forums where they can input into policy development, develop their leadership abilities, and have their voices heard.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
EXAMPLE Collaborate with rangatahi to design and implement a wellbeing campaign	Rangatahi Māori and Pacific young people will design a wellbeing campaign alongside government which helps them improve their own wellbeing and support other rangatahi experiencing stress or distress. Rangatahi will be central to the development, design and creation of this campaign.		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

*these criteria necessitate that youth are reflexively engaged on these points (i.e. consulted on and agree, if they disagree revisions are approached)

Detailed Youth Plan Theory of Change

“Whether referred to as youth voice, participation, advising, governance, leadership, advocacy or civic engagement, a common underlying principle is that young people have expertise and insight relevant to decision-making within youth-serving systems, agencies, and programs.”

(Checkoway, 2011; Landsdown, 2001)



Assumption: a) the Activities are of sufficient scale and relevance to impact youth voice and leadership b) the activities contribute to outcomes; no attribution