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Street Maytz for a safer community

A safer communities' initiative, Street Maytz, has been launched by the Far North Safer Community Council.

Street Maytz is funded by Work and Income. It aims to make Mangonui, Kaitaia and Ahipara safer communities to live in.

Ten Work and Income clients have been trained as 'Maytz' to work with rangatahi/youth. The intention is that they will engage with youth who are on the streets at night and initiate actions which support positive results for both the youth and the general community.

Their training, over eight weeks, was geared towards youth crime prevention, but also covered areas such as people skills, motivation, first aid and team building.

After only a few months the Street Maytz

team has been so successful, it is now involved with other activities such as helping schools to deal with truancy and event managing youth activities.

Far North Safer Community Council Co-ordinator Maureen Te Paa says while Street Maytz is about crime prevention, the Maytz are also benefiting from being in work and developing their careers. She says they have access to a huge amount of support and resources, and the chance to work alongside professionals who are donating their services to Street Maytz.

*For more information contact:
Maureen Te Paa 09 408 6030.*



The Street Maytz team standing from left: Jasmine Nauleo, Far North Safer Community Council Co-ordinator Maureen Te Paa, Barry Herbert, Tinalee Yates, Leanne Frost, Howard Moses and Maria Tauroa. Front from left: Victoria Broughton and Koha Harrison. Absent: Jessie Dodds and Julia Marsters. Photo courtesy of Northern Age.

Hospitality programme works

Training courses targeting the Bay of Island's hospitality industry are successfully matching unemployed people to job vacancies.

The Straight 2 Work courses are the result of an Industry Partnership Hospitality programme between Work and Income and the hospitality industry.

Industry players include Bay of Island hoteliers, the Motel Association for the Bay of Islands and training provider Spear Hospitality Director Janine Quaid. Work and Income is represented by Work Brokers Geoff Clough (Kawakawa) and Willie Meenehan (Kerikeri) and Local Industry Partnership (LIP) Advisor Treina Chaplin.

The first four-week course had 20 clients and 15 of them are now in hospitality jobs in the Waitangi and Paihia areas. Eighteen trainees recently finished a second course and they are currently being helped to find work.

Topics included food safety and housekeeping; and skills related to specific hospitality jobs.

One trainee on the first course, Lambros Theodosiou, had been unemployed for more than a year. He only needed one week of work experience to prove his worth to the



Lambros Theodosiou at work at Paihia's Nine Café Restaurant & Bar.

owner of Paihia's Nine Café Restaurant & Bar, Ross Brljevič. Ross saw his potential and offered him a full-time position.

Ross also employed three other people from the course. "They are all shining stars and there has been a huge

change from the stooped shoulders I first laid eyes on to where they are now standing tall and confident."

The courses are complemented by a free bus service for clients living in the Moerewa and Kawakawa areas, so the lack of access to transport for some clients is no longer a barrier to them finding work.

*For more information contact:
Northland Local Industry Partnership Advisor
Treina Chaplin 09 983 9127.*

Minister visits The Pulse

The work of Whangarei's one-stop-shop for youth, The Pulse, was on display when Social Development and Employment Minister David Benson-Pope recently visited.

While there he spent time talking with Work and Income case managers who are located on site.

Northland's Work and Income Regional Commissioner for Social Development Marama Wiki says that many different groups are interested in what The Pulse is offering and how it operates. "Just recently The Pulse hosted chief executives from the Ministry of Social Development's equivalent departments in Australia."



From left: Adrian Berry (The Pulse Executive Officer), Minister David Benson-Pope, Work and Income's Sarah Paraha (The Pulse Case Manager), Sarah Broughton, (Service Centre Manager for Whangarei and The Pulse), Marama Wiki (Regional Commissioner for Social Development), Robyn Rusher (Family and Community Services' Area Manager) and Don Gray (from the Minister's office).

The Pulse is a multi-agency response by community and government leaders to youth issues in Whangarei. It has encouraged community and government agencies to collaborate so there is a co-ordinated service for young people and their families.

Work and Income has two case managers working with Domestic Purposes Benefit clients with children aged 13-16 years. Their aim is to help prevent inter-generational unemployment.

Other agencies and groups include Child, Youth and Family, Strengthening Families, Te Ora Hou Northland – which works with at-risk youth, social workers, the Police, Northland Health, Family Works, School Attendance Services, He Mataariki - Teenage Parent School, Tautoko Teina, He Kakano Childcare Centre, Plunket, Counselling Services and CANTEEN, which supports young people with cancer.

The Pulse is operated by the Whangarei Youth One-Stop-Shop Charitable Trust. Its board is made up of representatives from a range of agencies. Executive Officer Adrian Berry has been a key player in implementing The Pulse and connecting various social support services.

For more information contact:
Public Relations Advisor Piripi Moore 09 983 9119.

Support for Kaipara youth

Dargaville Work and Income and the Kaipara District Council are working together to connect and develop youth within the Kaipara area.

The partnership is in response to the Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs and Work and Income case managers identifying a need to work intensively with Kaipara youth to move them out of the benefit system.

It also aligns with the Kaipara Youth Connections project which was established to address concerns identified by the community outcomes process – a local government community consultation process which identifies community priorities.

Newly appointed Youth Employment Co-ordinator Joe Hovell, who is located

at the Kaipara District Council, gained his experience working alongside various sports clubs and as a teacher guiding sport students at the local high school.

Youth aged 16-24 years old and registered on a benefit are referred to Joe by case managers. He offers motivational support and access to his networks, which help youth connect with job opportunities. He says he helps develop a "can do attitude" and builds their confidence so they can move towards a better future in the Kaipara. "Every kid has something good in them, you just have to find it," he says.

He works closely with the youth either individually or in group meetings to ensure they are actively



Kaipara Youth Employment Co-ordinator Joe Hovell.

searching for work, receiving support and advice and participating in training courses. The ultimate goal is to place them into full-time work.

With Kaipara Youth Connections working with youth in schools to stop them from entering the benefit system, and Joe working with those currently on the benefit, the future looks a lot brighter for youth in the Kaipara region.

For more information contact:
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