

Briefing to the Incoming Minister

Youth

November 2023



**MINISTRY OF
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO TAIOHI
Administered by the Ministry of Social Development



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi

18 permanent staff, including four Regional Relationship Managers



850,000

young people aged 12–24 years were resident in New Zealand in 2022 (Statistics New Zealand's projection based on 2018 Census).

Vote Social Development – Partnering for Youth Development



\$20.99 million*

multi-category appropriation funding for 2023/2024.



\$1 million

in 2023/2024 the Partnership Fund is co-investing in youth development opportunities.



161

provider organisations delivered over

82,000 youth development opportunities for young people in 2022/2023.



71%

of funding for youth development opportunities in

2022/2023 was targeted at priority cohorts including rangatahi Māori, Pacific young people, rainbow young people, and disabled young people.



Almost 140

young people aged 16–23 years participated as

Youth MPs, Youth Press Gallery members, and a Youth Clerk during Youth Parliament 2022.



85%

of participants reported they have seen an

improvement in their wellbeing through participation in MYD-funded **youth development programmes** in 2022/2023.



86%

of participants reported they have improved their preparedness

for the future work environment through participation in MYD-funded **youth enterprise programmes** in 2022/2023.



88%

of ākonga (students) who exited a programme

funded by the **Ākonga Fund** achieved an education, training, or employment outcome (as at Term 2, 2023).

*The total Vote Social Development – Partnering for Youth Development Multi-Category Appropriation for 2023/2024 figure on this page is incorrect. The correct figure is \$22.6 million, as noted elsewhere in the briefing.

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Welcome

Welcome to the Youth Portfolio.

You are supported in this portfolio by the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi which sits within the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora. MYD is a modest-sized business unit that is dedicated to supporting young people in New Zealand (aged 12-24 years) to strengthen their mental health and wellbeing, build their resilience, connect with their communities, and thrive. Our work is underpinned by our trusted leadership, far-reaching networks with youth sector organisations, and commitment to expanding cross-agency social impacts.

MSD provides all corporate services for MYD. Other parts of MSD provide support for the portfolio with the agreement of the Minister for Social Development and Employment. This includes the MSD Child and Youth Policy team.

This briefing introduces your portfolio, explains how MYD and MSD support you as the Minister for Youth, and outlines key areas of focus. We will follow up with more detailed briefings on significant aspects of the portfolio, and any matters you would like further information about. We will discuss with your Office the best way to do this at the earliest opportunity.

We are looking forward to working with you and discussing the most effective ways we can support you, and your priorities and responsibilities.

Context

There are approximately 850,000 young people aged 12–24 years resident in New Zealand, making up 17 percent of the total population¹. 35 percent of young people in New Zealand are in the Auckland region, 12 percent in the Canterbury region, 11 percent in the Wellington region, 10 percent in the Waikato region, and 6 percent in the Bay of Plenty region.

Young people are increasingly diverse, passionate, active, and capable of leading change, including social, health, education, disability, and environmental actions. They contribute as learners, educators, influencers, workers, employers, entrepreneurs, consumers, taxpayers, and volunteers.

Accountability for supporting youth development and young people is a shared responsibility and opportunity across government. There is a lot of work underway to support young people at various stages of their life cycles and help address what our young people are indicating as opportunities and challenges.

Key issues for young people

Adolescence is a time of physical and psychological maturation, changing social roles, and moving away from childhood towards greater independence and responsibility. It may bring increased exposure to risky behaviours involving sex, alcohol, drugs, and motor vehicles, as well as worries about body image, relationships, peer pressures, and educational achievements. From puberty, the incidence of mental health conditions increases, including depression, anxiety, psychosis, and suicidal ideation.

In recent years, COVID-19 has also been especially tough on young people, who lost valuable time at school and missed social events.

A summary of key statistical information (centred in the voice of youth) that is used across government to inform the focus and investment in young people's wellbeing is provided in **Appendix One**. It highlights key issues that our young people are seeking support for, such as mental wellbeing, whānau wellbeing, and social media and online safety.

The Youth Portfolio

Supporting young people to be healthy and vibrant is a valuable investment for New Zealand, particularly when they are equipped with the skills they need to overcome challenges, progress to adulthood, and thrive. The Youth portfolio has a preventative and empowering focus, funding a range of community-based youth sector providers to deliver tailored programmes which target different cohorts and

¹ Based on data from the 2018 Census.

ages of young people with low to moderate needs². MYD-funded providers specialise in youth development approaches which improve young people's outcomes and wellbeing, and their preparedness as active and valued members of the future work environment.

Young people have consistently told government over the last decade they want to be heard, listened to, and valued, and contribute to decisions that affect them now and in the future. The Youth portfolio holds a key strategic role to advocate for and champion young people and their voices across government and in the youth and non-governmental sectors.

The role of the Minister for Youth

You are the Minister responsible for the Youth portfolio, with operational administration sitting with MYD.

As the *Minister for Youth*, you hold a leadership role to advocate for and champion New Zealand's young people aged 12-24 years.

- You will often engage with other portfolios, such as Education (including Tertiary Education and Skills), Social Development and Employment, Child Poverty Reduction, Health, Housing, Justice, Pacific Peoples, Ethnic Communities, Women, Disability Issues, Rural Communities, Social Development and Employment, and Māori Development, and you may be part of joint Ministerial groups with a focus on young people. MYD and MSD officials will provide you with advice to support you in these discussions.
- Examples of leadership in this area include driving the use of a youth development approach, and sharing insights around what young people and the youth sector are saying.

As the *Minister responsible for the Youth portfolio*, you are accountable for the Vote Social Development Partnering for Youth Development Multi-Category Appropriation (MCA). In the financial year 2023/24, the MCA totals \$22.6 million, \$17.56 million of which is allocated to funding youth sector providers to deliver youth development opportunities.

- The overarching purpose of the MCA is to *improve outcomes for young people across Aotearoa New Zealand through youth development*.
- This is an appropriation that has been in place for over 30 years to support providers to deliver a variety of youth development opportunities for young

² Young people who have been identified as having low to moderate needs have one or more of the following: history of school absenteeism, or experience of alternative education; low household and community financial resources; family or individual dependence on Work and Income; mental health needs such as controlled anxiety or depression; low sense of identity/belonging; lack of social connectedness with peers, whānau, community; young people who identify with more than one of MYD's priority cohorts.

people (aged 12-24 years) across New Zealand to improve their wellbeing outcomes. A total of approximately 60,000 – 70,000 youth development opportunities are delivered each year, across a range of different activities and programmes.

- Further information on the youth development approach is provided under 'Youth Development' below.
- Further information on your appropriation responsibilities and the current funding streams is provided in **Appendix Two**.

The Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy

The Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy (Strategy)³, launched in August 2019, has a vision of '*New Zealand, Aotearoa is the best place in the world for children and young people*'. The publication and three yearly review of a Strategy is a legislative requirement set out in the Children's Act 2014, following amendments in 2018. It sets out a shared understanding of how to improve the wellbeing of all children and young people, reducing child poverty and mitigating impacts of child poverty and socio-economic disadvantage experienced by children.

The current Strategy has six high-level and interconnected outcomes that signpost the social, economic, and environmental factors needed for child and youth wellbeing. Following a review of the Strategy in 2022 undertaken by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, the following areas of focus for the Strategy were identified:

- reduce child poverty and mitigate the impact of socio-economic disadvantage
- enhance child and whānau wellbeing in the first 1,000 days of a child's life
- address racism, discrimination, and stigma, and
- enhance the mental wellbeing of children and young people.

The Minister for Child Poverty Reduction has been the Minister responsible for the overall Strategy since its launch, however multiple Ministers and agencies have accountabilities within the Strategy's Programme of Action and play important collective roles in driving its implementation. Officials will discuss with you your key priorities for the Youth Portfolio and their contribution to the Strategy and the Government's wider priorities.

The Youth portfolio currently contributes to all of the Strategy's outcomes, with a particular focus on supporting the achievement of Outcome 6, *Children and Young People are Involved and Empowered*. As Minister for Youth, you are currently

³ The Minister for Youth is accountable for three actions under the Strategy: the Youth Plan; the Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey; and the Youth Voice Project. For delivery purposes, the Youth Voice Project has been amalgamated into the Youth Plan.

accountable for the following deliverables in the Strategy's Programme of Action under Outcome 6:

- **the Youth Plan: Voice, Leadership, Action (Youth Plan)** – launched in August 2023, this platform is driving increased collaboration across government and the wider youth sector on cross-sectoral issues affecting young people, enacted by a rolling suite of actions over a five-year period
- **the Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey** – a nation-wide survey of young people aged 12-19 years from secondary school and community settings. The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey is used to inform progress on 18 of the 32 wellbeing indicators contained within the Strategy
- **the Youth Voice Project – The Hive** – focused on supporting and encouraging young people to contribute their thoughts and opinions to the Government on the issues that matter to them, in a way that works for them.

Further information on these actions is included under 'Key Areas of Focus' on page 11.

Youth development

A key benefit of youth development is its focus on providing targeted early interventions and community-led support. This early intervention can help prevent young people from progressing towards remedial, highly intensive services targeting higher risk factors.

The Youth portfolio's investment in youth development and youth enterprise programmes and services provides an opportunity to make a long-term difference for our young people (including those who experience additional risk factors). These initiatives contribute to developing young people's wellbeing, including mental health and emotional intelligence (e.g., self-regulation, motivation, empathy) and soft skills (e.g., communication, problem-solving, interpersonal skills) which are crucial to thrive and succeed in all aspects of life.

There is strong evidence early intervention and investment in youth development builds capability and resilience in young people, through opportunities such as leadership, mentoring, and volunteering, and supports them to become achieving and participating adults.

The role of Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi

MYD's role and purpose is to encourage and support young people to develop and use knowledge, skills, and experiences to participate confidently in their communities.

MYD supports and advises you on the views of young people in New Zealand to ensure you are informed about the key issues and trends and provide you with

advice on opportunities for leadership. We support you to work with your Ministerial colleagues to advance youth issues across government.

MYD's current work programme is focused on:

- supporting young people with low to moderate needs to develop the skills and connections they need to reach their potential by funding youth development and youth enterprise opportunities and supporting providers to achieve outcomes
- delivering on and evolving our leadership role in the youth sector with key stakeholders, alongside providers who bring the voice of young people, and stakeholders who work directly with young people
- providing critical youth engagement expertise, experience, and systems across government, to ensure young people are confident and comfortable sharing their voice and expressing their concerns.

MYD administers the Vote Social Development – Partnering for Youth Development MCA. This includes responsibility for achieving key performance measures associated with the appropriation such as improvements in young people's outcomes and wellbeing, and their preparedness for the future work environment.

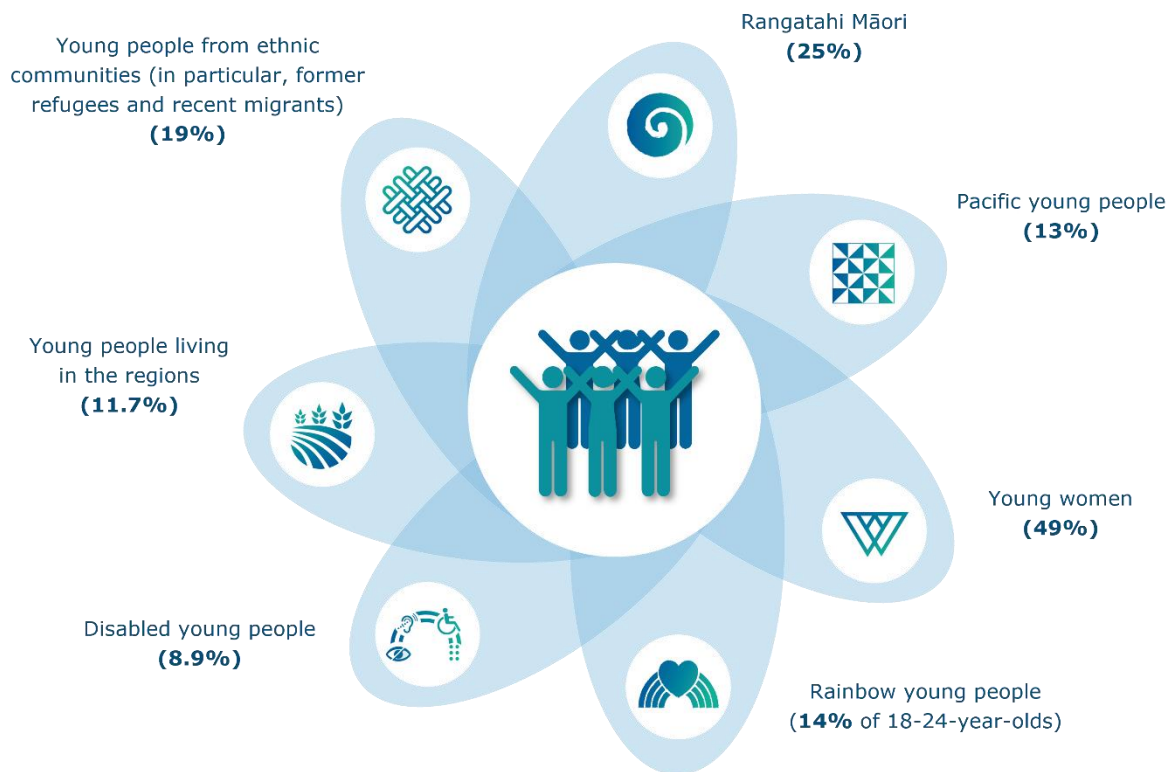
The performance measures for the Partnering for Youth Development MCA are provided in **Appendix Three**.

MYD achieved or exceeded all the standards for its 2022/23 performance measures. Performance results are included in the 2022/23 MSD Annual Report, published in October 2023.

Priority cohorts

MYD has a strategic focus on targeting services to seven cohorts that face disproportionate disadvantage. One of MYD's performance measures is: "the percentage of total funding for youth development opportunities targeted at young people from the priority cohorts will be no less than 50 percent".

These priority cohorts, and the portion of New Zealand's youth population they represent^{4,5}, are:



Youth policy

The MSD Child and Youth Policy team within the Policy Branch of MSD can provide you with advice and support on matters within the scope of MSD's responsibilities, with the agreement of the Minister for Social Development and Employment.

The Child and Youth Policy team works with other teams in MSD, including Employment, Income Support, Housing, Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People, and Youth Service, and works on cross-agency strategic and policy initiatives. The Child and Youth Policy team's work includes commenting on Cabinet papers and legislation that have implications for young people and providing you with advice on these implications as required.

Work that the Child and Youth Policy team currently has underway specifically in relation to your portfolio includes providing policy support for the Youth Plan and the Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey.

⁴ Based on data customisation work commissioned by MYD to Statistics New Zealand in August 2022

⁵ Young people from ethnic communities (in particular, former refugees and recent migrants) are estimated from over 160,000 that were born overseas (19 percent of the total youth population), including 50,000 young people that have been in New Zealand for less than five years (6 percent of the total youth population)

Further information about MYD and MSD, alongside the key contacts for your portfolio, is attached at **Appendix Four**.

Key Areas of Focus

Youth Plan

Background

The first *Youth Plan 2020-2022: Turning Voice into Action – Rebuilding and Recovering* (Youth Plan 2020-2022) was released in July 2020. It set out actions government would take to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 for young people.

A review of the Youth Plan 2020-2022 found that it had successfully coordinated increased cross-agency collaboration and raised the profile of issues concerning young people across government. The review, which included engagement with over 1,400 young people, informed the direction and scope of the refreshed *Youth Plan: Voice, Leadership, Action* (Youth Plan) which was released in August 2023.

The Youth Plan is made up of three interconnected documents: a strategic framework, a high-level measurement framework, and a rolling suite of actions over a five-year period. The rolling nature of the suite allows for actions to be added at any time to ensure they are responsive to new or emerging needs of young people and to the Government's priorities. We will work with you to ensure that the Youth Plan reflects your priorities.

Youth Plan: Voice Leadership, Action

The Youth Plan has a more targeted approach than the previous iteration, with two focus areas: youth voice and leadership. This refinement was based on findings from the review, which included direct feedback from young people.

The aims of the Youth Plan are:

- The voices and perspectives of young people are listened to, valued, and embedded in decision-making at all levels.
- The mana of young people is uplifted. Young people are enabled to lead their own lives, have their identities seen, valued, and respected, and have increasing influence in their communities and over government policy and decision-making.

Implementation

Work to support the Youth Plan, including implementation of the initial suite of six actions, monitoring of progress, and development of new actions, is led by MYD officials with policy support from the MSD Child and Youth Policy team.

This work is resourced through MYD/MSD baseline appropriations. Resourcing for implementing individual Youth Plan actions is expected to be met by the government agency, or agencies, assigned to 'lead' the action.

We will provide your Office with a more detailed briefing on the Youth Plan in due course, including how we monitor and report on this work.

Strengthening youth voice and youth engagement

Young people have consistently told us that they want their voice heard in the decisions that impact them and their future. We understand that increasing young people's participation in government decision-making is likely to lead to policies, programmes, and initiatives that are more representative, better meet the needs of our communities, and are more widely supported. MYD has taken a leadership role in bringing youth voice to the table. Current initiatives, in addition to implementing the refreshed Youth Plan, include:

- **MYD Youth Advisory Group (YAG):** MYD established a YAG in September 2022, as a departmental advisory group comprising 20 diverse young people, to provide advice on specific projects to help to embed youth voice in government decision-making, which included the review and refresh of the Youth Plan. MYD recently reappointed seven YAG members for a further six-month term to assist with the promotion and implementation of the refreshed Youth Plan, and the development of the rolling suite of actions.
- **Youth Parliament:** Since 1994, Youth Parliament has occurred every three years. Planning for the 2025 Youth Parliament will commence in early 2024. MYD, together with the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives, successfully delivered the Youth Parliament 2022 programme. The 2022 programme supported 139 young people aged 16-23 years over a six-month tenure to participate as Youth MPs, Youth Press Gallery members, and a Youth Clerk. They were brought together for a two-day event at Parliament, where they experienced general and legislative debates, caucus meetings, select committees, and question time.
- **The Hive:** The Hive is delivered through an MYD provider contract with a creative agency, Curative NZ, and is an action under the Youth Voice Project in the Strategy. It aims to increase young people's participation in the policy development process by building a relationship, trust, and two-way communication between young people and government agencies through the use of social media, and an innovative technological platform. It has so far consisted of three seasons (cohorts) of young people as 'Hivers' and is currently comprised of 13 Hivers participating in an 'All Stars season'. The Hive has worked with different agencies, engaging with large numbers of young people on different pieces of policy, including adoption law reform, an emissions reduction plan, content regulation reform, and housing.

Delivering the Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey

Data and insights from the Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey are used to inform policies and investment across government to support youth wellbeing. The reports provide a critical dataset, contributing to 18 of the 32 indicators of the current Strategy, and are a key lever for your Youth Portfolio.

The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey collected information from 7,209 young people (Years 9 to 13) in New Zealand in school settings between June and November 2021. It took place when many young people's lives were disrupted by COVID-19. The intention was to complete the Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey during Terms 2 and 3 in 2019, however, delays in gaining ethics approval in 2019 and the COVID-19 regional and national lockdowns in 2020 resulted in fieldwork being completed in 2021.

An overview report with the findings from this sample was published in October 2022 on the MSD website. Three supplementary reports were published in August 2023. Two of these reports provided focused insight on the experiences of rangatahi Māori and Pacific young people in school settings. The third delivered findings from a cohort of 502 young people surveyed in community settings, including alternative education providers and community organisations that support young people.

The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey provides a representative picture of youth voice as it gathers feedback directly from young people, unfiltered over a range of topics. In the last survey, young people in general reported the importance of their friendships, whānau, families, and communities. They felt positive when connected to their cultures and aspired to achieve in education. Overall, young people reported the greatest concerns related to discrimination, material wellbeing, and mental health, with certain cohorts reporting challenges more often in comparison to the rest of the group that were surveyed.

The next Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey is planned to take place in 2025. Work is being led by the MSD Research and Evaluation team with input from the MSD Child and Youth Policy team and relevant public sector agencies.

A robust question set for the next iteration is being developed with support from the Adolescent Health Research Group, an academic group with considerable expertise surveying youth in New Zealand.

MSD officials will provide you with a more fulsome update on this work in early 2024 and would welcome a discussion about how the Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey can support your priorities.

Supporting our young people to thrive

In 2023/24, MYD is investing approximately \$17.56 million into the youth sector to deliver a range of youth development and youth enterprise initiatives across

New Zealand. A significant portion of this appropriation is allocated to multi-year agreements ending 30 June 2025.

An overview of MYD's current funding streams is included in **Appendix Two**.

A map displaying the location of currently funded providers across New Zealand is attached as **Appendix Five**.

Background

While we have seen continued demand for funding from the youth sector, the total Partnering for Youth Development appropriation largely remained static until 2021. Recent investment into MYD-funded services has included:

- **Ākonga Youth Development Community Fund (Ākonga Fund):**
 - The Ākonga Fund was established in late 2020 as a time-limited COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund investment (to 31 December 2022) to support iwi and community-based youth development providers to deliver programmes to ākonga/learners who had been affected by COVID-19 to stay engaged in education. A total of \$10.47 million (Non-Departmental Output Expenses) in funding was delivered to 27 providers across the country over two calendar years, to support a total of 6,743 ākonga.
 - In September 2022, contracts for the 27 existing youth development providers were extended for an additional year, to 31 December 2023.
 - As at Term 2 2023, 88 percent of exiting ākonga achieved an education, training, or employment outcome, and 97 percent established stronger community connections.
- **Budget 2022:**
 - The Partnering for Youth Development appropriation was increased by \$3.5 million per annum for increased access to youth development services, and to trial a small scale Full-Time Equivalent youth worker/practitioner pilot. At the time, this represented a 40 percent funding increase to MYD-funded services and was the largest increase in investment in MYD-funded services (outside of COVID-19 response funding) for more than 20 years. This funding was allocated as part of an MYD open tender procurement process in late 2022.
 - MYD received Departmental Output Expenses (DOE) funding of \$0.25 million per annum to build a cycle of youth development evidence, including research and evaluation on what works for cohorts of young people including those from marginalised groups. The current focus for this work is engagement with Full-Time Equivalent youth worker/practitioner pilot providers.

- **Budget 2023:**

- The Ākonga Fund was extended for a further two calendar years, to 31 December 2025. A total of \$9.7 million is being allocated to providers following an MYD open tender procurement process, incorporating enhanced support for young people in regions affected by the recent flooding and severe weather events.
- MYD received two years of funding (totalling \$0.988 million) for 500 young people to receive early support to prevent the escalation of mental health and wellbeing issues, and to upskill at least 100 young volunteer kaimahi in good-practice youth development and youth mentoring, and to gain relevant work-related experience.

Implementing Budget 2023 Initiatives

MYD is in the process of completing the Ākonga Fund open tender procurement process. Applicants were notified of the funding decisions on 15 November 2023 and contract negotiations are now underway with 31 successful providers. New contracts will commence in January 2024, for programme delivery from Term 1, and will end on 31 December 2025.

The Ākonga Fund for 2024 and 2025 has taken into account recommendations from an independent evaluation completed in June 2023 and incorporates enhanced support for young people in regions affected by the recent flooding and severe weather events, with over 50 percent of total funding allocated to providers in those regions.

The Open Tender was significantly oversubscribed which resulted in a number of unsuccessful proposals. MYD has offered unsuccessful providers the opportunity to debrief on the evaluation panel's decisions and will keep you updated on any issues. There is a possibility that you may be contacted by unsuccessful providers. Should this occur, we recommend that you refer providers to MYD for a response as this is an operational matter. MYD can provide your Office with more information on this procurement process if required.

MYD is also in the process of completing contract negotiations with providers to deliver youth mental health and wellbeing, and youth volunteer initiatives funded through Budget 2023.

There is an option for you to announce successful providers for these funds, once all contract negotiations are complete. In total, these providers will be supporting 3,250 young people across the country over the next two years, with early interventions and mentoring, mental health and wellbeing support, and upskilling young volunteers.

We will provide you with a more fulsome briefing on the outcomes from these processes and communication options in December.

Suggested early areas of focus

As noted above, we look forward to discussing how we can support you to achieve your priorities. We suggest the following matters would benefit from your early attention, and will provide further information as required.

In late 2023:

- **Announcing successful providers:** As described above, MYD has recently undertaken procurement processes to allocate funding provided through Budget 2023. Once contract negotiations are complete, we will provide you with options for communicating those decisions.

In early 2024:

- **Planning for the next Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey:** We will discuss the focus of and timeline for this work with you.
- **Youth Parliament:** We are in early conversations with the Office of the Clerk of the House of Representatives regarding the delivery of the next Youth Parliament in 2025, and will provide you with advice regarding Youth Parliament in early 2024.
- **Meeting the youth sector:** Youth sector organisations, including MYD-funded providers, will want to meet with you to brief you on their work. MYD will provide advice to your Office regarding options for you to visit providers, prioritising invitations, and support you with written briefings ahead of any meetings.

Engagement opportunities to hear directly from diverse young people

As the Minister for Youth, you will have regular engagement opportunities to hear from a diverse range of young people. MYD will support you with this through a range of options including meetings with MYD's Youth Advisory Group, visits to MYD-funded providers and/or events, and leadership and involvement in Youth Parliament.

A calendar of key events in the youth sector and for your portfolio over the coming months is attached as **Appendix Six**. As the Minister for Youth, you are likely to receive an invitation to many of these events, often including delivering an opening address or presenting awards. MYD will provide advice regarding prioritising invitations and briefings ahead of any events.

Appendix 1: Youth Overview

This appendix provides an overview of recent survey findings about the youth population in New Zealand (centred in the voice of youth), with a particular focus on some of the current wellbeing issues that are being faced.

Findings from the Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey 2021

The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey 2021 identified areas of strength, resilience, and challenges for young people in New Zealand:

- **Most young people feel loved and connected.** Many young people had strong friendships, felt safe and loved with their whānau and partners, and were connected to their culture. The majority of young people were connected to their communities. Overall, two-thirds of young people were in a group, club, or team. Around half said they help others in their neighbourhood.
- **Many young people have a strong sense of identity.** The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey asked young people whether they felt accepted for who they are in different parts of their life. Young people felt most accepted by their friends, partners, and those they lived with. Rangatahi Māori, Pacific young people, and Asian young people had stronger connections to their culture when compared to other ethnic groups. They were most likely to know their whakapapa and rate as important the values of their ethnic groups and maintaining their family traditions and cultural heritage. Pacific young people had high levels of pride in who they were.
- **Most young people have a stable home base.** While most young people lived somewhere warm, dry, and free from mould, others lived in poorer-quality housing. One-third of young people (34 percent) said they or their family worried about paying for at least one essential item (kai/food, power/electricity, rent or mortgage, or petrol or transport). Worry about these basic items was more of a burden for rangatahi Māori, Pacific young people, and disabled young people.
- **Young people aspire to achieve and contribute.** Nearly two-thirds of young people wanted to achieve a university degree. Smaller percentages of rangatahi Māori and Pacific young people aimed to achieve a university degree. Rangatahi Māori rated most aspects of their school life experiences lower than other young people. Young people were positive about their workplaces, felt they were being treated well, paid fairly, and know their rights. They were less positive that their work provided them opportunities to develop skills and knowledge for their future.
- **Some young people were more likely to have experienced discrimination.** Rangatahi Māori, and young people from Pacific, Asian, Middle Eastern, Latin American, and African (MELAA) ethnic groups were more likely

to have experienced discrimination because of their ethnicity. Rangatahi Māori were more likely than other ethnic groups to experience discrimination because of their gender or sexual identity, or something else about them. Disabled young people and rainbow young people felt less able to express their identity than other groups of young people. Rainbow young people gave the lowest ratings for feeling they belonged in their communities and were more likely to feel treated unfairly. Those with intersectional identities report unique forms of discrimination, for example, rainbow rangatahi Māori who feel unable to express their identity with their families may be denied cultural connection that can otherwise be a strength for the Māori cohort.

- **Young people in community settings reported wellbeing challenges more often than those in the school sample.** They gave lower mean ratings to life overall, hope, and good wellbeing. Many reported access to healthcare and education was challenging and they reported less stability in their home base with concerns for high living costs. It is important to note that rangatahi Māori, rainbow young people, disabled young people, and young people with experience with Oranga Tamariki were over-represented in the community sample.
- **Young women were less positive than young men about many aspects of their lives.** Young women gave lower ratings for measures of overall wellbeing and hope for their future and were more likely to have thought about or attempted suicide.
- **Mental wellbeing overall for young people appears to be deteriorating.** A proportion of young people are experiencing poor mental health, and this appears to be higher than measured in previous surveys. Concerning indicators in this area were based on the WHO-5 and Kessler 6 metrics⁶ of mental health, as well as questions related to suicide and self-harm.
- **Young people at lower decile schools were more likely to worry about their whānau not being able to pay for essentials.** Although the Ministry of Education's Equity Index is being implemented, the Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey was taken while the decile system was in place. Analysis of survey results within the decile system showed differentiating outcomes. Young people at lower decile schools gave consistently lower ratings in measures of physical and mental health, experience of work and education, and higher ratings of exposure to harm. A higher percentage of rangatahi Māori and Pacific

⁶ The World Health Organisation-Five Well-Being Index (WHO-5) is a short self-reported measure of current mental wellbeing. The results from the five individual questions asked in the survey can be reported separately but the WHO-5 is commonly aggregated to produce an overall derived score reported as a percentage. The Kessler 6 is a simple measure of psychological distress. The scale involves questions about emotional states each with a five-level response scale. The measure can be used as a brief screen to identify levels of distress.

young people attend lower decile schools. While they had greater strength in their connection to their values and whakapapa and felt accepted by their friends, they had negative outcomes across some Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey results associated with economic wellbeing.

The Youth Plan is a key platform and lever in the Youth portfolio to drive increased cross-government and cross-sectoral action to address the key themes and issues raised by young people in the Youth Health and Wellbeing survey.

Findings from the 2021 New Zealand General Social Survey

In terms of wellbeing, 80 percent of young people aged 15-24 years rated their overall life satisfaction at 7 or above on a 0 to 10 scale (where 0 is low and 10 is high). However, young people in priority cohorts reported low ratings for selected wellbeing measures, as follows:

- a higher proportion of rangatahi Māori (26 percent) and young Pacific people (26 percent) said the things they did in life were not worthwhile, compared to non-Māori, non-Pacific young people (19 percent)
- a higher proportion of young Pacific people (28 percent) and rangatahi Māori (19 percent) said they did not have enough money to meet daily needs when compared to non-Māori, non-Pacific young people (10 percent)
- 48 percent of disabled young people were dissatisfied with life (compared to 19 percent for non-disabled young people); 62 percent said the things they did in life were not worthwhile (compared to 19 percent for non-disabled young people); 44 percent reported they feel lonely most or all of the time (compared to 7 percent for non-disabled young people); and a higher proportion of disabled young people (52 percent) reported it was hard or very hard to access support, compared to non-disabled young people (11 percent).

Appendix 2: Appropriation Responsibilities

As Minister for Youth, you are responsible for the Partnering for Youth Development Multi-Category Appropriation (MCA) within Vote Social Development.

The overarching purpose of the Partnering for Youth Development MCA is to improve outcomes for young people, aged 12-24 years, through youth development. In practice, this includes promoting the use of a positive youth development approach to help support an increase in the wellbeing of young people with low to moderate needs across New Zealand, so that they are better able to succeed in, contribute to, and enjoy life.

As Minister for Youth, you are responsible for setting the direction and priorities for this appropriation, which may include targeting service delivery at particular cohorts of young people.

In the 2023/24 financial year, you are responsible for total annual funding of **\$17.56 million Non-Departmental Output Expenses – Delivering Youth Development**.

Contracts with providers to deliver services in 2023/24 are in place, with the majority of funding to 30 June 2025 allocated through multi-year contracts. MYD will provide you with a more fulsome briefing on the appropriation and identify opportunities for the MCA to best support your priorities for young people.

2023/24 funding has been allocated to youth sector providers through contestable and/or closed funding streams, as follows:

- **Youth Development Opportunities** (\$10.2 million) (increased by \$3.5 million in Budget 2022). This is a funding stream that supports providers to deliver youth development opportunities for young people (aged 12-24 years) to achieve better wellbeing outcomes including strengthening youth identity, sense of belonging, and social connectedness with their peers, whānau, and communities, and includes:
 - ‘Full-Time Equivalent’ (FTE) Youth Worker/Practitioner Pilot (\$1 million). This funding, delivered through Budget 2022, is trialling a fixed FTE funding model to increase youth worker/practitioner 1:1 contact time with young people.
 - the Leverage and Legacy of the FIFA Women’s World Cup (\$0.135 million) (funding for one-off projects delivered by MYD-funded providers to support the FIFA Women’s World Cup).
- **Expanding Youth Enterprise and Education** (\$1.5 million). This funding stream provides youth enterprise opportunities that support young people (aged 16-24 years) to develop enterprise skills (including work-ready skills) that incorporate strength-based practice.

- **Partnership Fund** (\$1 million). This funding is for the development of partnerships with business and philanthropic organisations, iwi, government, and other funders to collectively engage and collaborate to support quality youth development opportunities.
- **Ākonga Youth Development Community Fund** (\$4.86 million) – a time-limited investment that was extended for a further two years in Budget 2023, which includes funding for community-based organisations to provide:
 - Targeted support for 2,750 at-risk ākonga and young people (aged 12-21 years) to achieve better pathways for success (\$4.85 million per calendar year, for two calendar years, 2024 and 2025).
 - Early support for up to 500 young people, aged 12-24 years, to prevent the escalation of mental health and wellbeing issues (\$0.394 million)
 - Upskilling for at least 100 young volunteer Kaimahi, aged 16-24 years, in good-practice youth development and youth mentoring and to gain relevant work-related experience (\$0.1 million).

In 2023/24, the Partnering for Youth Development MCA also consists of **\$5 million Departmental Output Expenses (DOE) - Administering Youth Development**, which has included:

- Annual funding of \$1 million for the Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey since Budget 2018 (\$1.5 million in 2023/24),
- The administration and monitoring associated with the Ākonga Fund since 2020 (\$0.755 million), and
- Building a cycle of youth development evidence since Budget 2022 (\$0.25 million).

Appendix 3: Performance measures for the Partnering for Youth Development Multi-Category Appropriation

As Minister for Youth, you are responsible to Parliament for reporting on a series of performance measures for the fiscal year. For 2022/23, the Partnering for Youth Development Multi-Category Appropriation (MCA) performance measures are:

- MCA overarching measure:
 - The percentage of participants who report they have seen an improvement in their outcomes through participation in an MYD-funded services will be no less than [target = 85 percent].
- MCA category Delivering Youth Development measures:
 - The percentage of participants who report they have seen an improvement in their wellbeing through participation in MYD-funded youth development services will be no less than [target = 85 percent].
 - The percentage of participants who report they have improved their preparedness for the future work environment through participation in MYD-funded youth enterprise services will be no less than [target = 85 percent].
- MCA category Administering Youth Development measures:
 - The percentage of total funding for youth development opportunities targeted at young people from the priority cohorts¹ will be no less than [target = 50 percent].
 - The percentage of providers reporting that interacting with MYD was a 'good' or 'very good' experience should be no less than [target = 80 percent].
 - The percentage of partners involved in funding services through the Partnership Fund reporting that partnering with MYD was a 'good' or 'very good' experience should be no less than [target = 80 percent].

¹ The identified priority cohorts are young Māori, young Pacific peoples, young women, young people from the Rainbow community, young people with disabilities, young people from ethnic communities (in particular those from a refugee and migrant background), and young people living in the regions (the regions are defined as the non-urban, more rural and often isolated regions across New Zealand).

Appendix 4: Organisation Structure and Key Contacts

MYD is led by the General Manager, Youth, who is supported by a team of 18 FTE staff including four Regional Relationship Managers. The General Manager, Youth reports to the Deputy Chief Executive (DCE), Māori, Communities and Partnerships, MSD.

MYD staff provide Ministerial servicing for your Office, coordinate, monitor, and report on implementation of the Youth Plan, manage relationships and contracting with MYD-funded providers, develop operational policy, and lead and contribute to activities across government and in the youth sector.

MSD’s Child and Youth Policy team can provide policy advice and support to you with the agreement of the Minister for Social Development and Employment. This team is led by the General Manager, International, Disability and Generational Policy within MSD, who reports to the DCE, Policy, MSD and provides policy advice to support the Social Development and Employment portfolio, which has a focus on employment and education outcomes for young people who are close to the benefit system and who may not be in education, employment, or training.

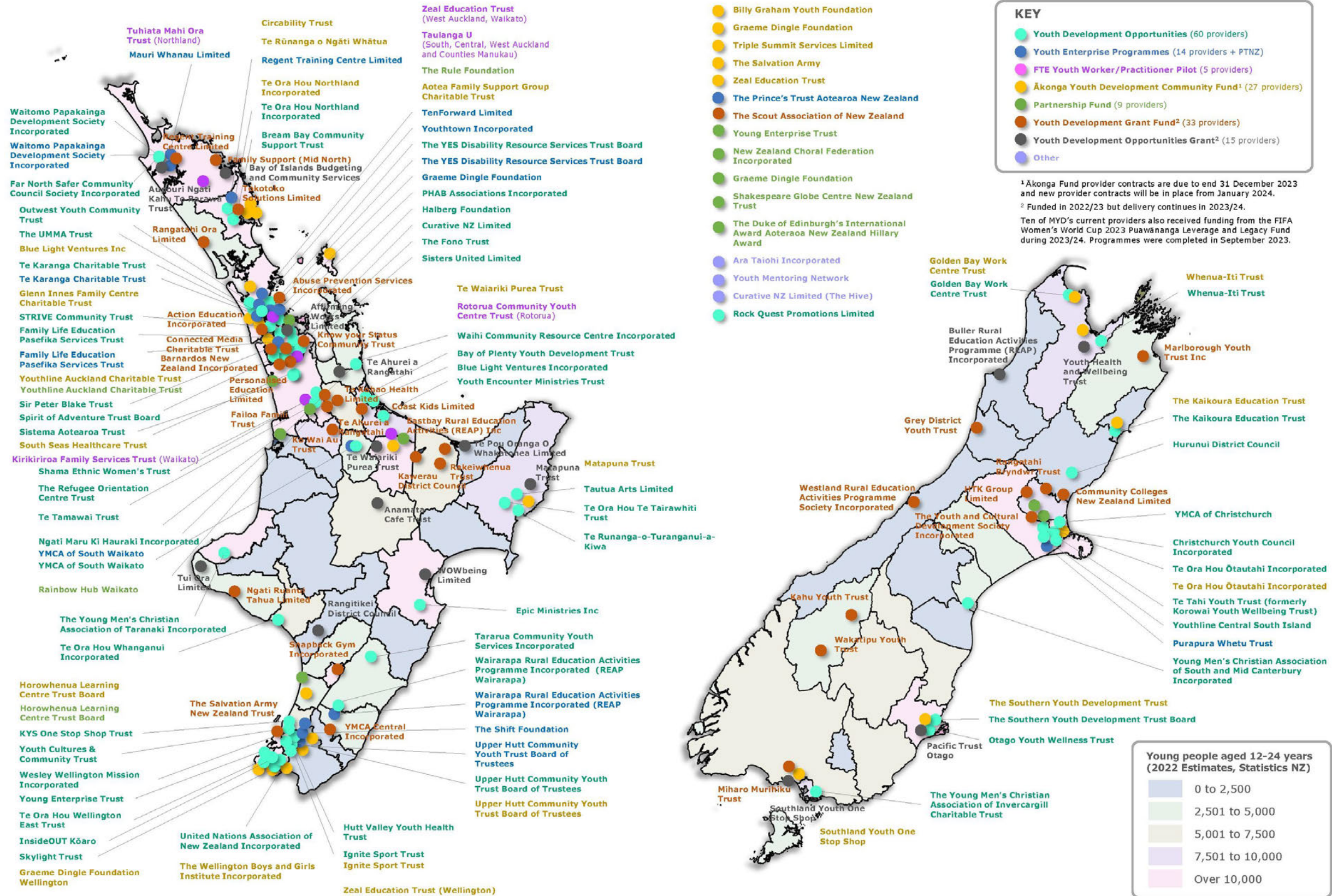
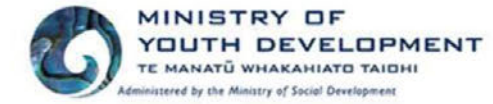
MSD provides the corporate services for the Youth portfolio, which includes advice to you on performance reporting and the structure of the Appropriation, and managing the Private Secretary seconded to your Office. MSD is currently undertaking a nine-year change transformation programme called Te Pae Tawhiti. The first three years of the programme includes replacing contract management systems to improve staff and partner experience which relates to the commissioning of youth development and youth enterprise programmes and services administered by MYD. MSD will update you on progress relevant to MYD via the Minister for Social Development and Employment.

Key contacts in the Youth portfolio

Name	Title	Contact Number
Marama Edwards	Deputy Chief Executive, Māori, Communities and Partnerships, MSD	s9(2)(a)
John Robertson	General Manager, Youth, MYD	s9(2)(a)
Simon MacPherson	Deputy Chief Executive, Policy, MSD	s9(2)(a)
Harry Fenton	Acting General Manager, International, Disability and Generational Policy, MSD	s9(2)(a)

Appendix 5: Map of MYD-funded providers

Map of providers funded by MYD in 2023/24 As at 30 September 2023



Appendix 6: Upcoming Youth Sector Events

Date	Event	Location	Details
04 December 2023	YES National Awards Gala Dinner 2023	Wellington	Young Enterprise Trust's event for the national award nominees and winners participating in The Lion Foundation Young Enterprise Scheme in 2023.
24 January 2024	Ship for World Youth (SWY)	Departing Auckland	The New Zealand delegation departs Auckland to participate in the SWY programme, which sponsored by the Government of Japan.
18-22 March 2024	Waka Ama Secondary Schools Nationals	Lake Tikitapu, Bay of Plenty	The Waka Ama Secondary Schools Nationals is held over four days with over 100 schools from across New Zealand.
20-23 March 2024	ASB Polyfest	Manukau, Auckland	The Auckland Secondary Schools' Māori and Pacific Island Cultural Festival.
19-21 April 2024	Halberg Games	Auckland	A three-day national sports festival open to young people with a physical or visual impairment.
April 2024	Aotearoa Youth Declaration	Auckland CBD	UN Youth's Annual civics conference, debate about issues facing Aotearoa New Zealand, and signing of a declaration document that highlights priorities for young people.
20-26 May 2024	Youth Week	Nationwide	An annual event that aims to amplify young people's valuable contributions to their communities.
17 May 2024	Pink Shirt Day	Nationwide	Promoted across schools, workplaces, and communities to stop bullying by celebrating diversity and promoting kindness and inclusiveness.
June 2024	National Schools' Pride Week	Nationwide	A week of activities that support rainbow young people, led by InsideOUT Kōaro.

