

Briefing for Incoming Minister

# Youth

2017



**MINISTRY OF  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO TAIOHI

*Administered by the Ministry of Social Development*



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**

TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA



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The Minister for Youth is both an advocate for New Zealand's young people and a leader in promoting strengths-based youth development.



**840,000**

young people, aged 12 to 24 years, were resident in New Zealand in 2016

**Vote Social Development – Partnering for Youth Development**



**\$10.592m**

multi-category appropriation funding for 2017/2018



delivering **70,000**

youth development opportunities for young New Zealanders



**30%**

of funding for youth development opportunities is targeted at young people from disadvantaged backgrounds



**\$1.78m**

in the 2017/2018 Partnership Fund for co-investing in youth development opportunities



**83%**

of 18-year-olds achieved NCEA Level 2 or equivalent in 2015



**13.2%**

of 15- to 24-year-olds unemployed in 2016  
(more than double the rate of the next highest age group of the 25- to 34-year-olds)

## Introduction

We look forward to working with you and discussing the most effective ways we can support you and your priorities and responsibilities.

This briefing provides you with information on the scope of your portfolio and funding opportunities you will need to consider in your first three months. It also includes the key Ministry of Social Development contacts for your portfolio.

In addition to your portfolio briefing, we have included information on what we consider to be the key strategic issues for the wider social development sector at the moment. We have also provided background information on the Ministry of Social Development to assist you.

## Scope of your portfolio

You are the appropriation Minister for the Partnering for Youth Development Multi-Category Appropriation within Vote Social Development.

In the 2017/2018 financial year you will oversee total funding of \$10.592 million and deliver 70,000 youth development opportunities for young New Zealanders.

Currently the Youth portfolio takes a universal approach to youth development which complements the work of other portfolios such as Children, Social Development and Education. It focuses on the strengths of young people and aims to build individual capability and resilience through experiential opportunities. The portfolio's current approach focuses on providing those opportunities through leadership development, mentoring and volunteering; however, there is flexibility in how to approach the promotion of youth development and we look forward to discussing your priorities with you.

## Agency support for your portfolio

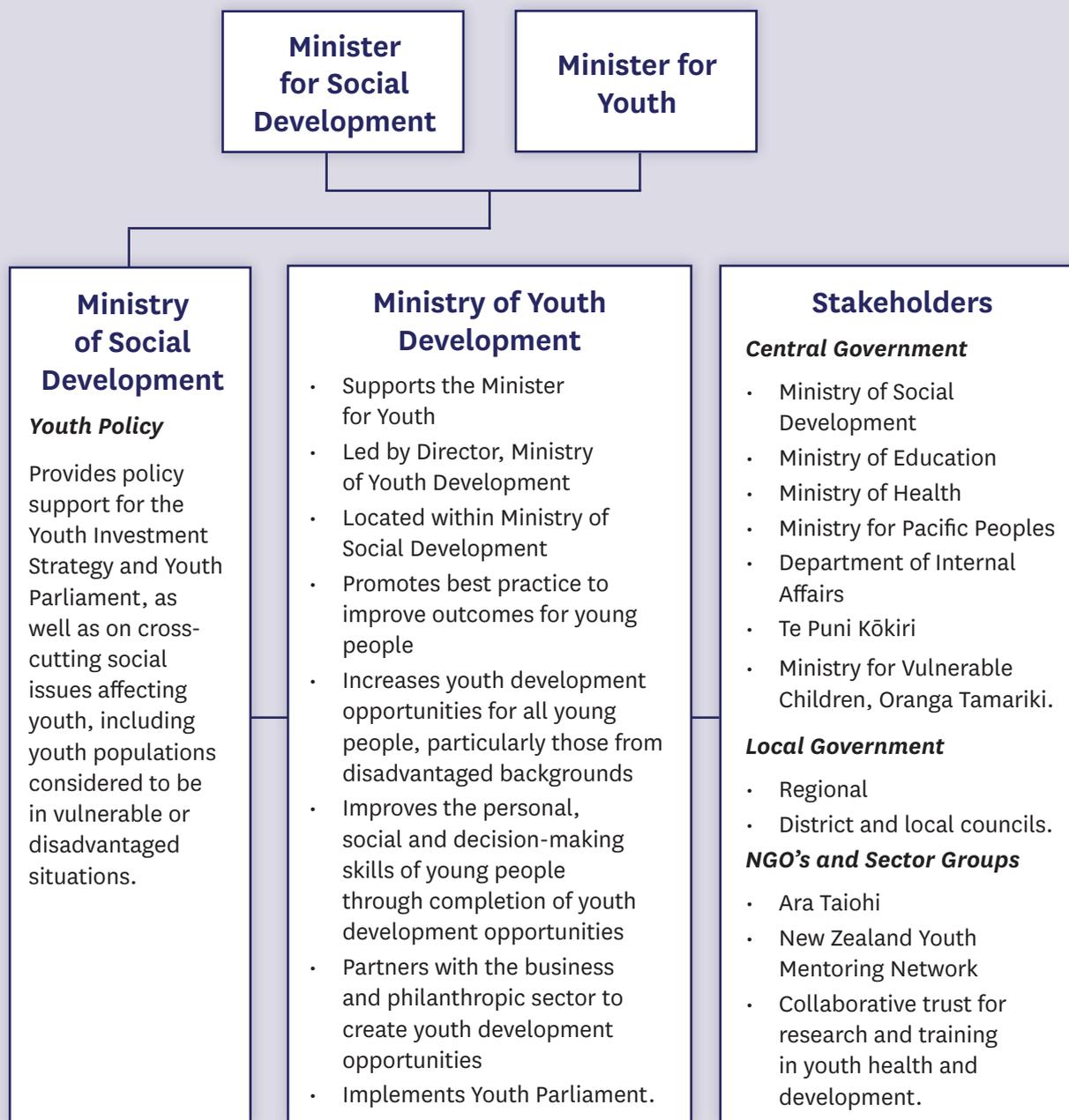
The Ministry of Youth Development (MYD), which sits within the broader Ministry of Social Development has responsibility for activities such as providing you with advice, administering the Partnering for Youth budget appropriation and actioning your decisions as the Minister for Youth. MYD is led by a Director, who is your key contact.

The Youth Investment Strategy guides the allocation of MYD funding. We look forward to discussing your priorities with you, and making adjustments (where possible) to the Strategy in line with these.

The Director of MYD is responsible for providing policy advice to you, and works with the policy team in the Ministry of Social Development to provide policy support for the Youth Investment Strategy and Youth Parliament, as well as on cross-cutting social issues affecting youth, including youth populations considered to be in vulnerable or disadvantaged situations. For example, MYD and the Ministry of Social Development’s policy team have a joint work programme focused on supporting youth who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex (LGBTI).

The Ministry of Social Development also provides youth-related advice to support the Social Development portfolio, which has a focus on employment and education outcomes for young people who are close to the benefit system and who may not be in education, employment or training.

**Figure 1: Youth portfolio relationships**



# Young people in New Zealand

## Current issues and trends

According to Statistics New Zealand, in 2016 there were an estimated 840,000 young people aged 12 to 24 years that were resident in New Zealand.

As of 2013, half of the Māori population were under 24 years of age, and half of all Pacific people in New Zealand were under 21 years of age. By comparison, the median age of the New Zealand European population is 41, and the Asian population is 31.

Most young people are doing well; however, social issues persist for some. For example:

- In 2015, 83 percent of 18-year-olds achieved NCEA Level 2 or equivalent. By ethnicity, this equates to 71 percent of Māori, 78 percent of Pacific youth, and 87 percent of New Zealand European achieving NCEA Level 2 or equivalent. Ministry of Education NCEA achievement rates remain lower for both Māori and Pacific youth compared with their European peers.
- New Zealand has the highest rate of youth suicide in the OECD, with 18 suicides per 100,000 young people aged 15 to 24 in 2013 (World Health Organization and Ministry of Health).
- In 2013 the youth (aged 15 to 24) suicide rate for Māori was 3.1 times the rate for non-Māori (39.1 per 100,000 and 12.6 per 100,000 respectively) (Ministry of Health).
- In 2016 the unemployment rate for 15- to 24-year-olds (13.2 percent) was more than double the rate of the next highest age group – those aged 25 to 34 years (5.2 percent) (Statistics New Zealand).

The economic and social environment in New Zealand is changing rapidly and having an impact on young people. Factors such as globalisation and the advancement of technology are transforming the way we live and work. Young people will increasingly need additional skills (eg digital, entrepreneurial and enterprise skills) to support future New Zealand. Tomorrow's earners will increasingly collaborate with people on the other side of the world.

Recent research reveals that traditional, linear career trajectories are rapidly changing and it is more likely that today's youth will experience multiple careers in their lifetime, from being self-employed to working for other people to holding multiple occupations. To activate and make full and effective use of their skills, they will need resilience, wellbeing and enterprise skills including problem solving, critical thinking and communication; crucial factors for personal success<sup>1</sup>.

## Youth development supports successful transitions to adulthood through building resilience and capability

Currently the key objective of the Youth Development portfolio is that young people use the skills and confidence gained through youth development opportunities to participate in and contribute to the social and economic growth of New Zealand.

Research by the World Health Organization shows that increasing protective factors, such as positive community engagement, can have a significant influence on the health and wellbeing of young people<sup>2</sup>.

Other research indicates that young people who are surrounded by a variety of opportunities for engagement encounter less risk and show higher rates of successful transitions into adulthood<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> The Foundation for Young Australians (2017). *The New Work Smarts. Thriving in the new work order.*

<sup>2</sup> World Health Organization (2002). *The World Health Report 2002: Reducing risks, promoting healthy life.*

<sup>3</sup> Alberts, Chase, Naudeau, Phelps, & Lerner, 2006; Bandy & Moore, 2009; Eccles & Gootman, 2002; Blum, 2010; Roth & Brooks-Gunn, 2000; Pittman, Irby, & Ferber, 2001; Pittman, 1999; Lerner and Benson, 2011.

## The current direction for promoting youth development is the Youth Investment Strategy

To guide MYD's investment and articulate priority work areas, the Youth Investment Strategy was developed. Released in November 2016, the Strategy focuses on:

- maximising resources through partnering with corporate, iwi, philanthropic and other government organisations
- targeting investment to where it will have the most impact
- being clear about the outcomes MYD wants to achieve
- improving data collection and analysis so that MYD funding is based on knowledge of what works for which young people.

The goals of the Youth Investment Strategy are to:

1. increase the number of youth development opportunities overall, including those that provide leadership, volunteering and mentoring experiences
2. pursue partnerships with corporate, iwi, philanthropic and other government organisations to invest jointly in shared outcomes
3. increase the proportion of funding targeted to youth from disadvantaged backgrounds
4. encourage recognition of young people's community and voluntary participation and contributions.

These accountabilities are set out in the annual Estimates document as performance measures to be reported to Parliament for the fiscal year.

### Increasing the number of youth development opportunities

At present, MYD provides around 60,000 youth development opportunities for young New Zealanders. MYD has a target to increase the number of opportunities to 70,000 by 2018, with a longer-term aspirational goal of 100,000 by 2021/2022.

This includes a focus on youth development opportunities that support:

- leadership – young people participating in and leading initiatives and decision-making processes
- volunteering – young people contributing time, service and skills in their community
- mentoring – young people being supported to develop skills and achieve goals through relationships with adults and peers.

### Partnering with business and philanthropic organisations

MYD is responsible for ensuring at least 10 percent of annual youth development opportunities (7,000 in 2018) are in partnership with other funders.

Many businesses, philanthropic organisations, iwi and cultural groups are already investing in opportunities to help young people acquire the skills and confidence they need to contribute positively to society.

We maximise resources by partnering with these organisations to create a wider variety of opportunities for more young people. A key step in doing this is through the continued support for, and development of, the Partnership Fund and its Board.

## Using the Partnership Fund to grow youth development opportunities

In its inaugural year (2016/2017) the Partnership Fund received \$1.2 million to co-invest with corporate, iwi, philanthropic and other government organisations in youth development opportunities.

The Partnership Fund is overseen by the Partnership Fund Board, which has been appointed by the Minister for Youth. This is made up of nine members from the business, philanthropic, iwi, youth, and youth development sector. The members were appointed for an 18-month term. The Board elected its own chairperson.

The Board's role is to draw on its members' expertise and networks to generate new ideas and forge new partnerships to grow youth development opportunities. In its first year, the Board considered investments of \$1.2 million, which resulted in an additional \$3 million in partner investments and in-kind support, creating more than 7,000 youth development opportunities.

The Board's membership expires in March 2018. As Minister for Youth, you would appoint/re-appoint Board members via the Cabinet Appointment and Honours Committee in early 2018. We will brief you on this process in late 2017.

In the 2017/2018 financial year the Partnership Fund has increased to \$1.78 million. This includes targeted funds for Local Government (\$280,000) and Youth Enterprise (\$500,000) to co-invest with partners to create more than 11,000 youth development opportunities.

## Increasing the proportion of funding targeted to youth from disadvantaged backgrounds

MYD is responsible for ensuring the proportion of annual funding targeted to youth from disadvantaged backgrounds is at least 30 percent. In 2016/2017 we exceeded the target and invested 43 percent of total funding for youth development opportunities targeted at young people from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Young people from disadvantaged backgrounds can include those who lack:

- financial resources (eg had to forego educational, sporting or cultural opportunities due to family circumstances)
- a sense of belonging (eg experience adversity or social exclusion as a result of their cultural or ethnic background, their migration status, a disability, or their gender/sexual orientation)
- sufficient social or environmental resources (eg come from an isolated rural or economically deprived community or location, and as a result have limited access to, or a lack of, development opportunities).

## Developing a social record to recognise youth participation

A key initiative arising from the Youth Investment Strategy is delivering a social record to recognise young people's participation in youth development opportunities. The social record, similar to an academic record, will help young people demonstrate a wide range of skills and experiences that can reflect their community connectedness and support future learning or employment choices, alongside their educational achievements.

In 2017, \$175,000 will be invested to support an online mechanism to ensure that a social record is available to young people. MYD's project partner, Youth Hub, will deliver a mobile-friendly version of the social record and increase the engagement of young people to 15,000 individuals by 2018.

## **Delivering Youth Parliament**

On your behalf, MYD is responsible for delivering the triennial Youth Parliament programme. The next is due to be held in 2019.

Youth Parliament aims to actively involve young people in the parliamentary process and provide an opportunity for their views to be heard. It brings 121 Youth MPs, along with a Youth Press Gallery, together in the parliamentary precinct for a two-day event to simulate the parliamentary process. Prior to the event, Youth MPs take part in a six-month tenure to help them actively engage with other young people and their communities.

A cross-agency working group (comprising the Electoral Commission, the Ministries of Education, Social Development and Youth Development, and the Offices of the Clerk and the Speaker) has been identifying initiatives to improve the implementation of the current Youth Parliament model and widen youth engagement. We will provide you with a report on this initiative in late 2017, and discuss your preferences on how to implement Youth Parliament 2019.

## **Supporting LGBTI young people**

Compared with their peers, LGBTI youth have higher rates of bullying, self-harm, mental health problems, and difficulties accessing health care. MYD has had a focused work programme to support the development of LGBTI youth, and has ring-fenced \$80,000 annually for three years (ending 30 June 2020) to invest in LGBTI-specific initiatives. By the end of 2017 we will provide you with advice on our LGBTI work programme. We look forward to discussing this with you and how it aligns with your priorities.

## **Government agencies are developing a Youth Health and Wellbeing survey**

Having good data on how youth are doing in New Zealand helps us determine where to prioritise our efforts. MYD is one of several ministries participating in a cross-government process, led by the Ministry of Social Development and Statistics New Zealand, to develop a Youth Health and Wellbeing survey. The survey will build on the data collected from the Youth2000 survey, last conducted in 2012. The goal is a survey that meets government data needs, including ownership of the data, and has sustainable funding. We look forward to discussing this with you further.

## Key contacts

Name	Title	Direct dial	Mobile
Ruth Bound	Deputy Chief Executive	S9(2)(a) Privacy of Natural Person	
Linn Araboglos	Director, Ministry of Youth Development	S9(2)(a) Privacy of Natural Person	
Marama Edwards	Group General Manager, Community Partnerships and Programmes	S9(2)(a) Privacy of Natural Person	
S9(2)(a)	Manager Youth Development	S9(2)(a) Privacy of Natural Person	
S9(2)(a)	Acting Manager Partnerships	S9(2)(a) Privacy of Natural Person	
James Poskitt	General Manager, Community and Family Policy	S9(2)(a) Privacy of Natural Person	
S9(2)(a)	Manager, Youth and Disabilities	S9(2)(a) Privacy of Natural Person	

## Decisions that require your early attention

Below is a list of the key actions and decisions that we would like to discuss with you in your first 100 days as Minister for Youth, in addition to your key priorities.

### Key decisions

Description	When	Action required
<b>Partnership Fund and Partnership Fund Board (total \$1.78m for 2017/2018)</b> – a fund and Board to support co-investment in youth development	December 2017 – Partnership Fund Board meeting.	To meet the Board and discuss your expectations as Minister for Youth.  (Board appointments expire in March 2018 and the appointment or reappointment process will commence in the New Year.)
<b>2017/2018 Youth Enterprise Initiatives funding and contracting</b> – \$6 million over four years to fund Youth Enterprise Initiatives	November 2017 onwards – advice on funding recommendations.	To announce funding decisions.
<b>2018/2019 Funding and contracting decisions</b>	December 2017 – advice on contract and grant funding for youth development opportunities.	To discuss your priorities.

### Upcoming engagements/events

There are a number of upcoming engagements and events that you may wish to attend and we will provide advice to you on attendance at these.

### Working with you

We look forward to working with you and discussing the most effective ways we can support you and your priorities as Minister.

We are keen to discuss with you how frequently and in what form you wish to meet with us, and the frequency and type of information that you would like us to report to you on. We expect that you will wish to be kept informed of progress on initiatives and work programmes, as well as financial and performance data.

We will provide you with additional information on key work programme items for the Youth portfolio as required.

## Appendix 1: Funding for 2017/2018

Below are the details of the 2017/2018 funding for youth development. We have indicated where the funding has already been fully committed along with the areas where we would like to discuss with you options to reprioritise funding to meet your priorities going forward.

The 2017/2018 funding for youth development opportunities includes:

- **funding to organisations around the country (\$4.7m)** – to provide youth development opportunities; this funding has recently been reviewed and where required services amended for alignment with the current direction for MYD. A proportion of multi-year funding agreements are in place to 2020, however there is discretion to reprioritise some funds from 1 July 2018 to reflect your priorities.
- **funding for the Partnership Fund (\$1.0m)** – to co-invest with a range of business, philanthropic, iwi and other government partners to increase the number of quality youth development opportunities available. You have the discretion to increase the level of funding available in the Partnership Fund and we look forward to engaging with you on direction and priorities for the fund.
- **Partnership Fund Local Government (\$280,000) and the Youth Fund (\$200,000)** – contestable funding available for initiatives designed to support young people aged 12-24, to build their capability and resilience, including developing skills, knowledge and experience to participate confidently in their communities. This funding has been fully committed for 2017/2018.
- **Youth Enterprise Initiatives (\$1.5m)** – to help young people develop entrepreneurial knowledge, skills and competencies through a range of youth-focused business and enterprise initiatives. We look forward to discussing with you a strategy for Enterprise Initiatives and options to reprioritise available funding from 1 January 2018.
- **Youth in Emergency Preparedness Fund (\$100,000)** – to provide programmes that offer opportunities for developing skills, making a positive contribution to communities, engaging in volunteering and potentially expanding the involvement of young people in civil defence and emergency services, which could lead to a career path with emergency services, such as Fire, Ambulance, Coastguard and Search and Rescue. This funding has been fully committed for 2017/2018.
- **Prime Minister's Youth Programme (\$120,000)** – to provide a week-long programme for 100 young people 14 to 17 years old (from South and West Auckland) who have overcome adversity and made a substantial attempt to make positive life changes. Planning and implementation for the programme in January 2018 is well underway.
- **Small Communities Grant (\$50,000)** – to support young people from New Zealand's island communities to deliver youth-led initiatives and activities. We look forward to discussing options to reprioritise available funding from 1 January 2018 onwards to meet your priorities.
- **LGBTI Targeting (\$80,000)** – to support the wellbeing of LGBTI youth, including building capability and resilience through leadership, volunteering and mentoring opportunities. We look forward to discussing options to reprioritise available funding from 1 January 2018 onwards to meet your priorities.
- **International Leadership Award (\$50,000)** – to help outstanding young New Zealanders to access an international opportunity to further develop their leadership skills. Four International Leadership Awards have been granted in 2017/2018, and there is the opportunity to discuss the allocation of the remaining available funding.

In addition to the above, the Ministry maintains limited funding, approximately \$120,000, to support in-year priorities, unexpected cost pressures and new initiatives. We look forward to discussing with you options to support your immediate priorities.

## **Appendix 2: Performance measures for the Partnering for Youth Development appropriation**

The Minister for Youth reports on a series of performance measures to Parliament for the fiscal year, including the:

- number of purchased youth development opportunities
- percentage of total funding for youth development opportunities targeted at young people from disadvantaged backgrounds
- percentage of participants who report an improvement in their personal, social and decision-making skills through completion of a youth development opportunity
- percentage of total youth development opportunities created in partnership with the business and philanthropic sector
- percentage of participants who report they have improved their capability and resilience through completion of a youth development opportunity.



