Social, Training and Employment Assistance for Young People in Northland

As part of a Covid-19 Budget package the Government is committed to improving employment opportunities.

COVID-19 Budget Package 2020

Extending the He Poutama Taitamariki (HPT) programme for young people in Northland to achieve social connectedness, educational, training, and/or employment goals, leading to healthy, happy and productive lives.

The Government is providing \$11.841 million for the continued funding for He Poutama Taitamariki (HPT), an intensive service for young people in Northland aged between 15-24 years who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) and are most at risk of long-term unemployment and poor social and economic outcomes.

- The programme assists approximately 2,500 participants, with intensive client support for around 750 18-24 year-olds and specialist assistance for 160 15-17 year-olds. The programme aims to deliver:
 - More young people (15-24 year-olds) into employment, training and study
 - Thriving, healthy, socially connected, motivated youth for targeted groups (15–24-year-olds, 79% Maori and 7% Pasifika)
 - Improved regional capability and skills with greater connection between NEETS and the local labour market
 - Increased social wellbeing.

Costs (operating) \$m				
2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	TOTAL
3.028	2.907	2.937	2.969	11.841

- Essential elements of the programme include:
 - Intensive, tailored programme for each young person based on individual needs
 - Refined targeted programmes for social connectedness and work development, including essential reading, numerical and digital literacy skills and cultural awareness
 - Programmes for drug and alcohol counselling and driver licencing
 - Access to the Ministry of Social Developments programmes, such as profiling, a suite of service products and support services
 - Manaaki tangata throughout the young person's journey from initiation, upskilling to eventual employment (up to 12 months).