



Te Rautaki Taiohi o Waimakariri

WYC
WAIMAKARIRI YOUTH COUNCIL

YOUTH STRATEGY



WAIMAKARIRI
DISTRICT COUNCIL

FOREWORD

Letter from Youth Council

This strategy is the revision of the original work that was completed in 2010. A lot has changed in the past eight years. There was a major earthquake which has led to a dramatic increase in growth in the District, new infrastructure from the rebuild, and new stresses for young people. In light of this, the Waimakariri Youth Council felt that updating the strategy would provide a great deal of value for young people and the Council itself.

Young people represent the future of the District. This strategy aims to capture their perspectives and needs in a concise form. Investing in youth will help them prepare for the challenges that life brings; and the Waimakariri District Council has a part to play in this development. The Youth Council aims to act as the link between the Council and the District's young people. In constructing the strategy we hoped to create a document which gives direction to the Council and guide

their policies. The Council's policies provide the support and services to give opportunities and foster growth for youth.

The foundation for the strategy was a survey of youth in the District. Ultimately over 400 young people from the ages of 12 to 24 filled out the survey, highlighting which services they had used, what they wanted to see in the District and key issues for the future. It also showed how, given the opportunity and in the right format, young people want to engage in civic matters and can bring fresh ideas and energy to this area. The strategy is, therefore, one written by young people, capturing their viewpoints and will reflect what is of greatest importance for them.

Four key themes are presented in this strategy which arose from the results of the youth survey. These are: **Connection with Community; Involvement and Action; Developing Young People; Locations and Services.** These four

areas are interconnected with our overarching vision for the strategy and represent four main ways that the Council can look to develop the young people of the Waimakariri.

The Youth Council would like to acknowledge the support Waimakariri District Council has provided. Their staff and funding have made the implementation of the survey and the creation of the strategy possible. We would like to especially mention the late Peter Allen, his championing for young people lead to the creation of a Youth Council and this document is just another small part of his legacy.

- **Waimakariri Youth Council,**
October 2018



Letter from The Council Appointees

We, the three Council appointees to the Waimakariri Youth Council, commend the Youth Council for this revision of Te Rautaki Taiohi o Waimakariri / the Waimakariri Youth Strategy.

With the large number of young people in our District, the Youth Council plays an important role in giving voice the aspirations, views and concerns of Waimakariri youth to the wider community and to the District Council. This strategy provides context and helps guide both councils.

We are particularly impressed by the way the Youth Council went out to their peers to help bring the Strategy together. In this, they showed that they are already attuned to one of their key themes, Connection with Community.

We wish the Waimakariri Youth Council all the best as it moves into the future using this excellent strategy as its guide.



David Ayers
Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Ayers".



Dan Gordon
Councillor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Gordon".



Kirstyn Barnett
Councillor

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kirstyn Barnett".

OUR VISION

A District where young people are engaged and connected to a community that values and supports them. Where young people have opportunities to grow, develop and get excited about the future.

WHY HAVE A STRATEGY?

As of 2013, there were 7,917 young people aged 12-24 years old living in the Waimakariri District (approximately 16% of the total population). This figure stands to rise as the District continues to have rapid growth post-earthquake. These young people add to the vibrancy and diversity of the District and will make up it's future population. They are valuable members of society and deserve to have a voice about their future.

The environment in which young people develop plays a large role in shaping their identity as adults. Investing in youth will both benefit the District's young people directly and the community as a whole as they interact with them. It is in everyone's best interests to support young people and provide the opportunities to give them a fulfilling future.

New challenges face young people of every generation, and updating the

strategy acknowledges that there are new issues and opportunities to confront. Since the 2011 earthquake, there has been fresh attention for supporting good mental health, and this is but one of many new topics this strategy wishes to highlight. Creating a document that addresses these topics, with information gathered from young people and writing it with a large input from young people, produces invaluable material to guide the Waimakariri District Council's decision making on issues affecting youth.

This Youth Development Strategy aims to deliver the purpose set out in our vision: *A District where young people are engaged and connected to a community that values and supports them. Where young people have opportunities to grow, develop and get excited about the future.* By identifying clear goals, it outlines ways Waimakariri District Council can begin to achieve this vision.





Waimakariri Youth Population

The Waimakariri has

7,917

young people aged

12-24

Which is...

16%

Of the Total District Population



Expected Youth Population

The youth population is expected to continue rising over the next ten years and beyond.



Employment Levels/Statistics

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



Staying in the District

The Waimakariri has a significant number of 20-24 year olds who leave the District



Education Levels of Young People

The Waimakariri has

26 SCHOOLS including two secondary schools, three special character schools, one young parents college, and two schools covering years 1-13.

Students in the Waimakariri are slightly more likely to achieve NCEA levels 1 & 2, but slightly less likely to achieve NCEA level 3 than the NZ average.



House prices in the District

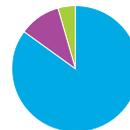
House prices in the Waimakariri are rising and in September 2018 the average house price was \$445,973

Population Breakdown

Waimakariri young people are:



- 53% male
- 47% female



- 92% European
- 11.3% Maori
- 4.6% Other

Note: statistics largely gathered from local census data (2013)

WHAT WE DID

Once it had been decided that a review of the Youth Development Strategy (2010) was required, the Waimakariri Youth Council got to work drafting some questions for a survey to go out to the young people of the District. In line with the six principles of youth development, the team was keen to get the youth voice into the picture from the very start and, after consulting with a number of local experts on the content and style, their survey was released to the general public. Over the next month the team embarked on a campaign to get as many responses as possible from a wide range of young people. They went into schools, talked to local employers, worked with youth workers, counsellors and the local youth network, bringing in a total of 408 responses. These responses helped to inform the goals, vision and ultimate direction of the youth strategy.

At the same time the team were working

on other details for the Strategy. They undertook research into other youth strategies from around the country, both near and far, as well as the previous youth strategy from the Waimakariri District. Through this process they were able to identify four themes which they thought would cover the key areas of importance for young people in the District. The four themes include: Connection with Community; Involvement and Action; Locations and Services; Developing Young People.

The next steps for the Youth Council was to form a vision, and expand on the four themes, providing goals, identifying key issues and needs and suggesting next steps for the District in these areas. Once this work was completed the team worked alongside Council to pull together an appealing, easily accessible design which you hold in your hands today. It was a long but fulfilling process and the team is

really pleased with the final product. The hard work, time and energy was worth it to provide a robust, relevant and easy to access youth strategy for the Waimakariri.

6 PRINCIPLES OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

- 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.**



CONNECTION
WITH COMMUNITY



INVOLVEMENT
AND ACTION



DEVELOPING
YOUNG PEOPLE



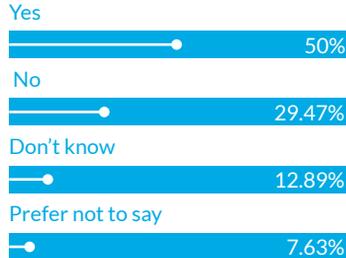
LOCATIONS
AND SERVICES



YOUTH SURVEY STATISTICS



Have you ever struggled with your personal mental health?



Has someone you know ever struggled with their mental health?



How easy is it for a young person to get a job in the Waimakariri?

3.5/10 (on average)



How much do you think the local Council values your opinion?

4.5/10 (on average)



How connected do you feel with your local community?

4.75/10 (on average)

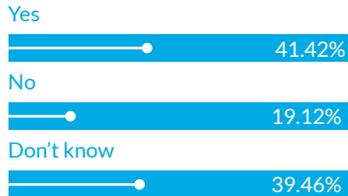


How easy is it for young people to access important services in the Waimakariri?

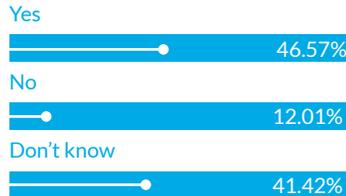
5.5/10 (on average)



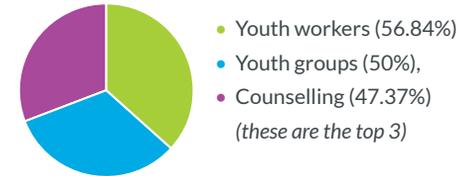
Are there opportunities for young people to have leadership roles in the Waimakariri?



Are there opportunities for young people to gain new skills in the Waimakariri?



Which of the following do you think provide the best support for young people?



WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE BIGGEST ISSUES FACING YOUNG PEOPLE:

Bullying, drugs and alcohol were identified as the top 3 issues

WHEN ASKED ABOUT THEIR OWN PERSONAL STRUGGLE:

Stress, self-esteem and bullying came out on top



DEVELOPING YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people have many talents and should be invested in. Upskilling youth allows them to maximise their potential and live a fulfilling life.

Having opportunities for young people to develop and improve their mental/emotional/physical/social lives and health

facilitates a positive future for the District and good pathways for the development of our young people.

Having well-rounded, passionate individuals prepared for leadership is valuable for both the present and future of the Waimakariri District.





GOAL

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THE SUPPORT AND OPPORTUNITY TO GROW, DEVELOP AND MAXIMISE THEIR POTENTIAL.

OBJECTIVES

- Actively support and encourage initiatives that develop young people's skills and strengths; especially self-worth, decision-making, good relationships, resilience, positive mental health, life-skills and leadership.
- Facilitate a strong network of youth services with good lines of communication and collaboration to ensure all young people have the opportunity to grow, develop and get the help and support they need.
- Support young people to be in education and employment, giving them the tools and incentives to develop, grow and pursue their goals.



CONNECTION WITH COMMUNITY

Being integrated into their local community gives young people a sense that they are valued and that they belong. These are important mental and emotional needs and contribute towards young people living healthy and happy lives.

Connection to the community through voluntary work and participation in sports and other clubs enables youth to add value to their community.

Supporting the development of these connections will facilitate positive outcomes for our young people and create more vibrant communities.





GOAL

YOUNG PEOPLE ARE CONNECTED TO THEIR COMMUNITY AND INVESTED WITH A SENSE OF BELONGING.

OBJECTIVES

- Support existing initiatives that build positive relationships and connections with young people.
- Provide new opportunities for young people to connect positively with their community in meaningful, practical ways.
- Foster an accepting, supportive and healthy youth culture through the provision of youth-led, youth-focussed community events and initiatives.
- Encourage the celebration and nurture of young people across the community.



INVOLVEMENT AND ACTION

When they are accepted as key partners in the decision-making process youth feel valued and are more likely to have ownership of the eventual outcomes.

Enabling young people to be genuine agents of change in their community is

an important aspect of their personal development. It gives them an idea of what they can accomplish. Drawing on the talents, skills and energy of young people to get things done will benefit individuals, groups and the community as a whole.



GOAL

YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE A VOICE THAT IS VALUED AND THEY ARE PROVIDED WITH WORTHWHILE ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES.

OBJECTIVES

- Continue to support youth action groups like Youth Council and WaiYouth providing opportunities for young people to get involved and have their voice heard and acted on.
- Provide broader opportunities for a wider range of young people to get involved with decision-making and influencing change through forums, events and other forms of engagement.
- Engage, inform and encourage young people in the ways they can get involved and have their say - locally, regionally and nationally.

“We need readily available public transport from rural communities to the town centre.”



LOCATIONS AND SERVICES

Good spaces, places and services are essential in providing opportunities and reasons to continue to live, work and play in the Waimakariri District.

Having good public spaces for recreation and sport, creating robust transport systems and services, and working on the upkeep and maintenance of our local environment all contribute towards making the District a quality place for young people.

Building and strengthening our locations and services gives young people the chance to live their best lives, and gives them an appreciation of their local community and environment.





GOAL

**SPACES, PLACES AND SERVICES
ARE CREATED AND MAINTAINED
FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO ENJOY.**

OBJECTIVES

- Provide a range of public spaces and facilities for young people to use.
- Invest in transport systems and networks that support young people's movement around the District.
- Work to maintain, conserve and promote our local natural environment, and encourage the active participation of young people in this effort.

"I love the Waimakariri District as a home."

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As we move toward the implementation of this Strategy we would like to acknowledge the various Community groups, organisations and individuals who support this important work.

We would also like to thank Rata Foundation, Creative Communities and those local businesses who contribute to resourcing youth-led initiatives in the Waimakariri District.





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Go to waimakariri.govt.nz/community/youth-development to find out more about youth development in the Waimakariri District



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