



4 June 2026

Tēnā koe

Official Information Act request

Thank you for your email of 30 March 2026, requesting information about the Ministry of Youth Development's (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi Expanding Youth Enterprise and Education (Youth Enterprise Funds) Funding Stream (including all current sub-funds and immediately preceding arrangements) and Youth Development Partnership and Innovation Fund (YDPIF) (including related partnership or innovation funding arrangements).

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on each part of your request set out separately below. Some sections are grouped together for clarity.

1. *Age eligibility and policy basis - Please provide documents that:*
 - a. *define or describe age eligibility criteria*
 - b. *confirm the standard age range applied*

To address both questions, please see the following appendices:

- **Appendix 1** provides information about the YDPIF Expression of Interest process. This includes age eligibility criteria for initiatives funded through the YDPIF.
- **Appendix 2** provides the Expanding Youth Enterprise and Education Youth Enterprise Funds Request for Proposal (RFP). This includes age eligibility criteria for initiatives funded through the Youth Enterprise Funds.
 - c. *describe any exceptions or operational flexibility allowing participation above age 24*
 - d. *explain any differences between MSD's stated youth age range and the age ranges applied by funded providers.*

In 1988, Government recognised that young people had little influence in decision-making processes, despite being profoundly affected by social, economic and political conditions. As a result, the Ministry of Youth Affairs (the Ministry, now MYD) was established to:

- ensure the special needs of young people did not become secondary to other policy priorities

- support young people to influence their political environment and voice their concerns
- improve analysis of the social and economic impact of policies on young people.

The Ministry was focused on the needs of those aged 12-24 years. This age range was selected because it was how the World Health Organisation defined young people/youth at the time. The rationale for the age range was about increasing the focus across government on those transitioning from dependence to independence and the issues those within this age group are navigating.

As this is the established purpose of the agency, which has not been changed, there is no flexibility outside of this remit.

2. Funding recipients - Please provide any existing lists or data extracts showing funded organisations/providers, including organisation type and funding amounts where available

All finalised funding outcomes can be found on MYD's website under each fund's page, here: www.myd.govt.nz/funding/current-funding.

3. Outcomes, business sustainability, and employment - Please provide any documents, reports, evaluations, or data held that relate to

- a. sustainability of funded organisations or youth-led businesses*
- b. business survival over time (including any tracking at 1 year, 3 years, or 5 years if held)*
- c. closure, failure, sale, or transfer of funded businesses or ventures*

The YDPIF does not currently fund any youth-led businesses.

MYD does not undertake sustainability assessments of organisations that it funds, beyond contract due diligence.

The MYD Partnership Fund, which was replaced by the YDPIF from Financial Year 2025/26, did fund a Youth Enterprise programme pilot (He Kākano) until 30 June 2025 which was focused on developing young entrepreneurs and investing small amounts of seed funding into their businesses. The He Kākano Impact Report can be found on the King's Trust website: www.kingstrust.org.nz/he-kakano/.

Youth Enterprise Funds are for the purpose of youth development through building enterprise skills in young people, not primarily as an avenue of business creation nor employment. For this reason, MYD does not track the sustainability of youth-led businesses nor business survival over time, but rather enterprise-related skill outcomes exhibited by young people that participate in programmes.

d. employment outcomes, including any information held on jobs created in New Zealand.

YDPIF initiatives have only begun in recent months. As such, MYD has not yet had any reports submitted on employment outcomes, so there is no data available.

Youth Enterprise Funds are for the purpose of youth development through building enterprise skills in young people, not primarily as an avenue of business creation nor employment. For this reason, MYD does not track employment outcomes for funded programmes. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section

18(e) of the Act as this document does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

4. *Data held and limitations - If MSD does not hold information that enables assessment of 5-year business survival, long-term sustainability of funded ventures, or jobs created in New Zealand, please provide:*

a. confirmation of this

We can confirm that MYD does not hold this information for YDPIF nor Youth Enterprise Funds, aside from the He Kākano Partnership, shared in response to question 3a. Therefore, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as this document does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

b. what outcome measures are collected instead

For YDPIF, refer to section 3.3 in **Appendix 1**.

For Youth Enterprise Funds, refer to section 2.2 in **Appendix 2**.

c. any documents discussing limitations in tracking long-term outcomes.

Please refer to the following appendices.

- **Appendix 3** Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) process document March 2026. This discusses capability limitations, and what is data access, governance and consent limitations.
- **Appendix 4** REP-25-05-338 Updates on Options for Enhancing data and Evidence.

Some information in Appendix 4 is withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials. The release of this information is likely to prejudice the ability of government to consider advice, and the wider public interest of effective government would not be served.

Under section 16(1)(e) of the Act, I provide as **Appendix Five** (attached), an extract of advice that is in scope of this request from a report to the Minister for Youth - the rest of the report is out of scope. The extract also provides context about the IDI process.

One further report is withheld in full under section 9(2)(g)(i) of the Act to protect the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions. I believe the greater public interest is in the ability of individuals to express opinions in the course of their duty.

5. *Financial, legal, and capability support - Please provide documents describing:*
a. financial literacy, business capability, or enterprise support provided

In 2021, MYD, in collaboration with The Prince's (now King's) Trust Aotearoa New Zealand and Aotearoa New Zealand's youth enterprise ecosystem, developed a Youth Enterprise Outcomes Framework - *Te Kete Aronui: Understanding what 'good' looks like in youth enterprise*. This report highlighted gaps in the enterprise knowledge of the sector. A suite of resources was created to support providers and young people <https://www.teketearonui.co.nz/resources/>.

This continues to inform youth enterprise programmes and is referenced in the Youth Enterprise Funds RFP, in **Appendix 2**.

- b. *legal or compliance-related support (e.g. contracts, tax, business structures)*
- c. *whether such support is required under funding agreements*

As discussed in my response to Question 3, MYD does not currently directly fund any youth-led businesses. Accordingly, MYD does not hold contracts with individuals, and this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as this document does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

To address the remainder of this request, please see **Appendices 1** and **2**.

- d. *any evaluations or commentary on adequacy of this support.*

There are no evaluations nor commentary on the adequacy of this support, therefore this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act as this document does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

6. *Target groups and sectors - Please provide documents describing:*

- a. *target populations or priority groups*
- b. *eligibility and exclusion criteria*
- c. *any prioritised or excluded sectors or industries.*

For this information, please see **Appendices 1** and **2**.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

pp. 

Anna Graham
General Manager
Ministerial and Executive Services

Appendix Five: Extract of advice discussing limitations in tracking long-term outcomes.

"MYD has previously explored opportunities to utilise cross-government data to track longer-term outcomes of participants.

"The Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) is a large research database managed by Stats NZ that holds de-identified microdata about people and households. Data within the IDI enables researchers to conduct cross-sector research to investigate complex questions about the relationships between different interventions and outcomes.

There are eight broad categories of data sources in the IDI: health, education and training, benefits and social services, justice, people and communities', population, income and work, and housing data. Almost all the data currently within the IDI is held by large government agencies with robust, centralised data collection systems who contribute their data to Stats NZ for integration. There are currently only three non-governmental organisations and one academic institution who have contributed data to the IDI.

To have data integrated in the IDI (and therefore the ability to conduct analysis about integrated data), agencies or organisations with an established dataset must send Stats NZ an expression of interest (EOI) after which Stats NZ assesses the system-wide needs for the data, quality, logistics of adding data, data ethics and privacy, and resource availability. If an EOI application is progressed, proposed new datasets must go through a Stats NZ's Data Ethics and Privacy Assessment (DEPA). If a proposed new dataset is successful at the DEPA stage, there is still a subsequent five-step process before data is linked and made available for research.

MYD previously scoped whether access and contribution to the IDI would be a feasible mechanism to enable more robust testing of efficacy of MYD-funded programmes, including long-term outcomes tracking. Previous scoping made it clear it was not feasible to use IDI as MYD does not have the requisite resources that would be necessary to contribute to the IDI (e.g., an established dataset housed in a robust centralised data management system, data privacy protection mechanisms, or dedicated staffing or funding to create or manage a centralised database).

MYD has engaged in initial conversations with the Social Investment Agency (SIA) to understand the Impact Measurement Standards (IMS) it is currently developing along with other advice it has on strengthening MYD's data and evidence approaches. The draft IMS consists of three levels of evidence standards for new social investment programmes. MYD currently meets the standard for Level 1 (which is similar to many other agencies and funded interventions). Standards for Level 2 and 3 are more aspirational with much higher thresholds for compliance including long-term outcomes tracking and research methods, including testing impacts against a control group. MYD currently does not have the resource to achieve Level 3 but is working towards improvements to align with Level 2 standards. MYD officials will keep you updated on conversations with SIA."



**Ministry of
Youth Development**
Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi

Call for Expression of Interest (EOI)

by: Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi
for: Youth Development Partnership and Innovation Fund
ref: 25.06.01

Updated EOI Released: 08 April 2026

Deadline for Questions: Open – Frequently Asked Questions document will be updated and republished as required.

Deadline for Submitting EOI: 31 December 2026

Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi

www.myd.govt.nz

56 The Terrace
Wellington 6011

Acronyms and Glossary

The following acronyms and abbreviations are used in this document.

Acronym / Abbreviation	Definition
MSD	Ministry of Social Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora
MYD	Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi
EOI	Expression of Interest
Respondent	A Respondent is a potential funding partner, such as a: 1./ business, philanthropic funder, iwi, agency, or other funders interested in co-investing in early intervention and prevention youth development initiatives; and/or 2./ community-based youth development sector provider organisation with available reserves/uncommitted revenue it is interested in utilising to co-fund an early intervention and prevention youth development initiative who submits a completed EOI in accordance with the process set out in this call for EOI.
RFA	Request for Application
YDPIF	Youth Development Partnership and Innovation Fund
GETS	Government Electronic Tenders Service
Point of Contact	The person named in Section 2.3. All communications regarding this EOI must be directed to this person.
Deadline for EOI submission	As mentioned in Section 2.2, the EOI is an open process until available funding is fully committed to support relevant initiatives in partnership with funding partners.
Response Form	From April 2026, the EOI Response can only be submitted using the YDPIF EOI Application form downloadable from GETS. Respondents must complete and submit this YDPIF EOI Application form to be considered as a potential funding partner. A completed YDPIF EOI Application can only be submitted by email to: YDPIF@myd.govt.nz.

1. Overview

This Expression of Interest (EOI) is issued by the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi.

This EOI is the first step in a multi-step procurement process. Following the review of a submitted EOI, the Respondent may be invited to participate in the Request for Application (RFA) phase.

1.1. About MYD

MYD is a business unit administered by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora. MYD currently spends around \$12.0 million per year on a wide range of youth development and youth enterprise programmes, and on supporting initiatives across the youth sector. MYD works collaboratively with young people, other funders (including corporates and philanthropic organisations), providers, iwi, local government, and other government agencies.

1.2. What We Need

MYD intends to co-invest in early intervention and prevention youth development opportunities that promote the use of a positive youth development approach to support outcomes for young people aged 12 to 24 years with low to moderate needs¹ across Aotearoa New Zealand so that they will be better able to succeed in, contribute to, and enjoy life. This opportunity is supported through the Youth Development Partnership and Innovation Fund (YDPIF). Co-investment could be in the form of:

- **Matched funding** – defined as matched financial investment sourced from a business, philanthropic funder, iwi, agency, or other funder interested in co-investing in early intervention and prevention youth development initiatives
- **Contributory funding** – defined as matched funding made up of at least 70% dollar-for-dollar investment from a community-based youth development sector provider organisation with available reserves and/or

¹ Young people who have been identified as having low to moderate needs will satisfy one or more of the following: low household and community financial resources; family or individual dependence on Work and Income; history of school absenteeism or experience of alternative education; mental health needs such as controlled anxiety or depression; lack of social connectedness with peers, family, community, and colleagues.

uncommitted revenue interested in co-investing in early intervention and prevention youth development initiatives, and up to 30% in-kind investment².

1.3. What's Important to Us?

MYD intends to invest in high value youth development programmes that have confirmed matched funding or contributory funding. Funded programmes will be required to have strong alignment with and contribute to supporting the following key Government targets and priorities:

- **Fewer (young) people on the Jobseeker Support Benefit** (Government Target 5³)
- **Increased student attendance** (Government Target 6).
- **supporting young parents, aged 12-24 years, with children in their first 2,000 days** (aligned with the Child and Youth Strategy priorities⁴)

The YDPIF aligns with Mana Taiohi⁵ principles and acknowledges the role young people and their wider communities can play as a vehicle for positive youth development. MYD focuses its investment on strength-based youth development approaches which enable young people to develop transferable skills and behaviours that will have positive impacts across many aspects of their lives.

1.4. Why Should You submit an EOI?

The YDPIF is an opportunity for government, funders, communities, and providers to work in partnership to deliver effective youth development programmes based on youth development principles and best practice. We are looking for partners committed to making a long-term positive difference in the lives of young people.

Funding partners are organisations able to contribute funding between \$100,000.00 - \$500,000.00 per year, to be matched by MYD for Youth Development initiatives.

MYD is not seeking applications to the YDPIF from service providers, unless they are able to act as a funder/provider by contributing the requisite amount of funding themselves to be matched by MYD for their initiative.

² Note in-kind contribution that is self-provided is not considered new investment and therefore cannot be counted toward the total minimum co-investment requirement for the YDPIF.

³ [Government Targets | Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet \(DPMC\)](#)

⁴ [The Child and Youth Strategy 2024-27 - Ministry of Social Development](#)

⁵ [Mana Taiohi - Ara Taiohi](#)

2. Key Information

2.1. Context

- a) This invitation is an opportunity to submit an EOI as a first step in a multi-step procurement process. MYD will review submitted EOIs to confirm:
- alignment with eligibility, purpose, and intent of the YDPIF
 - the level and duration of partner funding contribution
 - if there is an interested provider who can deliver the programme, to take into account government priorities at the regional level.
- b) Potential providers may be invited to submit an application for joint funding from MYD and a potential funding partner.

2.2. Our Timeline

Here is our timeline for this EOI (all are Aotearoa New Zealand times and dates):

EOI process opens:	on 12 August 2025
Deadline for Questions from Respondents:	Open – Frequently Asked Questions document will be updated as required
Deadline for submission of EOI:	31 December 2026
Notification:	MYD aims to acknowledge Respondents within 15 working days of receipt of their EOI
Invitation to develop a YDPIF application:	Within five working days of being notified
Submission of YDPIF application:	Invited respondents will submit an application for assessment

2.3. How to Contact Us

- a) All enquiries / external communications must be directed through our Point of Contact:

Name: Isobel

Title: Procurement Specialist, MSD

Email Address: YDPIF@myd.govt.nz

2.4. Developing and Submitting Your EOI

- a) This is an open, non-competitive EOI process. Take time to read and understand the EOI. In particular understand our Requirements which are in Section 3 of this document.
- b) For resources on Procurement: [For suppliers | New Zealand Government Procurement](#).
- c) If you have any questions, contact our Point of Contact (see 2.3 above).
- d) Complete the declaration at the end of the EOI Response Form.
- e) Check you have provided all the necessary information in the correct format and order.
- f) Submit your EOI by email to: YDPIF@myd.govt.nz.

2.5. Later Changes to the EOI or EOI Process

- a) If, after publishing the EOI, we need to change anything about the EOI or EOI process, or want to provide suppliers with additional information, we will let all suppliers know via the Government Electronic Tenders Service (GETS).
- b) If you registered to download the EOI from GETS, you will automatically receive notifications of any changes through GETS.

3. Our Requirements

3.1. Background and Context

The Partnership Fund was initially established in 2016 to support the delivery of increased youth development opportunities targeting young people (aged 12 to 24 years).

From 01 July 2025, the previous Partnership Fund was subsumed into the newly established Youth Development Partnership and Innovation Fund (YDPIF), which has a total available budget of \$3.000 million per financial year.

The YDPIF sits within the Partnering for Youth Development Multi-Category Appropriation (MCA), which sits within Vote Social Development and is administered by MYD.

MYD aims to invest in early intervention and prevention youth development programmes that are high value and outcome-driven, and that prevent young people progressing towards remedial and highly intensive services.

Through the YDPIF, MYD will partner with either other funders co-investing matched dollar-for-dollar funding or with community organisations providing matched contributory funding, which can be a mixture of at least 70% financial funding, and up to 30% in-kind⁶ contributions.

Funded youth development initiatives will be required to demonstrate a strength-based relational approach to supporting young people. Programmes will have to be of a minimum ten-week engagement, to a maximum of 12 months engagement.

The matched or contributory funding being sought ranges from \$100,000.00 to \$500,000.00 per year per initiative.

3.2. Funding Priorities

Funded programmes will be required to have strong alignment with and contribute to supporting the following key Government targets and priorities:

- **Fewer (young) people on the Jobseeker Support Benefit** (Government Target 5)
- **Increased student attendance** (Government Target 6)
- **Supporting young parents, aged 12-24 years, with children in their first 2,000 days** (aligned with the Child and Youth Strategy priorities).

3.3. Short-term Outcomes (3-12 months)

By providing the Service(s), the provider will contribute to young people:

- achieving an education, training, or employment outcome

⁶ For the purposes of the YDPIF, we have defined in-kind to mean any contribution your organisation sources (i.e., it is not self-provided) that can be valued. For instance, volunteer hours can be valued at an hourly rate and quantified based on the number of volunteers that are contributing to the initiative. This can include time spent planning, promoting, travelling, setting up, cleaning up, engaging with stakeholders, or other time-based activities provided to your initiative. Other in-kind contributions may include facilities such as the use of a venue, or utilities like vehicles and running costs, or management and supervision of personnel or other specialist services that directly apply to the initiative your organisation is requesting funding for. MYD will apply a value for money lens to ensure in-kind contributions are calculated at a fair and reasonable rate.

- with children, aged up to five years old, achieving skills and knowledge towards applying positive parenting practices

and

- strengthening their connections to people (e.g., peers, teachers, positive role models, whānau, hapū, iwi) and support services or community groups (e.g., health, mental health and wellbeing, financial, youth, other community services, clubs, sports teams, or volunteering).

The provider will aim for a minimum of 85% of participants reporting they have achieved two outcomes relating to growth and skills development, and/or connections and relationships through participation in the funded youth development programme.

An education outcome includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) enrolment or re-enrolment in intermediate, secondary, or tertiary education
- (b) increased attendance
- (c) improved academic achievement.

A training outcome includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) enrolment or re-enrolment in a training course or programme
- (b) increased attendance
- (c) improved achievement.

An employment outcome includes:

- (a) actively seeking employment
- (b) gained employment.

Positive parenting practices outcome includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) responsive caregiving
- (b) actively supporting cognitive and socio-emotional development
- (c) enrolling and accessing child-centred health care.

Strengthened connections includes, but is not limited to:

- a) making new friends
- b) building better relationships with their family or community
- c) understanding their culture and/or identity better
- d) feeling that their voice is heard

- e) developing skills and strengthened protective factors
- f) engaging in whai wāhitanga (active youth participation) through participating in the design, development, delivery, and evaluation of the Service(s).

3.4. Funding Value

MYD will match partner funding in the range from \$100,000.00 to \$500,000.00 per year per initiative.

4. Identification of Funders

It is intended that through the EOI process, MYD will identify potential funding partners, including their specialities, or certain areas that the identified funder wishes to focus their investment.

It is intended that the EOI process will remain open on GETS for an extended period of time, with responses to be received via a dedicated YDPIF EOI Application form.

4.1. EOI Detail

Youth Development Partnership and Innovation Fund	
1.	Organisation Overview
1.1	Provide an overview of your organisation, including: a. mission statement and core values b. source of revenue/funds that are made available to invest in youth development initiatives c. annual budget (funding amount) being made available for distribution to youth development initiatives in partnership with MYD d. number of years you are committing budget (funding amount) to youth development initiatives in partnership with MYD e. the financial value and source of any proposed in-kind contribution.

4.2. Next Steps

MYD will review the Respondent's submitted EOI to confirm:

- alignment with the aim of the YDPIF

- the level and duration of a potential funding partner's contribution
- if the EOI is from a funder(s) only, or a provider/funder.

Respondents will be advised if they are invited to co-fund programmes with MYD.

5. Development of a YDPIF funding application

If a Respondent is invited to participate in the next step, MYD will provide the RFA form for completion and submission.

Submission of a completed RFA does not guarantee funding.

All submitted RFA are evaluated by an MYD panel against the YDPIF criteria.

6. EOI Terms

This EOI is not a "Notice of Procurement" as per Government Procurement Rules. Please refer to attached Terms and Conditions.

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT



**MINISTRY OF
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO TAIOHI

Administered by the Ministry of Social Development

Request for Proposal (RFP)

by: Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi

for: Expanding Youth Enterprise and Education Funding Stream

ref: [procurement reference number]

RFP released: 18 October 2024

Deadline for Questions: 12 noon on 06 November 2024

Deadline for Proposals: 5.00pm on 14 November 2024

Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi

www.myd.govt.nz

56 The Terrace

Wellington 6011

The opportunity

This RFP is issued by Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi, administered by the Ministry of Social Development.

What we need

MYD wishes to purchase Service(s) that will contribute to the Youth Enterprise (YE) eco-system supporting young people aged 12-24 years, at various points along their entrepreneurial journey.

The three funds covered by this Request for Proposal (RFP) are as follows:

- The **Introduction to Enterprise Fund (IEF)** (targeting 12–18-year-olds) will support skill-building (including financial literacy, digital/computing skills, and problem-solving and communication skills) to enhance young people's access to, and success in, future business or employment opportunities. MYD intends to provide contributory funding which allows for multiple funders to invest in the delivery of national and local programmes. Funded programmes will have a minimum delivery period of at least ten hours of programme engagement.
- The **Building Entrepreneurial Capital Fund (BECF)** (targeting 15–24-year-olds) will provide young people with enterprise experiences and knowledge needed to create a business. Young people will have the opportunity to develop their business ideas; they will create a 'business model canvas', a one-page business model template designed to help articulate, test, and refine business ideas (or an approved alternative business plan) and budget, by the end of the programme. Young people will be supported by mentoring or youth worker relationships as they explore how they choose to engage in their community and the economy. MYD intends to provide up to full funding for opportunities that invest in long term, relational-focused programme delivery of local/regional programmes. Funded programmes will have a minimum delivery period of at least ten weeks.
- The **Developing Youth-Led Businesses Fund (DYBF)** (targeting 17–24-year-olds) will offer seed funding and mentoring for young people who have businesses ready to take to the next level. This funding is for young people who have completed an enterprise programme, are ready to apply their learnings to the real-world to create economic opportunities for themselves and their communities. MYD intends to provide partial funding, in addition to business and private investments, to support young entrepreneurs, including those who would not otherwise have access to the wider Youth enterprise (YE) ecosystem. Funded programmes will run for a minimum of ten months.

The MYD aim is to focus investment in early intervention and prevention programmes that are high-value and outcome-driven, and that prevent young people identified as having low to moderate needs progressing towards remedial and highly intensive services.

What's important to us?

This funding aims to provide youth enterprise opportunities that will incorporate strength-based youth development practice (informed by Mana Taiohi¹ and Te Kete Aronui²) to support young people to succeed in life and enable them to contribute positively to Aotearoa New Zealand's economy and communities.

By funding the Service(s), MYD intends to help young people prepare for future employment, which aligns with MYD's aim to support economic participation and work-readiness through youth enterprise opportunities.

Through funding the Service(s), MYD will contribute to the YE eco-system supporting young people, at various points along their entrepreneurial journey.

It's important to MYD that it selects providers with expertise in youth enterprise to operate prevention/early intervention Service(s) that are accessible to young people from its priority cohorts and incorporate youth voice and participation.

Why should you bid?

This is an opportunity for youth enterprise, iwi, and community-based organisations to deliver effective youth enterprise programmes based on youth development principles and best practice. We are looking for providers with youth enterprise and youth development expertise to make a positive difference in the lives of young people.

A bit about us

MYD is a business unit administered by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora.

MYD encourages the use of a positive youth development approach to support all young people, aged between 12 and 24 years old, to increase their overall wellbeing so that they are better able to succeed in, contribute to, and enjoy life. It also supports the broader youth sector and promotes a better understanding of how to support and empower young people.

MYD currently spends around \$17 million a year on a wide range of youth development and youth enterprise programmes and on supporting initiatives across the youth sector.

MYD is a small agency that achieves big results by partnering and working with and through others. We work collaboratively with young people, other funders (including corporates and philanthropic organisations), providers, iwi, local government, and other government agencies.

¹ [Mana Taiohi - Ara Taiohi](#)

² [Te Kete Aronui | Youth entrepreneurship outcomes framework](#)

SECTION 1: Key Information

1.1 Context

- a. This Request for Proposals (RFP) is an invitation to submit a Proposal for the Expanding Youth Enterprise and Education funding stream contract opportunity.
- b. This RFP is a single-step procurement process.

1.2 Our timeline

Here is our timeline for this RFP (all are New Zealand times and dates):

Activity	Date
Online Respondent briefing sessions	11.30am on Friday 25 October 2024 and 5.30pm on Wednesday 30 October 2024
Deadline for Respondent questions	12 noon on Wednesday 06 November 2024
Deadline for MSD/MYD to answer questions	Friday 08 November 2024
Deadline for Proposals	5.00pm on Thursday 14 November 2024
Notify Respondents of outcome	By Friday 28 February 2024
Due diligence and contract negotiation	By Friday Wednesday 28 March 2024
Debrief unsuccessful Respondents	By 30 July 2025
Contract Start Date	Tuesday 01 July 2025

1.3 How to contact us

- a. Contact us through our Point of Contact via email or the Government Electronic Tenders System (GETS).
- b. Our Point of Contact:

Name: Monique Wood

Title/role: Procurement Specialist

Email address: socialprocurement@msd.govt.nz

- c. To register for our Respondent briefing session, contact our Point of Contact via email.

1.4 Developing and submitting your Proposal

- a. This is an open, competitive tender process.
- b. Take time to read and understand the RFP.
- c. Take time to understand our Requirements. These are in SECTION 2 of this document.
- d. Take time to understand how your Proposal will be evaluated. See SECTION 3 of this document.

- e. For resources on tendering visit <https://www.procurement.govt.nz/suppliers-2/>
- f. If you have questions, ask our Point of Contact before the Deadline for Questions (see Section 1.2 above).
- g. Use the Response Form via SmartyGrants <https://myd.smartygrants.com.au/YEF26> to submit your Proposal.
- h. Complete **and** sign the declaration at the end of the Response Form.
- i. To submit a Response Form in SmartyGrants, Respondents must first register. Registration gives you secure access to your Response Form on SmartyGrants and allows you to work on it over time rather than having to complete it all at once. Remember to save your work regularly. A SmartyGrants Guide is attached as Appendix D to aid all Respondents.
- j. Check you have provided all the necessary information in the correct format and order.
- k. Submit your Proposal before the Deadline for Proposals.

1.5 Address for submitting your Proposal

Submit your Proposal to the following address: <https://myd.smartygrants.com.au/YEF26>.

Check you have provided all information requested before you submit your Response Form in SmartyGrants.

1.6 Our RFP Terms

a. Offer Validity Period

By submitting a Proposal, the Respondent agrees that their offer will remain open for four calendar months from the Deadline for Proposals.

b. RFP Terms

By submitting a proposal, the Respondent agrees to the RFP-Terms described in SECTION 6 .

1.7 Later changes to the RFP or RFP process

- a. After publishing the RFP, if we need to change anything or provide additional information, we will let all Respondents know by placing a notice on GETS.
- b. If you downloaded the RFP from GETS you will automatically receive notifications of any changes through GETS.

1.8 Defined terms

These are shown using capitals. You can find all definitions at the back of the RFP-Terms.

SECTION 2: Our Requirements

2.1 Background

MYD's Expanding Youth Enterprise and Education funding stream was established in 2014 to support young people (aged 12 to 24 years) to be better prepared for the future work environment through funding strength-based enterprise education and skills development opportunities and investing in young people's business potential.

The Expanding Youth Enterprise and Education funding stream totals \$1.5 million per financial year and sits within the Partnering for Youth Development Multi-Category Appropriation (MCA), which is administered by MYD and sits within Vote Social Development. The overarching purpose of the Partnering for Youth Development MCA is to improve outcomes for young people across Aotearoa New Zealand through youth development.

The aim is to focus investment in early intervention and prevention programmes that are high-value and outcome-driven, and that prevent young people progressing towards remedial and highly intensive services.

2.2 Key outcomes

By providing the Service(s), the provider will contribute to young people achieving outcomes of positive connections and relationships, and growth and skills development.

The provider will aim a minimum of 85% of participants reporting they have achieved outcomes through participation in MYD-funded Youth Enterprise Service(s).

To achieve outcomes of positive connections and relationships, young people will report the Service(s) has helped them to:

- a) make new friends
- b) build better relationships with their family or community
- c) understand their culture and/or identity better
- d) and feel that their voice is heard.

For growth and skills development, young people will report the Service(s) has helped them to:

- a) develop or strengthen skills
- b) feel more confident about themselves and what they can achieve
- c) cope when things go wrong or not to plan
- d) look forward to opportunities in the future.

Youth enterprise-specific outcomes sought are:

- a) development of enterprise skills³, including increased digital and financial literacy
- b) improved preparedness for engaging in work/business environments
- c) increased communication, problem-solving, and interpersonal skills

³ Including work-ready skills

- d) increased teamwork and community connection.

Additional Fund-specific outcomes

BECF programmes will support each participant to:

- develop and test an enterprise idea
- develop a “business model canvas” (or approved alternative business plan) and budget for their business idea
- apply for seed funding and ongoing mentoring (N.B. this applies to eligible and interested young people only).

DYBF programmes will:

- support enterprise learning and business development through investing seed funding into young people’s businesses
- develop a network of business and private donors to match MYD’s investment and provide business support services
- match participants with trained and experienced business mentors.

Target Group of the Service(s)

Those eligible for the Service(s) are young people aged 12 to 24 years.

The three youth enterprise funds have the following specific age groups:

Expanding Youth Enterprise and Education Funding Stream	Age group
Introduction to Enterprise Fund	12-18 years
Building Entrepreneurial Capital Fund	15-24 years
Developing Youth-Led Businesses Fund	17-24 years

The young people will have been identified as having low to moderate needs⁴.

Broader Outcomes

Specific Broader Outcomes that will be addressed as part of this procurement are:

- Increasing access for Aotearoa New Zealand organisations.

⁴ Young people who have been identified as having low to moderate needs will satisfy one or more of the following: history of school absenteeism, or experience of alternative education; low household and community financial resources; family or individual dependence on Work and Income; mental health needs such as controlled anxiety or depression; low sense of identity/belonging; lack of social connectedness with peers, whānau, community.

Undertaking an open procurement process presents an opportunity for previously uncontracted organisations to apply for an opportunity to deliver the Service(s). Respondents need to understand the Aotearoa New Zealand environment and be a registered entity in Aotearoa New Zealand.

2.3 What we require from a Respondent

The Expanding Youth Enterprise and Education funding stream will support young people to build skills they need to engage with business, employment, and to build economic independence for themselves and their communities.

The Service(s) will prepare young people for future employment, aligning with MYD's aim to support economic participation and work-readiness through youth enterprise opportunities.

The Service(s) will support effective youth participation of young people in the design, development, delivery, and evaluation of youth enterprise opportunities that support young people to develop enterprise skills (including work-ready skills) and experiences. Youth enterprise opportunities will incorporate strength-based youth development practice (Mana Taiohi and Te Kete Aronui) to support young people to succeed in life and enable them to contribute positively to Aotearoa New Zealand's economy and communities.

YE programmes connect to positive youth development and therefore should be guided by youth development principles. Mana Taiohi is a principle-based framework that acknowledges the mana of young people and how it can be enhanced through eight interconnected holistic principles. The principles support young people to have a voice and step into leadership roles through a strength-based approach. The Youth Enterprise Funds align with the Mana Taiohi principles, as well as Te Kete Aronui, an outcomes framework which outlines integral elements of quality YE opportunities.

In Scope

In-Scope Item	Description
Location	Proposals will be welcome from any region within Aotearoa New Zealand.
Selection process	The open market is invited to respond to this RFP. RFP responses will be scored by an evaluation panel. Moderation and funding allocation will identify recommended Respondents. Recommended Respondents will undergo due diligence and contract negotiation. High scoring RFP responses will be funded first. Funding decisions for medium scoring proposals will consider reach (i.e., communities or geographic areas without access to funded programmes). For the Building Enterprise Capital Fund ONLY, RFP responses will be separated into MYD's four geographic regions with the highest scoring responses within each region receiving first consideration for funding.
Age	Young people aged 12-18 years (IEF), 15-24 years (BECF), and 17-24 years (DYBF).
Programme intensity/level of need	Services with a prevention/early intervention and low to moderate needs scope.

Engagement Periods	Minimum length of engagement: • Ten hours (IEF) • Ten weeks (BECF) • Ten months (DYBF).
Respondents	Youth enterprise, iwi, and community-based organisations that incorporate youth voice, Mana Taiohi, and Te Kete Aronui principles into their programmes. Organisations that hold a current minimum Social Sector Accreditation (SSA) Level 4 or achieve a minimum SSA Level 4 within six months of outcome agreement commencement.
Types of programmes	IEF programmes and/or services: • will utilise a positive youth development approach that enables youth voice and leadership • engage with schools or other community settings to introduce young people to enterprise and entrepreneurship • will develop young people's enterprise skills including digital and financial literacy • will develop life skills and strengthen protective factors for young people • will support young people to explore pathways they may use to engage with the economy. BECF programmes and/or services: • will utilise a positive youth development approach that enables youth voice and leadership • will strengthen youth identity, sense of belonging and social connectedness with their peers, whānau, and communities • will incorporate an adaptive or innovative approach to developing and delivering programmes and/or services • will deliver multiple connection opportunities over the duration of the programmes and/or services • will develop life skills and strengthen protective factors for young people • will support young people interested in enterprise to develop a "business model canvas" (or approved alternative business plan) and budget for their business idea

	• will offer enterprise activities to build enterprise skills so that young people establish a pathway to participate in the economy. DYBF programmes and/or services: • will utilise a positive youth development approach that enables youth voice and leadership • will strengthen youth identity, sense of belonging and social connectedness with their peers, whānau, and communities • will incorporate an adaptive or innovative approach to developing and delivering programmes and/or services • will deliver multiple connection opportunities over the duration of the programmes and/or services • will work with business and private donors to raise seed funding that can support young people's business • will enable increased access to seed funding for young entrepreneurs and their businesses • will provide mentoring, shared support services, and entrepreneurial skill development to support young people who are ready to take their business to the next level • will support young people with a business idea or a profitable business to grow their business through relationships within the business community.
Funding	Requests for cost per person up to \$125.00 (IEF), \$500.00 (BECF), and \$6,000.00 (DYBF).

What We Don't Want

Out of Scope

Out of-Scope Item	Description
Location	Programmes operating outside of Aotearoa New Zealand.
Age	Under 12 years and over 24 years.
Programme intensity/level of need	High intensity services that extend beyond the prevention/early intervention and low to moderate needs scope.
Engagement Periods	Less than ten hours (IEF), ten weeks (BECF) or ten months (DYBF) length of engagement.
Costs	Overseas travel, formal training and qualifications, purchase of land or major capital items, such as vehicles and computer hardware.
Requestor	Individuals or businesses in a start-up phase.
Funding	Requests for cost per person exceeding \$125.00 (IEF), \$500.00 (BECF), and \$6,000.00 (DYBF). There is maximum annual contract value of \$120,000.00 for the BECF so a proposal for this fund that seeks funding higher than this amount is out of scope.
Type of participation	Participant numbers generated through social media engagements e.g. likes, shares, comments, and followers.
One-off activities	One-off gatherings, conferences, one off training events, or standalone award ceremonies (these may be funded as part of a wider youth enterprise programme or service, but not in isolation).
Additional for BECF and DYBF	
Curriculum	Curriculum-based programmes and/or services within a classroom setting.

2.4 Contract structure

- a. Contract will be structured via twice yearly payments.

2.5 Contract term

We expect that the Contract will commence July 2025. The anticipated Contract term and options to extend are:

Introduction to Enterprise Fund

Proposed Start Date	01 July 2025
Initial Term	2 years
Optional Renewals	2 + 1 years
Maximum Term	5 years

Building Entrepreneurial Capital Fund

Proposed Start Date	01 July 2025
Initial Term	2 years
Optional Renewals	2 + 1 years
Maximum Term	5 years

Developing Youth-Led Businesses Fund

Proposed Start Date	01 July 2025
Initial Term	1 year
Optional Renewals	1 year
Maximum Term	2 years

2.6 Other tender documents

These documents have been uploaded on GETS and are available to Respondents – they form part of this RFP. These include:

- a. Appendix A – Frequently Asked Questions
- b. Appendix B – Service Description
- c. Appendix C – SmartyGrants Guide
- d. Appendix D – Draft Outcome Agreement

You can find the online Response Form here <https://myd.smartygrants.com.au/YEF26>

SECTION 3: Our Evaluation Approach

This section sets out the Evaluation Approach that will be used to assess Proposals. Our evaluation approach is designed to ensure MYD can achieve the best value-for-money over the whole-of-life. This means achieving the right combination of fit for purpose, quality, price, and delivery on time.

The evaluation model that will be used is weighted attribute (weighted score). Price will not be a weighted criterion. Instead, price will be considered in determining overall value for money over the whole of life of the contract. All responses will include a breakdown of costs. For the IEF and DYBF, responses will include a budget containing the full cost of the proposed Service(s) with information about non-MYD financial contributions.

A cross-functional team will be involved in the evaluation of submitted bids and recommendation of the preferred bids. In line with the evaluation methodology, each evaluator will be given a copy of the submitted bid to carry out an independent evaluation of each response against the approved evaluation criteria. A moderation session will be led by the Panel Chair. The purpose of this session will be to review the responses and discuss and agree final scoring for each submitted proposal, including any outlying scores. The evaluation team will consist of three evaluation panel members who will score each RFP response and serve as voting members. Panel members will be sought with expertise in youth development, youth enterprise, bi-culturalism, youth perspective, and in representing priority cohorts. Additional, non-voting members of the evaluation team will include moderators, note-takers, and experts in MYD performance measures and financial analysis.

For IEF and DYBF, financial allocation will be conducted with proposals with the highest scores receiving first consideration for funding. Selection of medium scoring proposals will include consideration to accommodate geographic spread and ensure access to opportunities.

For BECF, proposals will be grouped by MYD's four geographic regions with the highest scoring proposals in each region receiving first consideration for funding. The funding range established per region will facilitate the funding of full requests as appropriate and will allow some flexibility to consider selection of medium scoring proposals to accommodate geographic spread and ensure access to opportunities.

Anticipated funding of BECF proposals by region include:

Region	Percentage of investment	Amount of funding allocated to the Building Entrepreneurial Capital Fund (per annum)
Northern	31-41%	\$224,750.00 – \$297,250.00
MidCentral	20-30%	\$145,000.00 – \$217,500.00
Central	12-22%	\$87,000.00 – \$159,500.00
Southern	17-27%	\$123,250.00 – \$195,750.00
Total		\$0.725 million

MYD reserves the right to deviate from these funding ranges should there be an insufficient number of acceptable high and medium scoring proposals received for a region.

Following financial allocation, the preferred Respondents will then undergo due diligence and contract negotiation.

3.1 Pre-conditions

Pre-Conditions

Each response must meet all the general pre-conditions as well as the fund-specific pre-conditions for the fund(s) selected. Responses which fail to meet one or more pre-condition will be eliminated from further consideration and will not be evaluated by the evaluation panel

#	General Pre-Conditions
1.	The provider must be a current Aotearoa New Zealand legal entity (proposals from provider in a set-up business stage will not be considered).
2.	The person(s) completing the RFP response must have authority to do so on behalf of the organisation.
3.	The provider must be financially viable and able to provide a copy of their latest audited or accountant prepared (reviewed financial statements), or other financial statements in accordance with their legal entity status, on request.
4.	The provider must complete the following Compliance Statement: Confirm that the company, organisation, director, and or senior staff e.g., Chief Financial Officer, are not: a. in a state of bankruptcy, insolvency, administration, statutory management, liquidation, winding up, receivership, or similar insolvency process b. subject to legal proceedings or any Government or regulatory investigation or inquiry including by a professional body c. have not been convicted of a criminal offence related to business or professional conduct.
5.	The provider must confirm that it either: a. currently holds a minimum Level 4 Social Sector Accreditation Standard (or higher) and will maintain it throughout the Term of the Outcome Agreement, or b. will (subject to Te Kahui Kahu availability) achieve a minimum Level 4 Social Sector Accreditation within six months of the outcome agreement commencement date and maintain it throughout the Term of the Outcome Agreement. The provider must confirm that all staff and volunteers have been police checked as per the Children's Act 2014 requirements.
6.	The provider must confirm their organisation meets Health and Safety and Employment standards.

7.	The provider must confirm that the delivery of Service(s) is guided by the youth development principles in the Mana Taiohi Framework, Te Kete Aronui, and The Code of Ethics for Youth Work in Aotearoa New Zealand.
8.	The provider must confirm they can commence delivery from July 2025.
9.	The provider must confirm that the proposed programme or service will not require the level of intervention that necessitates delivery by a qualified social worker and that any costs related to Social Worker Pay Equity claims will be included in the proposed pricing of services.
#	Introduction to Enterprise Fund ONLY Pre-Conditions
1.	The provider must confirm it is currently delivering youth enterprise programmes to young people who fall within the 12-18 years age bracket.
2.	The provider must confirm it will deliver Service(s) that will enhance a youth development approach to youth enterprise over a minimum of ten hours.
3.	The provider must confirm its proposal will not exceed an average cost per person totalling more than \$125.00.
	Building Entrepreneurial Capital Fund ONLY Pre-Conditions
1.	The provider must confirm it is currently delivering locally-based youth enterprise services to young people who fall within the 15-24 years age bracket.
2.	The provider must confirm that a minimum of one youth worker will facilitate the proposed Service(s), who is qualified (or working towards) with a minimum of a relevant Level 4 certificate or has a minimum of five years' experience in youth work in Aotearoa New Zealand, including experience applying The Code of Ethics for Youth Work in Aotearoa New Zealand, the Mana Taiohi principles or a similar model of practice, or membership to Korowai Tupu – the Professional Association of Youth Workers in Aotearoa New Zealand.
3.	The provider must confirm it is able to deliver Youth Enterprise Service(s) that build consistent trusting relationships through multiple connection opportunities over a minimum of ten weeks.
4.	The provider must confirm that its proposal will not exceed a contract value of \$120,000.00 per financial year with an average cost per person totalling no more than \$500.00.
#	Developing Youth Led Business Fund ONLY Pre-Conditions
1.	The provider must confirm it is currently delivering youth enterprise services that match young entrepreneurs who fall within the 17-24 years age bracket with a financial investment to their enterprise.
2.	The provider must be able to provide confirmation of additional investment from business or private donors of more than \$300,000.00 per year for supporting youth-led business through seed funding, mentoring, and access to business support services in the Service(s) proposed.
3.	The provider must confirm that a minimum of one youth worker will facilitate the proposed Service(s), who is qualified with (or working towards) a minimum of a relevant Level 4 certificate or has a minimum of five years' experience in youth work in an Aotearoa New Zealand, including experience applying The Code of Ethics for Youth Work in Aotearoa New

	Zealand, the Mana Taiohi principles or a similar model of practice, or membership to Korowai Tupu – the Professional Association of Youth Workers in Aotearoa New Zealand.
4.	The provider must confirm it can provide access to a pool of mentors with significant experience growing enterprise or businesses who have capacity to support young entrepreneurs.
5.	The proposal must be for a youth enterprise programme delivered to young people who fall within the 17-24 years age bracket.
6.	The provider must confirm it is able to deliver youth enterprise Service(s) that support consistent trusting relationships through multiple connection opportunities over a minimum of ten months.
7.	The provider must confirm that its proposal will not exceed a contract value of \$300,000.00 per financial year with an MYD-funded average cost per person totalling no more than \$6,000.00.

3.2 Evaluation criteria

We will evaluate Proposals which meet all pre-conditions according to the following criteria and weightings.

	Introduction to Enterprise Fund	Weighting %
1.	Organisation Overview	15%
1.1	Provide an overview of your organisation, including: a. mission statement and core values b. services currently delivered c. physical location of services d. organisation size and structure e. operating hours f. number of young people accessing services g. annual operating budget.	
1.2	Tell us where you currently deliver Service(s) and how you ensure accessibility to your Service(s) to young people with low to moderate needs.	
1.3	Describe what data and/or evidence that you use to determine that the young people using the proposed Service(s) have low to moderate needs.	
1.4	Tell us how you have incorporated cultural competency within your organisation including examples of relevant trainings, practices, and relationships with tangata whenua, local iwi, and hapū.	
1.5	Describe how your organisation regularly connects with the youth development and youth enterprise sectors, including any recent or current partnerships, and/or collaborations with other community/youth providers.	
2.	Whai Wāhitanga (Youth Voice and Participation)	15%
2.1	Describe how your organisation identifies the needs, ideas, and opinions of young people, including:	

	a. how you consult with young people in the development of programmes and services b. how young people will contribute to the ongoing design, development, delivery, and evaluation of the proposed Service(s).	
2.2	Provide examples of how your organisation includes young people as active contributors to your governance structure and decision-making.	
3.	Proposed Service Description	50%
3.1	Describe the proposed Service(s), including: a. how your organisation identified the needs of young people to inform your Service(s) b. how the Service(s) will be tailored to meet the specific needs of the young people targeted by those Service(s) c. the anticipated skills, development, and outcomes young people will gain d. the environment and context in which engagements will take place e. the future youth enterprise opportunities available to young people following participating in the Service(s) f. anticipated number of participants per year g. any collaborating organisations working in partnership to provide the Service(s).	
3.2	Describe an example of the anticipated journey of a young person, including: a. a schedule of youth enterprise engagements b. the activities young people will participate in, and skills and outcomes they will achieve c. how the proposed Service(s) will enhance their mana, identity, sense of belonging, and social connectedness with their peers, whānau, and communities d. how the proposed Service(s) supports young people on future pathways to contribute to the economy.	
4.	Participants	10%
4.1	Tell us how your organisation will journey with young people and their whānau to ensure appropriate mitigations are in place to remove cultural, language, ability (physical/neurological), and/or geographic barriers to allow them to meaningfully engage with your proposed Service(s).	
4.2	How will your organisation ensure that young people of all genders and sexualities are able to meaningfully engage with your Service(s)?	
5.	Capacity and Capability	10%
5.1	Describe your organisation's approach to youth enterprise (including youth development) and any model(s) of practice and how you incorporate these models.	

5.2	Describe the youth development and youth enterprise skills, experience, and qualifications of your staff/youth worker(s) and leadership team, and available pathways for professional development within your organisation.	
Total Weightings		100%

	Building Entrepreneurial Capital Fund	Weighting %
1.	Organisation Overview	15%
1.1	Provide an overview of your organisation, including: a. mission statement and core values b. services currently delivered c. physical location of services d. organisation size and structure e. operating hours f. number of young people accessing services g. annual operating budget.	
1.2	Tell us where you currently deliver Service(s) and how you ensure accessibility to your Service(s) to young people with low to moderate needs.	
1.3	Describe what data and/or evidence that you use to determine that the young people using the proposed Service(s) have low to moderate needs.	
1.4	Tell us how you have incorporated cultural competency within your organisation including examples of relevant trainings, practices, and relationships with tangata whenua, local iwi, and hapū.	
1.5	Describe how your organisation regularly connects with the youth development and youth enterprise sectors, including any recent or current partnerships, and/or collaborations with other community/youth providers.	
2.	Whai Wāhitanga (Youth Voice and Participation)	15%
2.1	Describe how your organisation identifies the needs, ideas, and opinions of young people, including: a. how you consult with young people in the development of programmes and services b. how young people will contribute to the ongoing design, development, delivery, and evaluation of the proposed Service(s).	
2.2	Provide examples of how your organisation includes young people as active contributors to your governance structure and decision-making.	

3.	Proposed Service Description	50%
3.1	Describe the proposed Service(s), including: a. the multiple connection opportunities for young people throughout the proposed Service(s)	

	b. how your organisation identified the needs of young people to inform your Service(s) c. how the Service(s) will be tailored to meet the specific needs of the young people targeted by those Service(s) d. the environment and context in which engagements take place e. the anticipated skills, development, and outcomes young people will gain f. the future youth enterprise opportunities available to young people following participating in the Service(s) g. anticipated number of participants per year h. any collaborating organisations working in partnership to provide the Service(s).	
3.2	Describe an example of the anticipated journey of a young person, including: a. an example of the schedule of youth enterprise engagements b. how youth workers will build consistent, trusting relationships with young people c. the activities young people will participate in, and enterprise skills and outcomes they will achieve d. how the proposed Service(s) will enhance their mana, identity, sense of belonging, and social connectedness with their peers, whānau, and communities e. how the proposed Service(s) supports young people on future pathways to contribute to the economy.	
3.3	Describe the activities within the proposed Service(s) which will support young people to complete a business plan and budget and include examples of the business plan and budget templates that will be used.	
4.	Participants	10%
4.1	Tell us how your organisation will journey with young people and their whānau to ensure appropriate mitigations are in place to remove cultural, language, ability (physical/neurological), and/or geographic barriers to allow them to meaningfully engage with your proposed Service(s).	
4.2	How will your organisation ensure that young people of all genders and sexualities are able to meaningfully engage with your Service(s)?	

5.	Capacity and Capability	10%
5.1	Describe your organisations approach to youth enterprise (including youth development) and any model(s) of practice and how you incorporate these models.	
5.2	Describe the youth development and youth enterprise skills, experience, and qualifications of your staff, youth worker(s) and leadership team, and available pathways for professional development within your organisation.	
	Total Weightings	100%

	Developing Youth-Led Businesses Fund	Weighting %
1.	Organisation Overview	15%
1.1	Provide an overview of your organisation, including: a. mission statement and core values b. services currently delivered c. physical location of services d. organisation size and structure e. operating hours f. number of young people accessing services g. annual operating budget.	
1.2	Tell us where you currently deliver Service(s) and how you ensure accessibility to your Service(s) to young people with low to moderate needs.	
1.3	Describe what data and/or evidence that you use to determine that the young people using the proposed Service(s) have low to moderate needs.	
1.4	Tell us how you have incorporated cultural competency within your organisation including examples of relevant trainings, practices, and relationships with tangata whenua, local iwi and hapū.	
1.5	Describe how your organisation regularly connects with the youth enterprise and business sectors including any recent or current partnerships, and/or collaborations with other community/youth providers.	
2.	Whai Wāhitanga (Youth Voice and Participation)	15%
2.1	Describe how your organisation identifies the needs, ideas, and opinions of young people including: a. how you consult with young people in the development of programmes and services b. how young people will contribute to the ongoing design, development, delivery, and evaluation of the proposed Service(s).	
2.2	Provide examples of how your organisation includes young people as active contributors to your governance structure and decision-making.	
3.	Proposed Service Description	50%
3.1	Describe the proposed Service(s), including:	

	a. the mechanism you will use to provide seed funding that best meets the needs of young people and their businesses b. how mentors will be recruited, trained, supported, and matched with young people c. the multiple connection opportunities for young people throughout the proposed Service(s) d. the anticipated skills, development and outcomes young people will gain e. any collaborating organisations you are working with to provide business support services as part of the Service(s).	
3.2	Describe an example of the anticipated journey of a young person, including: a. how young people will apply and/or be approached for the opportunities in the proposed Service(s) b. how youth workers and staff will build consistent, trusting relationships with young people c. the activities young people will participate in, and enterprise skills and outcomes they will achieve d. how the proposed Service(s) will enhance their mana, identity, sense of belonging and social connectedness with their peers, whānau, and communities.	
4.	Participants	10%
4.1	Tell us how your organisation will journey with young people and their whānau to ensure appropriate mitigations are in place to remove cultural, language, ability (physical/neurological), and/or geographic barriers to allow them to meaningfully engage with your proposed service(s).	
4.2	How will your organisation ensure that young people of all genders and sexualities are able to meaningfully engage with your service(s)?	
4.3	Describe how you will support young people to overcome barriers to entering the business environment – to ensure they have the best chance of success.	
5.	Capacity and Capability	10%
5.1	Describe your organisations approach to youth enterprise (including youth development) and any model(s) of practice and how you incorporate these models.	
5.2	Describe the youth development and youth enterprise skills, experience, and qualifications of your staff, youth worker(s) and leadership team, and available pathways for professional development within your organisation.	
	Total Weightings	100%

Both Weighted and Non-Weighted sections may have an impact on the Evaluation Panel's final recommendations regarding a Preferred Respondent. Consequently, the recommended Respondent may not necessarily have obtained the highest weighted score.

3.3 Scoring

Rating	Definition	Score
EXCELLENT	Respondent demonstrates exceptional ability, understanding, experience and skills. The Proposal identifies factors that will offer potential added value, with supporting evidence.	9-10
GOOD	Respondent demonstrates above average ability, understanding, experience and skills. The Proposal identifies minor additional benefits, with supporting evidence.	7-8
ACCEPTABLE	Respondent demonstrates the ability to meet the criteria, with supporting evidence.	5-6
RESERVATIONS	Satisfies only a minimum of the criteria but not all. Reservations about the Respondent to adequately meet the criteria. Little supporting evidence.	3-4
SERIOUS RESERVATIONS	Extremely limited or no supporting evidence to meet the criteria. Minimum effort made to meet the criteria.	1-2
UNACCEPTABLE	Does not comply or meet the criteria at all. Insufficient information to demonstrate the criteria.	0

3.4 Due diligence

In addition to reference checks, MYD will reserve the right to carry out the following Due Diligence on Respondents:

Note: any Due Diligence undertaken will not be part of the Weighted Evaluation but may be used in the overall selection process.

a) Analysis of Ownership

- Check legal status of entity.
- Check ownership (owners, directors, and relationships to holding or parent corporations).
- Length of time in operation.
- Company locations.
- Number of employees.
- Confirmation there are no actual, potential, or perceived Conflicts of Interest (COI).

b) Analysis of Finances

- Respondents current and future financial viability (for the expected contract duration).
- Review of Respondents' annual reports for the last three years.
- Review of last independently audited accounts to check profitability and liquidity.
- Undertake credit check.
- Review insurance certificates.
- Confirm if any current or pending issues with Inland Revenue or any other relevant jurisdictions.

c) Security Checks

- Review of Respondents' security management systems (e.g. ISO27000)
- Check of any convictions against the Respondent of the Respondents' personnel that could compromise the contract.
- Check of any pending criminal cases that could compromise the contract.

d) Trading History

- Current and/or previous contract performance on any contracts held with the Ministry (if any).
- Review of any disputes with the Ministry.
- Any previous conduct that may be perceived to put the Ministry in disrepute.
- Any other relevant information.

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OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

SECTION 4: Pricing information

4.1 Pricing information provided by Respondents

Pricing is based on a conformance model.

Respondents that submit proposals with pricing that falls outside of the established overall cost or average cost per person will not be considered.

In submitting a proposal, the Respondents will be required to confirm they:

- have considered all risks, contingencies, and other circumstances relating to the delivery of the requirements and ensure that there is adequate provision to manage such risks and contingencies
- accept that the funding is in NZD and GST exclusive
- can operate the Service(s) sustainably across the whole of life of the contract within the funding proposed.

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SECTION 5: Our Proposed Contract

5.1 Proposed Contract

The Proposed Contract that we intend to use for this procurement is attached to this RFP (via GETS).

In submitting your Proposal, you must let us know if you wish to question or negotiate any of the terms or conditions in the Proposed Contract or wish to negotiate new terms or conditions.

The RFP Response Form via SmartyGrants contains a section for you to state your position. If you do not state your position, you will be deemed to have accepted the terms and conditions in the Proposed Contract in full.

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SECTION 6: RFP Terms

View the [RFP Terms](#) dated June 2021.

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Appendix 3: IDI process document

1) Develop an outcomes framework/intervention logic and evaluation plan

Translate your programme's objectives into measurable results that can be observed in the IDI. You may already have this for MYD programmes, but you would need to think of specific and measurable outcomes for specific programmes. Importantly, you would also need to assess the level of impact you expect to see from the fund. For example, is the fund offering a single, intensive programme, or a range of course offerings. If the latter, then the IDI may not be the best approach to measuring impact.

Map out your outcomes to IDI data domains [similar to the tracking trial]:

- Education (MoE: enrolments/completions)
- Income & work (Inland Revenue: PAYE earnings; linked via IDI spine)
- Benefits/social services (MSD: benefit receipt)
- Justice (Police/MOJ: charges, convictions)

You can find the kinds of information available using this search tool: [IDI Search | What's in the IDI?](#) it is useful to consult an IDI researcher about what data is available early on as well if you are unsure.

Evaluation framework – develop your specific measures [similar to the tracking trial]:

- Baselines, follow-up periods (e.g., 6/12/24/36 months post-start), noting that some data, such as information about school qualifications, is only updated annually in the IDI
- Priority groups (e.g., age, gender, ethnicity)
- Regional or other breakdowns

Statistical method – define what technique will be most appropriate:

- Matched comparison
- Difference-in-Differences
- Etc

This will require specialist expertise - there are only a small number of people in MSD Insights with this ability and their skills are in high demand. MSD Insights has sometimes contracted externally to support this type of work.

2) Design a Participant Data Capture & Consent Process

This is an important part of MYD's maturity assessment – some agencies already capture participant data and have an implicit consent process, which make this process straightforward, but isn't the situation for MYD at present.

MSD example:

- MSD grants benefits
- MSD sends client data to StatsNZ via a data sharing agreement
- StatsNZ links MSD data in the IDI
- Data is then anonymised and used for research purposes

This process is the same for other agencies and is enabled by the Data and Statistics Act 2022, which allows Stats NZ to gather information to produce official statistics and for research that supports the public good. Examples of agencies that have this type of arrangement may include IRD, Education, Corrections, Health. Individuals who interact with those services don't complete consent forms to share their data with StatsNZ when they, for example, enrol in school, visit a GP, receive a benefit. These agencies have data sharing arrangements already in place to share data and link to the IDI.

This isn't the case for many government services or data collections (GUINZ, YHWS), where the data collected and managed outside of those core administrative systems. Similarly for MSD, when new programmes are offered, such as Mana in Mahi, system changes need to be put in place for this data to be included in the information shared with StatsNZ (it doesn't happen automatically).

Because MYD programme participation is not currently in the IDI, you'll need a process to collect data, obtain consent, and enable linkage. As consent is required, and some may not consent, you will need to consider whether those who consent are sufficiently representative of all participants or whether bias might be introduced. For example, the GUINZ IDI project has so far got consent from around 25% of young people in the cohort. The GUINZ team will do some analysis this year to look at the strengths and limitations of this consenting subset compared to the full GUINZ cohort.

These are the main steps for the process of gaining consent to link:

a) Minimum data to capture for linkage & analysis – [this could be done by a provider]

- Legal name
- Date of birth
- Sex
- Address

- Contact details (email, phone—useful for consent and follow-up outside IDI but not used for IDI linkage)
- Identifiers where available, such as IRD or NCEA number

b) Programme variables that would also need to capture for analysis purposes

- As appropriate:
 - Programme ID, provider, site/location, cohort/date, eligibility criteria
 - Start/finish dates, attendance, completion status
 - Reasonable outcome proxies you can observe directly (e.g., self-reported employment at exit or other outcomes [via the tracking trial])

c) Consent to data use and data linkage

- Obtain and record informed consent for:
 1. Collection of personal information,
 2. Secure transfer of participant list to Stats NZ (or a Stats-approved pathway), and
 3. Linkage to administrative data for statistical research in the public interest, with results published only in aggregated, non-identifying form.
- There are plain-English examples you could use that describe the IDI and the consent process. YHWS and GUiNZ developed information for young people, including video content, to support the informed consent process. We don't need to re-invent this.
- If your programme serves Māori participants, you may need to demonstrate responsiveness to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Māori data interests (e.g., co-design, guidance from Māori advisors, appropriate reporting).

3) Getting Participant Data into the IDI Environment

You will need to determine whether the supplier will share data directly with StatsNZ, rather than going through MYD. This may be something to establish through the procurement process, especially if you want the provider to be collecting specific information about course participants.

If the supplier is sending directly, they will need to work directly with Stats NZ (with MYD alongside). For GUiNZ, the University of Auckland established a data linkage working group. The group included an MSD representative, by the data sharing relationship was between the StatsNZ and the University (no data was shared with MSD). StatsNZ helped the University with things like – data sharing agreement, privacy impact assessment, information

about the data (variables, formats, data dictionary), file transfer and linkage. With GUINZ, this process has taken approximately 18 months.

4) Apply for Access & Set Up the Project (Data Lab)

This section could be done with support from existing researchers at MSD or via a contracted researcher who would have already gone through these steps and have access to projects and data in the IDI. If someone was starting from scratch, e.g. if MYD had an analyst who wanted to work in the datalab, they would need to apply to use microdata and complete the researcher accreditation & training (we need to do this each time we set up a new IDI user in our teams at MSD). This is reasonably complex and the researcher needs to establish with StatsNZ the nature of their project, who are the researchers, what data they will need, and so on.

5) Prepare and Transfer Your Participant File

a) File structure

- **PII file** (for linkage only, never released): name fields, DOB, sex, country of birth, address history, any agency IDs (e.g., IRD/NHI) if collected with consent.
- **Study file** (no direct identifiers): programme metadata (cohort, provider, start/end), participation measures, internal IDs to re-join post-linkage.

b) Secure transfer

- Stats NZ will advise the approved secure transfer method and formats; they perform linkage to the IDI spine then provide researchers a de-identified linked table inside the Data Lab. New linkage projects are managed within the StatsNZ work programme and priorities (work to link the YHWS dataset has not yet been scheduled).

c) Documentation

- Supply data dictionary, linkage keys description, business rules, and cohort definitions to support reproducibility (also helps with output checking later). You will need to provide this information before a Data Sharing Agreement and Privacy Impact assessment take place, in the form of a data specification document

6) Analysis Inside the IDI (in a data lab)

- An assessment of the linkage rates would be done first. This involves checking how many people you provided information about can be linked into the IDI. The higher the linkage rate, the more robust the data, and more suitable for analysis.
- Construct comparison groups: matched individuals with similar pre-programme characteristics (earnings, benefit history, education, demographics, prior

justice/health events). Some of this thinking should be done at the early stage of the project to assess the feasibility of being able to construct a comparison group.

- Set up the method - Propensity score matching, Difference-in-Differences, etc
- Run the analysis and outputs
- Prepare the outputs according to Stats NZ's Microdata Output Guide rules.

7) Output Checking & Publication

All results leaving the Data Lab must pass Stats NZ's Microdata Output Guide rules—covering small cells, random rounding, etc. Outputs must be aggregated and confidentialised; Stats NZ manually checks for disclosure risk before release.

Information sources:

- Apply & use the IDI / Data Lab (process, criteria, costs): Stats NZ. [\[stats.govt.nz\]](https://stats.govt.nz)
- What's in the IDI & how linking works / de-identification: Stats NZ. [\[stats.govt.nz\]](https://stats.govt.nz)
- Your information in the IDI (examples of source data): Stats NZ. [\[stats.govt.nz\]](https://stats.govt.nz)
- Five Safes & Ngā Tikanga Paihere (safe people/projects/settings/data/output): Stats NZ. [\[stats.govt.nz\]](https://stats.govt.nz)
- Microdata Output Guide (clearance rules): Stats NZ. [\[stats.govt.nz\]](https://stats.govt.nz)



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT
TE MANATU WHAKAHIATO ORA



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

Report

Date: 04 June 2025

Security Level: IN CONFIDENCE

To: Hon James Meager, Minister for Youth

Reference: REP/25/05/338

Updates on Options for Enhancing Data and Evidence

Purpose of the report

- 1 This report updates you on the options to enhance data and evidence collected through programmes and services funded by the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) that were discussed during the Youth Officials' meeting on Tuesday 25 March 2025.
- 2 The report seeks your agreement for MYD and the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) to progress an approach to improve our ability to measure change in the outcomes of MYD programme participants.

Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

- 1 **note** that most MYD-funded programmes already meet Level 1 of the draft Social Investment Agency (SIA) impact measurement standards. The programmes are supported by a theory of change and are evidence based
- 2 **note** that MYD and MSD have explored a range of data and evidence improvements but there are trade-offs with the cost of enhanced methods relative to the size of MYD's programme funding
- 3 **note** that this paper proposes an approach to improve our ability to measure change in the outcomes of MYD programme participants through:
 - 3.1 Trialling an online survey with programme participants at intervals following programme completion
 - 3.2 Using the insights from this trial to explore the use of the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) to enhance the evidence base for MYD-funded programmes
- 4 **note** that this approach requires a significant shift from the status quo, design and development work from MYD and MSD, and time to allow for outcomes to be achieved
- 5 **agree** for MYD and MSD to commence work to design and trial an online survey to track medium-term outcomes

Agree/ Disagree

6

s9(2)(f)(iv)

Agree / Disagree



John Robertson
General Manager Youth, MYD

4 June 2025

Date



Paul Merwood
General Manager Evidence and Effectiveness, MSD

04 June 2025

Date



Hon James Meager
Minister for Youth

5/6/25
Date

Background

- 1 The current impact measurement for the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) investments focuses on short-term outcomes of young people who participate in MYD-funded programmes and services. Short-term outcomes include aspects such as young people improving their skills and resilience. These outcomes are self-reported through online participant feedback surveys.
- 2 This evidence on short-term outcomes provides information about the performance, value, and relevance of the MCA, but is limited in its ability to provide insights, including on medium-term outcomes that are relevant to Government priorities.
- 3 At the Youth Officials' meeting of Tuesday 25 March 2025, you agreed for MYD and MSD to progress options to improve data and evidence for MYD-funded programmes, including improved ways to track outcomes and leveraging MSD's capability to measure impact.
- 4 This report outlines our progress and proposed approach to improve data and evidence for MYD-funded programmes.

MYD-funded programmes already meet Level 1 of the draft SIA impact measurement standards

- 5 Most MYD-funded programmes already meet Level 1 of the draft SIA impact measurement standards (see Appendix A). The programmes are supported by a theory of change and are evidence based. Participant surveys are a routine part of MYD's monitoring programme. The surveys capture information at programme completion and report short-term outcomes.
- 6 The surveys also provide the data for the Partnering for Youth Development Multi-Category Appropriation (MCA) overarching performance measure – *the percentage of participants who report they have seen an improvement in their outcomes through participation in a MYD-funded programme or service will be no less than 85%.*

Enhanced evaluation methods could improve the evidence base for MYD but there are trade-offs with the cost relative to the size of MYD's programme funding

- 7 MSD has experience and capabilities in evaluating programmes and gaining insights about the effectiveness of the programmes and services that it funds. Frequently used methods include impact analysis using the IDI, outcomes-based evaluations, and international evidence synthesis.
- 8 MSD and MYD have explored these options and how they could be applied to MYD-funded programmes. While some of these enhanced methods could be feasible and would improve MYD's ability to meet higher levels of the SIA measurement standards, the cost of achieving this may be disproportionate to the funding allocated for MYD programmes and services.

We have explored two options to improve our ability to measure a change in the outcomes of MYD programme participants

Option 1: Trial an online survey with programme participants at intervals following programme completion

- 9 Our preferred approach is to develop an online survey that will capture data from young people who participate in MYD-funded programmes and services over the course of a year following completion. The aim is to understand the changes in outcomes and if positive outcomes are sustained over time.
- 10 MYD's higher intensity funds would be used to trial the survey. These funds invest in programmes and services for young people for ten weeks or more at a cost of between \$500 and \$6,000 per participant, making them the longest and highest cost engagements MYD funds.

- 11 MYD's three higher-intensity funds, commencing 01 July 2025, are the *Place-based Youth Development Fund*, the *Building Entrepreneurial Capital Fund*, and the *Developing Youth-led Business Fund*. Together, these funds make up 58 percent of the MCA's annual Non-Departmental Output Expenses, and will purchase approximately 12,200 youth development opportunities.
- 12 There are considerations with this approach. Online surveys are a useful first step to improve data collection. However, online surveys require time and effort to design and implement; there is an administrative burden on providers and participants; response rates are typically low; and we would need to work closely with providers to address any issues around sharing participant contact details with MYD and MSD to administer the survey.
- 13 Trialling an online survey is a useful way to test our ability to capture outcomes data, as well as test the willingness of participants and providers to engage in evaluation activities and inform any future work to progress IDI linkage. We propose to trial this with five providers and the new evaluation processes will be included in their Outcome Agreements commencing 01 July 2025.
- 14 We anticipate that this trial will initially run from July 2025 to December 2026. This timeframe is needed to design and set up the infrastructure to support an online survey in-house (MSD); allow time for young people to achieve the intended outcomes post-programme completion; and provide MYD and MSD time to analyse trial implementation. We may continue reporting for a further year so that we can include data on participants that joined at the later part of the trial period which will then allow time for them to complete their programmes and for their outcomes to be tracked over the 12-month post-programme period.
- 15 We estimate a total cost of \$33,375 to implement this trial. We anticipate this cost will be built into Outcome Agreements with selected providers, to cover the additional work involved in the development of new processes, managing the process for collecting personal data, and gaining consent from young people. This cost will need to be met within as yet unallocated funds for Financial Year 2025/2026 in the Vote Social Development - Partnering for Youth Development appropriation.

s9(2)(f)(iv)



s9(2)(f)(iv)

Risks and mitigation

- 23 We anticipate that both options to improve MYD's data and evidence may be met with some resistance from providers, particularly around the collection and sharing of young people's personal data to track their outcomes. The concerns that might arise from providers include:
- 23.1 Their capacity and capability to engage in this work
 - 23.2 The capability of their IT systems to store personal data securely
 - 23.3 The impact of personal data collection on young people's participation in their programmes
 - 23.4 Their trust in the government's data use
 - 23.5 Contractual arrangements that may require them to collect personal data.
- 24 MYD will test and validate these concerns during the trial phase for Option 1 and explore ways to mitigate them.

Next steps

- 25 With your agreement, we will commence work on Option 1, to design and trial an online survey with programme participants at intervals following programme completion to track medium-term outcomes.
- 26 s9(2)(f)(iv)
- 27 We will continue to provide you with progress updates through the Youth Status Report.

File Ref: A16911460

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Responsible managers: Keith Newton, Director, Strategy, Performance and Evaluation, MYD; Paul Merwood, General Manager Evidence and Effectiveness, Strategy and Insights, MSD

Appendix A: Social Investment Agency (SIA) draft standards for impact and value measurement

Impact Measurement Standards

A social investment approach involves measuring outcomes and impacts of social investment programmes. Agencies taking a social investment approach must use these standards to build the evidence of outcomes and impacts for their programmes and refer to these standards when reporting on outcomes and impacts.

Level 1: There is an evidence-based Theory of Change

- ☐ Has a clear description of how and why the programme inputs, activities and outputs will result in the expected short, intermediate, and long-term outcomes and impacts.
- ☐ Involves partners, communities and other stakeholders to identify the expected outcomes and impacts and how they will be measured, including using Kaupapa Māori approaches where appropriate.
- ☐ Clearly documents evidence, assumptions, and limitations.
- ☐ Considers how outcomes and impacts vary for different population groups
- ☐ Plans for measuring expected outcomes and impact at the earliest opportunity at the highest practicable level (Level 2 or 3).

Level 2: Evidence indicates changes in outcomes and /or impacts

- ☐ Changes in outcomes and impacts of those benefiting from the programme are measured and reported.
- ☐ Captures information at the level of granularity that enables outcomes to be measured, usually individual or whānau level unless there is a valid reason not to.
- ☐ Shows changes in outcomes and impact, but does not rule out other plausible explanations (e.g. measuring change before and after the programme started).
- ☐ Considers how outcomes and impact vary for different population groups.
- ☐ Considers caveats and limitations

Level 3: Evidence demonstrates programme has caused the outcomes and/or impacts

- ☐ Uses a method that allows robust conclusions about the effect of the programme on outcomes and impacts. This typically involves a comparison group of a similar population group who didn't receive the programme or intervention.
- ☐ May use (qualitative) methods that don't involve numeric data but do allow for robust tests of whether the intervention does or does not lead to outcomes
- ☐ Captures information at individual or whānau level.
- ☐ Analysis recognises potential sources of bias and does a convincing job of ruling it out.
- ☐ Considers how outcomes and impacts vary for different population groups.
- ☐ The methodology is documented in detail so it can be replicated.
- ☐ Caveats and limitations adequately considered.

Expected practice at all levels: Impact analysis is planned and conducted in partnership with communities and includes Kaupapa Māori ways of evidencing outcomes and impacts. Impact analysis should be paired with research to answer why programmes did or did not work.

- **Standard 1:** All social investment programmes are expected to meet Level 1 standards.

- **Standard 2:** All social investment programmes being implemented are expected to meet Level 2 standards.

- **Standard 3:** All social investment programmes are expected to consider the feasibility of meeting Level 3 standards and articulate what it would take to get there.

Evaluation should never be conducted in isolation from communities. Good impact evaluation usually involves quantitative approaches to measure causal associations between programmes and outcomes, and these are often grounded in western scientific methods. However, these are not the exclusive means by which outcomes and impacts can be measured.

The standards are agnostic about methods and have been designed to be inclusive of other approaches to impact measurement, particularly kaupapa Māori approaches to evidencing impact and evaluations.