

NELSON'S Draft YOUTH STRATEGY



Council is committed to supporting better outcomes for Nelson's young people.

OUR VISION IS...

Young people have the resilience, skills, confidence and connections to develop, and participate positively in the community

WHY HAVE A STRATEGY?

Young people are an important part of Nelson's community, and represent the future workforce, parents, decision makers, and community champions that help to build the fabric of the Nelson that people love. Investing in their future wellbeing will improve outcomes for young people and the community as a whole.

In 2016, Council made a decision to develop a Youth Strategy to provide renewed direction on what young people need. The Youth Strategy seeks to:

- Identify young people's needs.
- Set a clear direction for Council.
- Find partners to work with.
- Guide future support for youth development and activities.

This Strategy has been created to support better long term outcomes for Nelson's young people, and to provide a focus for Council on where it wants its resourcing targeted to make a difference.

Young people are commonly defined as those aged between 12-24 years.

Supporting and investing in youth



Participating confidently in our community

WHAT POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE LOOK LIKE

Before we can identify what programmes and initiatives to invest in, it is important to know what positive outcomes for young people look like.

The Ministry of Youth Development tells us that successful youth outcomes are when young people develop and use knowledge, skills and experiences to participate confidently in their communities.

The six principles of their Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa are:

- Youth development is shaped by the 'big picture'.*
- Youth development is about young people being connected.
- Youth development is based on a consistent strengths-based approach.
- Youth development happens through quality relationships.
- Youth development is triggered when young people fully participate.
- Youth development needs good information.

If empowered, communities can also nurture their own young people to solve their own problems so that young people can develop to their full potential.

**This principle reflects the fact that wider social and economic contexts and dominant cultural values set the big picture within which young people grow up; social and economic contexts and trends; cultural context; Treaty of Waitangi; international obligations and values and belief systems.*



Other literature tells us that it is normal for young people to experience a range of issues as they transition from childhood to adulthood, and the success of this journey relies on many internal and external factors. The experiences young people have within their own family, peer network/s and community all have an effect on development, choices, wellbeing and resiliency.



Understanding what our community looks like

KEY FACTS



Nelson has 5,900 young people between 15-24 years (2016)



Nelson's youth population is expected to rise slightly over the next ten years before declining



Nelson has 23 schools including four secondary schools and a young parents' school



Young people in Nelson are slightly more likely to achieve NCEA level 1, 2 & 3 than the NZ average



The Nelson Marlborough Institute of Technology offers over 100 qualification courses from certificate to post graduate



Although smoking rates are falling, 20-24 year olds in the top of the South Island are more likely to smoke than in other parts of NZ



Nelson has a higher average of 20-24 year olds, per capita, who are considered at risk of poor outcomes compared to other areas in New Zealand*



Nelson has a significant number of 20-24 year olds who leave the district



Although young adults are still drinking dangerously in Nelson, this is at a slightly lower rate than across the rest of New Zealand



Young people in Nelson are more likely to be employed than in other parts of New Zealand



Although more are in employment, on average, Nelson's young people earn slightly less than others their age in New Zealand



52% of the Maori population are under 24 years of age in the top of the South Island



Nelson's house prices are on the rise and in March 2017 the average house price was \$522,201



Nelson's young people are : 52% male / 48% female. 85% European / 16% Maori / 7% Asian / 3% Pacifica / 2% other

*In general, regional towns (where a large number of 20-24 year olds leave the district) tend to show a higher average while university towns tend to be lower.

Listening to our young people



WHAT YOU TOLD US

Many people have helped in developing this strategy including a large number of young people and community groups.

You have told us about the good things which help improve young people's lives, as well as the issues that are difficult and can have a negative impact on the experiences and future outcomes of young people and the region.

You told us some of the issues that young people face are:

- **Mental health and wellbeing** including alcohol and/or drug related issues
- **Access to information** and what youth support services are available
- **Local employment opportunities** including opportunities for career development across a range of local industries, and transition from school to further education and employment
- **Access to public transport** such as routes, frequency and cost and the influence of these on opportunities to take part in activities, tertiary education and/or employment
- **Housing** including cost, availability and adequacy of both rental and home ownership housing options, especially for young parents with children
- **Local tertiary education opportunities** such as a lack of university level tertiary education resulting in a large migration of young people seeking university qualifications
- **Youth spaces, places** including youth centres, and inner city spaces for young people to socialise

You told us some of the good things Nelson offers are:



OUR GOALS

GOAL

1

Positive youth development:

Nelson's young people have opportunity for positive growth and development.

How we will do this:

- Support initiatives and seek partnerships which enhance young people's strengths, self-worth, positive choices, resilience and positive mental health and wellbeing
- Facilitate pathways which nurture and celebrate young people's achievements and leadership opportunities
- Enable young people to know how to get help
- Encourage others in the community to value young people

GOAL

2

Quality relationships, connections and pathways:

Young people can access pathways that support their future in Nelson. Young people are connected to their community and their community supports them.

How we will do this:

- Support the development of community connections which encourage involvement and help build strong positive relationships
- Support young people to be in education and employment and access pathways that enable young people to remain or return here
- Provide a range of youth friendly recreational, cultural and community events
- Consider access to targeted support for young people with high needs

GOAL

3

Physical environment and services:

Nelson's young people value our natural environment. Council considers the needs of young people in the design and provision of public facilities and spaces.

How we will do this:

- Provide a range of facilities and public spaces for young people to use
- Continue with Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles in planning and decision making
- Invest in public transport networks that support young people's movement around the district
- Encourage young people to be involved with and use our local natural environment

GOAL

4

Active youth citizenship:

Nelson's young people understand how democracy works, how to have their voices heard, and how they can give back to their community.

How we will do this:

- Provide mechanisms for young people to engage with Council, local planning and wider community decision making processes
- Ensure a wide range of young people have the opportunity to have their views represented
- Encourage young people's involvement in voluntary activities and service
- Advocate on behalf of young people's needs on national issues



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