

NELSON'S YOUTH STRATEGY

Te Rautaki Taiohi o Whakatū



 **Nelson City Council**
te kaunihera o whakatū

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.

Ka pū te ruha, ka hao te rangatahi

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 to target its resourcing to make a difference. Council is committed to working with other partners and groups to support positive outcomes for young people.

In this strategy we have used the common definition of young people which is those aged between 12 – 24 years.

This strategy is supported by a Youth Action Plan that sets out projects and funding.

Supporting and investing in youth

Te tautoko me te whakangao i ngā taiohi



Participating confidently in our community

He whai wāhi whakamanawa i tō tātou hapori

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 resilience.

Understanding what our community looks like

He mārama ki te āhua o te hapori



KEY FACTS



Nelson has 7,017 young people between 12-24 years (2013)



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 levels 1, 2 & 3 than the NZ average



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



Although smoking rates are falling, a greater proportion of 20-24 year olds in the top of the South Island currently smoke tobacco than in other parts of NZ



Nelson has a higher number of 20-24 year olds, per capita, considered at risk of poor outcomes compared to other areas in NZ*



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



Although some young adults in Nelson drink alcohol hazardously, this is at a slightly lower rate than across the rest of NZ



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



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



52% of the Māori 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% Māori / 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

Whakarongo ki a tātou taiohi



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 other 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

Whanaketanga Taiohi Ora

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

How we will achieve this:

Support initiatives and seek partnerships which enhance young people's strengths, self-worth, positive choices, family-whānau relationships, resilience and positive mental health and wellbeing

Facilitate pathways which nurture and celebrate young people's achievements and leadership opportunities

Improve young people's and their family-whānau's access to information on available services which support positive youth development

Encourage others in the community to value young people

GOAL

2

Quality relationships, connections and pathways:

Ngā hononga tuawhiti, ngā piringa me ngā huarahi

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 achieve 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

Foster a healthy and inclusive youth culture and youth identity through the provision of a range of youth friendly recreational, cultural and community events

Consider access to targeted support for vulnerable young people



GOAL

3

Physical environment and services:

Te taiao me ngā ratonga

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 achieve 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 to assist to keep young people safe
- Invest in 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:

He raraunga taiohi hohe

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 achieve this:

- Provide a variety of 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 local and national issues





Nelson City Council

te kaunihera o whakatū

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