

TARANAKI CONNECTIONS

A Mayors Taskforce Initiative



What is Taranaki Connections?

Taranaki Connections is a new approach to guiding and supporting young people through their teenage years, so that they make the best possible transition to adulthood and working life.

It is Not - a project or a programme. It Is - a purpose, goal and shared commitment. Delivering results for youth by many interdependent strategies.

Why is it needed?

The proportion of young people in the 16-20 age range not in education, training or work is steadily increasing. These young people are more likely than their peers at 21 years to be unemployed, unqualified, on low income, a parent and at risk of poor health. Many individuals organisations and agencies in our community are committed to the well being of young people yet we are still seeing too many fall through the gaps.

What is it trying to achieve?

Taranaki Connections intends to engage all young people in appropriate education, training, work or other options which will lead to long term economic independence, wellbeing and active engagement with our community.

The Taranaki Connections Governance Partnership aims to develop an integrated accessible and collaborative set of services for young people whether they are at risk, in trouble or wanting to improve their lives.

How will it be achieved?

To achieve this, Taranaki Connections brings together community, professional, business and government organisations who are committed to working together in recognition of our shared responsibility to equip young people for the future.

Connections operates a main street Youth Resource Centre in Waitara and has a skilled team of Youth Coaches drawn from supportive business, agencies and the community, who provide one on one pathway planning, support and advocacy over the long term.

Connections will ensure young people are involved in and central to it's ongoing design and development with the objective of providing services that are recognised by young people as being of a high quality and responsive to their needs.

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Taranaki Connections is supported and governed by the Ministry of Social Development, New Plymouth District Council, Tertiary Education Commission, Children and Young Persons, Te Puni Kokiri, Taranaki Employment Support Foundation Trust, Career Services, Waitara High School

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Objective

To give every school leaver the best possible start in life by helping them achieve a smooth transition from adolescence to adulthood and working life by;

- Providing a Resource Center that young people and families can come in to for information, help and advice on a wide range of topics from careers, housing, financial advice to practical help with CV's Application forms and going for interviews. If we don't know we will put you on to some one who does.
- Coaches working alongside young people. A trained mentor/ advocate with a long term commitment, who can listen , give advice, information , support and practical help on lots of topics from careers to relationships through to personal problems
- A large network of government, community, business and professional organisations who are networking together to help each young person achieve the best possible outcome.

How we can help

Young people – we can help by;

- Being available when and where you need help.
- Ensuring contact with a Coach is confidential, reliable and 'on the ball' no passing from pillar to post.
- Providing information and advice on a range of topics.

Parents –we can help by;

- Working with you to give assistance to your school leavers
- Assisting your school leaver to believe in themselves, raise their aspirations and make the most of their lives.
- We can help ensure they get the advice they need to plan and achieve their goals.

Schools – we can help by;

- Building on the career support you have already given students.
- Providing management information by tracking destinations of school leavers.
- Motivating and supporting young people to continue to participate in learning.
- Working with you to help school leavers make informed decisions about their future.

Community – we can help by

- Reducing the current fragmentation of services to help young people.
- Reducing social exclusion and lack of opportunities.
- Assisting young people locally to get training and find jobs.

Business – we can help by

- Stemming the tide of teenage fall out... a massive untapped potential.
- Helping young people join the workforce and contribute to the local economy.
- Assisting you to make a success of employing young people.

We believe each young person deserves the best possible chance to realize their potential. Our step by step approach will restore confidence and prove to youth they can contribute to society as individuals, citizens and employees.