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YOUTH CONNECT- HONONGA RANGATAHI 2022

Wanganui District Council
Youth Committee
Strategic Plan 2014 – 2024



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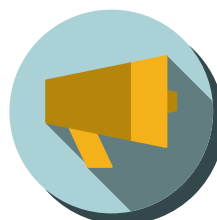
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1. Youth Committee Photo
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*updated per youth committee term.

INTRODUCTION

In 2011, the Youth Committee developed **Dub.Dee.See.** Youth Connect - Hononga Rangatahi 2022, a 10 year plan that supports youth outcomes, aligns with the Youth Development Strategy of Aotearoa and contributes to the Wanganui District Council (the Council) strategic goals and objectives, and fits with Council's planning processes.

In 2014, the Youth Committee began its term in with a series of workshops appropriately titled "**Speak Up**" (workshop one), "**Speak Out**" (workshop two) and "**Be Heard**" (workshop three); the purpose of the workshops was for the Youth Councillors, many of them appointed after the 2011 creation of the **Dub.Dee.See.** Youth Connect-Hononga Rangatahi 2022 plan, to share their aims and objectives as a Youth Councillor and have these reflected in the strategic plan.

Reviewing and updating strategic plans assists people's understanding and agreement of a shared vision; enables changes within the environment the strategy is being implemented to be taken into consideration; and ensures objectives and goals continue to be relevant.

CONTEXT

Making up over 15% of our community, it is vital that the needs and views of young people are considered in Council processes and plans.

The role of the Youth Committee is to:

- Represent the community's young people
- Develop a strategic direction for Whanganui youth
- Promote opportunities for youth participation
- Develop and monitor policy on youth issues
- Provide opportunities for Youth to contribute to the decision-making of Council
- Advise the Council on matters of interest for youth in the Whanganui District

ALIGNING TO THE BIG PICTURE

Whanganui: Leading Edge;



Deeply united

:working in partnership – shaping a district that celebrates and champions its cultural and social diversity as well as its community spirit



Globally connected

:a dynamic broadly connected district that is accessible, linked in and known for it



Powered by creative smarts

:a knowledge economy driven by innovation and humming with cultural personality



Flowing with richness

:a district that safeguards its natural resources and provides an environment with a sense of place, identity and vitality

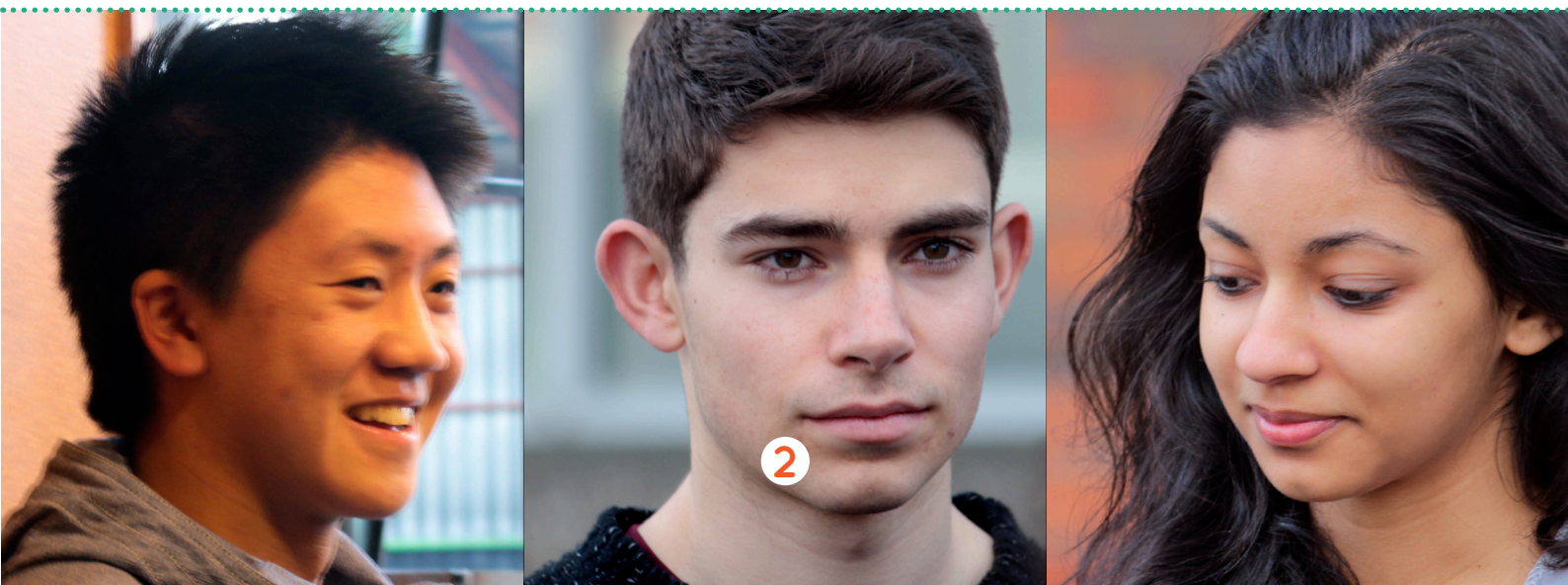


Works for everyone

:an easy living place of choice for all – flourishing with employment and development opportunities

Ministry of Youth Development; *Young people participating confidently in their communities (Goal, MYD Blueprint 2012-2015)*

For active youth citizenship, it is important that young people participate in decision making; that they are connected with, and contribute to their communities; that people working for young people and decision makers have good information; and that work with young people is strengths based, and involves quality relationships.



ALIGNING TO THE BIG PICTURE CONT.

Youth Committee guiding principles; *The Youth Committee* is guided by the six key principles of the Youth Development Strategy of Aotearoa

1. Youth development is shaped by the 'big picture'

By the 'big picture' we mean: the values and belief systems; the social, cultural, economic contexts and trends; the Treaty of Waitangi and international obligations such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

2. Youth development is about young people being connected

Healthy development depends on young people having positive connections with others in society. This includes their family and whānau, their community, their school, training institution or workplace and their peers.

3. Youth development is based on a consistent strengths-based approach

There are risk factors that can affect the healthy development of young people and there are also factors that are protective. 'Strengths-based' policies and programmes will build on young people's capacity to resist risk factors and enhance the protective factors in their lives.

4. Youth development happens through quality relationships

It is important that everyone is supported and equipped to have successful, quality relationships with young people.

5. Youth development is triggered when young people fully participate

Young people need to be given opportunities to have greater control over what happens to them, through seeking their advice, participation and engagement.

6. Youth development needs good information

Effective research, evaluation, information gathering and sharing is crucial.

REPRESENTING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

Youth Councillors are young civic leaders with the valuable role of advocating for all youth to gain the knowledge, skills and experience to participate confidently in their communities; when Youth Councillors' speak up, speak out and be heard, they are setting the scene for other young people to take the lead and be the best they can be.

The Youth Committee gathers information through individual peer networks, youth specific organisations and by a variety of consultation procedures

Whanganui Youth¹

In Whanganui, there are 6861 young people between the ages of 12 and 24 years, making up 16.2% of the population. Of that 16.2%, 77% identify as European, 21.7% as Maori, 2.6% as Pacific peoples and 2.7% as Asian. Whanganui has a higher proportion of Maori than the national average (14.9%) and a lower proportion of Pacific and Asian peoples.

Whanganui's young people are spread across the different suburbs of the Whanganui region. Of the 6861 young people living in Whanganui; the highest percentage of young people reside in Gonville (12.5%) and Whanganui East (9.5%), with Castlecliff and Aramoho each being home to 6.8% and the remainder spread fairly evenly over Maxwell, Springvale, Mosston, Tawhero, St John's Hill, College Estate, Whanganui Central, Durie/Bastia Hill and surrounding suburbs (Fordell, Kakatahi etc).



REPRESENTING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE CONT.

There are 41 schools in the Whanganui District. Of that 41, 19 (almost half) are decile 3 or below, while two (St John's Hill School and Whanganui Collegiate School) are decile 10.

In Whanganui, 51.7% of young people aged between 15 – 24 are employed, slightly lower than the national average of 55.4%, while 18.1% of young people are unemployed (above the 13.3% national average). Whanganui has 57.2% of young people aged 17.5 still in school, significantly below the national average of 60.8%. 14.5% of young people hold a Bachelor's degree or higher, below the national average of 26.7%. 20.3% of Whanganui's young people receive a benefit, well above the 8.1% national average.

The health of Whanganui's young people differs slightly from the health of young people in New Zealand in general in a few key areas. The average age for a New Zealand woman to give birth is between 30 and 34, while in Whanganui 25 – 29 is more common, followed closely by 20 – 24. Teenage mothers accounted for almost 14% of births in 2008, while the national average was just 8%.

Sources

www.youthstats.mxd.govt.nz

www.profile.idnz/wanganui

www.health.govt.nz

www.stats.govt.nz/Census/2013-census



REPRESENTING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE CONT.

Youth criminal activity in Whanganui mainly follows the national average, albeit with the higher proportion of under-17 criminal activity (accounting for 24% of apprehensions, opposed to 17% across the country). Of that 17%, 49% were apprehended for dishonesty offences, 19% for violent offences and 18% for property damage. Young adults age 17 – 20 accounted for 22% of apprehensions and 21 – 30-yr-olds made up 25%, trends reflected across New Zealand. In 2008, the Whanganui District recorded 157 family violence offences per 10,000 people, compared to 105 per 10,000 nationally, making Whanganui's incidence of family violence much higher than the national average.

The rate of young people smoking in the Wanganui-Manawatu region is higher than the national average, with 32.7% of 15 – 24 year olds smoking (national average 24%).

While suicide statistics were not available specifically for Whanganui, New Zealand has a higher rate of youth suicide than the global average, with 8.2 incidents per 100,000 for females and 27.6 incidents per 100,000 for males.

VISION & PURPOSE

DUB.DEE.SEE. *Youth Connect - Hononga Rangatahi 2022*

VISION

A vibrant, thriving, empowering community, where young people love to be

PURPOSE

To empower Whanganui young people to be the best they can be



FOCUS AREAS

The Youth Committee's vision and its purpose are spirited, bold and sincere. When asked what the Youth Committee saw as the practical components to focus on to achieve their vision, they identified five focus areas. The intent is to effect change and deliver significant outcomes across each focus area, so that the intrepid vision can be achieved.

Although the focus areas have been revised through the 2014 workshops, the overall elements have not changed; signalling that the same issues, needs and interests continue to be important to young people.



Focus areas 1: Developing Youth Capacity

Developing youth capacity is about young people having the skills and attitudes they need to take a positive part in society, now and in the future.

When young people are supported through strong leadership and positive opportunities, they are more likely to develop resistance towards 'risk factors' and enhance 'protective factors' in their lives; realising their potential and become self-sufficient, achieving citizens that lead well-balanced, happy lives and contribute to growing and maintaining a prosperous society.

Objective threads

- Education, training and employment
- Civic participation and leadership
- Attracting and retaining youth
- Celebrating youth



FOCUS AREAS CONT.



Focus areas 2: Health and Wellbeing

Health and Wellbeing is about young people having the information, access and confidence to make good choices so that they live and grow in a 'healthy state.'

The World Health Organisation (WHO) defines health as "a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." When youth are happy, safe and healthy, they can focus on higher ideas and operate in a fully functional manner to achieve their goals and aspirations.

Objective threads

- Health; physical, sexual, emotional and mental
- Personal safety
- Confidence, motivation, responsibility and achievement
- Being active - in sport, recreation and leisure



FOCUS AREAS CONT.

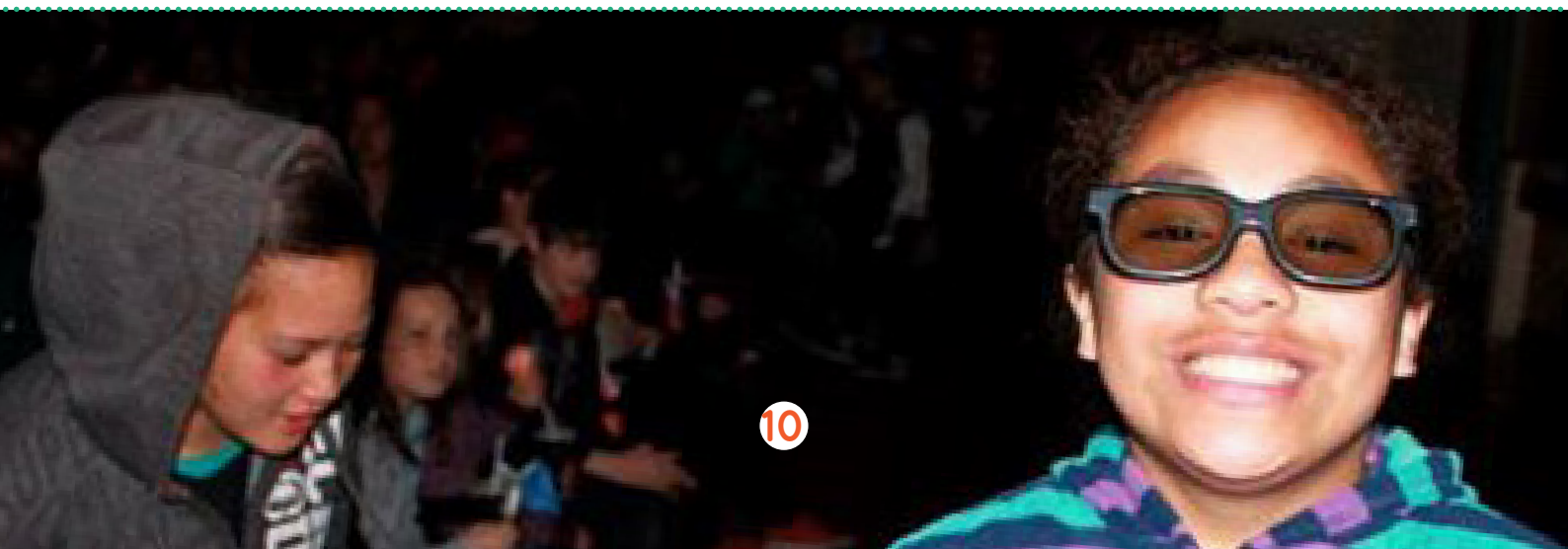


Focus areas 3: Place-making

Place-making is about young people having opportunities to establish positive connections within their key social environments and interests. When young people are able to contribute to shaping the community they live within, they feel valued and they develop a strong sense of belonging. When the ideas and views of young people are considered in the design of spaces and initiatives, or even better – young people are involved in the implementation – it is much more likely that other youth will respect and use the space and or participate and enjoy the service.

Objective threads

- Youth friendly places and spaces
- Events and entertainment
- Being mobile
- Get involved!



FOCUS AREAS CONT.



Focus areas 4: Advocacy

Advocacy is about young people being given opportunities to have greater control over what happens to them, through seeking their advice, participation and engagement. The Youth Committee have a responsibility to their youth constituents to ensure that Government and Council policy and practice reflect a positive youth development approach and that all young people have access to a range of youth development opportunities.

It is important to involve, acknowledge and consider key issues for specific groups of young people including rangatahi (young Maori); Pacific young people; young people from minority ethnic communities; young people with physical, intellectual and learning disabilities; young lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual people; isolated rural young people and young parents.

Objective threads

- Closing the gap - access, opportunities, equality
- Engaging stakeholders
- Influencing change
- Know your rights



FOCUS AREAS CONT.



Focus areas 5: Communication and Marketing

Communication and marketing is about ensuring the effective spread of information not only about the Youth Committee and their initiatives, but of other information that may be relevant or beneficial to the target (Council, community and other young people).

It is important that the Youth Committee develop and maintain mechanisms for effective communication between all stakeholders.

Objective threads

- Key messages
- Audience/targets
- Media options and making them work
- Consultation
- Branding and promotion



YOUTH COMMITTEE REFERENCES





