



Youth (Taiohi) Policy 2006-2011

OBJECTIVE

To empower and celebrate youth

HAURAKI DISTRICT'S VISION STATEMENT

Hauraki District Council's Mission

To ensure the successful ...

- Provision of services and facilities
- Advocacy on behalf of the community; and
- Use and management of resources

... for all who live in or visit the Hauraki District

Hauraki District Council's Visions for the Future

- A range of services and facilities meeting the community's needs and realistic expectations;
- A positive climate which encourages balanced and sustained growth throughout the district;
- An environment which encourages vibrant communities and an enhanced quality of life;
- The wise use and management of all resources for the continued benefit of the district;
- A proactive Council that provides leadership, is results orientated and communicates effectively with all sectors of the community.

YOUTH POLICY VISION STATEMENT

Hauraki is a District where young people are optimistic, and are supported and encouraged to take up challenges to contribute to a growing vibrant District.

WHY HAVE A YOUTH POLICY?

Young people have an immeasurable amount of talent and energy in which to contribute to the quality of life of Hauraki District. This energy and talent is great and highly valued by both the council and the community, but in many cases it is not always strongly evident, and there is the potential for it to be expanded, and for youth to participate more and have more of a say in the future of the community.

The Community Outcomes process undertaken during 2005 emphasises this and has highlighted the need to increase the focus of Council on youth.

The most applicable outcome to youth was:

Our Hauraki youth be provided with greater opportunities to participate in the decision-making processes pertaining to the development of our communities.

How the community wants to see progress:

- We support the wider community and organisations to encourage and engage youth to actively participate;
- We need to understand, identify and address specific issues relating to our youth.

As a precursor to improving Councils focus, this draft policy has been prepared. This policy will provide the basis to:

- engage young people within the district and to ensure that the voices and needs of youth are heard;
- propose actions, initiatives and strategies;
- provide an avenue for Council to support positive youth development;
- help young people be seen as a resource rather than a problem
- provide an avenue for youth involvement in Council decision making processes, as well as informing youth of Council's commitment towards the young people of Hauraki;
- help Council be proactive, encouraging, guiding, engaging and
- provide reasoning for Council to invest in youth

THE PURPOSE OF THIS POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to inform the youth of Hauraki, of Hauraki District Council's responsibilities and commitments towards young people in Hauraki, and to ensure young people are able to voice their views and contribute to the decision making processes of Hauraki District's development.

DEFINING YOUTH

The term "Youth" used in this Policy is to describe all young people moving through the transitional period between childhood and adulthood. It is recognised that:

- As young people are at different stages of maturity, both physically and mentally - there are no set boundaries between these stages of development;
- Young people are as diverse as any other age group, in terms of ability or disability, culture, ethnicity, family structure, gender, religious affiliation, education, sexual orientation and socio-economic position. Young people are not one homogeneous group;
- Young people face a wide variety of issues, such as accessing rights given by law, sharing responsibilities within society at large, and making more and more decisions for themselves, as they move towards adulthood;
- As diverse as young people are, there are needs, challenges and opportunities that are common across age groups, but are also unique to each age group.

Some of these needs and challenges are for Youth to:

- Feel valued;
- Be given opportunities to express themselves, to be seen and heard;
- Have their own spaces in communities;

- Have the right to live in a safe, supportive environment;
- Have access to affordable and appropriate information, services, resources, activities and facilities;
- Be recognised as valued members of the community;
- Be given real responsibilities, and real decision making opportunities;
- Have good adult role models, who have the ability and responsibility to assist, encourage and inform young people on issues that may affect them.

Social, cultural and personal perspectives are important in defining the term "young people".

For the purpose of this policy, and in keeping with the Ministry of Youth Affairs' Youth Development Strategy, youth are defined as all those between the ages of 12 to 24 years inclusive.

YOUNG PEOPLE IN CONTEXT

It is important to acknowledge the importance of family and whanau in the development, health, support and well-being of young people. Young people do not live in isolation in a community but within a family or whanau context that has immediate responsibility for their wellbeing. When addressing "youth" issues this context must be taken into account.

WHAT IS YOUTH DEVELOPMENT?

Youth Development is multi-dimensional. Youth Development is about supporting young people, and purposefully meeting youth needs in order to enable youth to meet their potential, and to become successful and responsible adults.

POLICY GUIDING DOCUMENTS

The following documents were used in the development of the policy and its principles:

Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa 2002 [IM235686]

Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa is the Strategy that was developed by the Ministry of Youth Development to help identify how government and society can support young people to develop skills and attitudes needed for them to have a positive role in society now and in the future.

The Youth Development strategy has six key principles

They are:

1. Youth development is shaped by the "big picture";
2. Youth development is about young people being connected;
3. Youth development is based on a consistent strengths-based approach;
4. Youth development happens through quality relationships;
5. Youth development is triggered when young people fully participate; and
6. Youth development needs good information.

This policy aims to reflect these six important principles for youth development.

Local Government Act 2002

Local Government Act 2002 requires Councils to consult with communities and provides for greater participation by communities in decision making. This therefore needs to include youth in consultation processes.

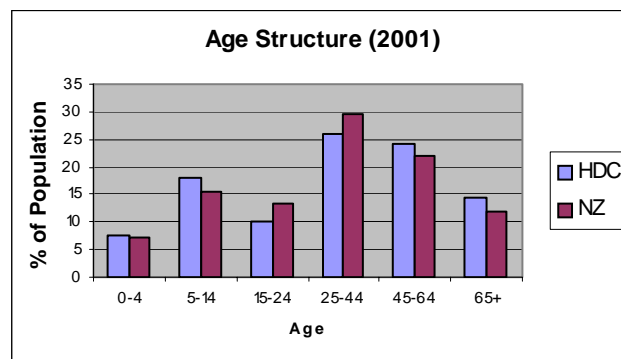
Hauraki's Community Plan 2004-2014

Hauraki's Community Plan was developed in partnership with the community and records the shared vision for Hauraki for the next 10 years - this document is in the process of considerable review. The Hauraki Community Plan 2006-16 will robustly state the communities' desires for Hauraki, including that surrounding youth development. Youth participation is therefore not only desirable, but essential for achieving Hauraki's Community Outcomes.

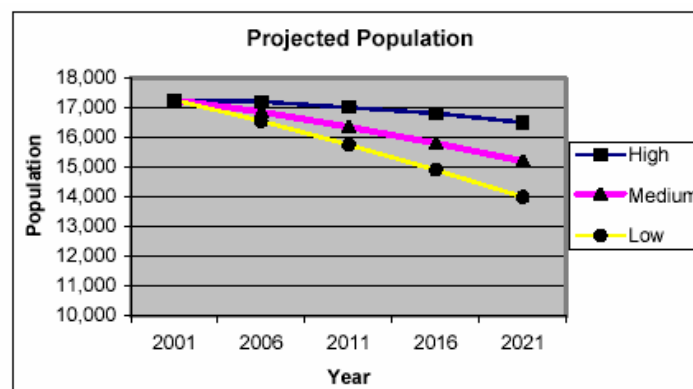
Treaty of Waitangi

The Treaty of Waitangi is honoured as the founding partnership document of New Zealand between Maori and the Crown. Hauraki District Council recognises its obligations as a treaty partner through partnership contracts with Maori in Hauraki.

Demographics - Youth Population



According to Census 2001, the total number of young people living in Hauraki between the ages of 5 and 24 had a larger proportion of its residents in the 5-14 age group when compared to New Zealand (18% compared to 15% for New Zealand).



These projections are based on trend analysis from 1996 – 2001. The 2006 census is due for release mid 2006. Council is expecting the trends to no longer be declining, but to plateau and then slowly increase. Younger couples (40~60 year age bracket) are also relocating to this district for lifestyle or business reasons.

The purpose of this policy will also help to encourage youth that are currently residing in the District to contribute towards the wider community.

MAYOR'S TASKFORCE FOR JOBS

The objectives of the MAYORS TASKFORCE for JOBS are:

- to provide a national focus of leadership on the jobs issue through co-operation between Mayors concerned about employment issues in their communities,
- to share best practice on what we can achieve on employment at the local level,
- to create local and national forums which address the "big picture" of trends on the issues of income and work,
- to link with imaginative private sector initiatives that are addressing unemployment.

PRINCIPLES

PRINCIPLE 1: YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Hauraki District Council will provide a positive environment using a strength based approach for youth development and celebrate the successes and achievements of young people.

Objectives 1.1: Participation

Youth are involved in Council and Community processes especially those processes that impact on young people.

Objective 1.2: Involvement

Youth involvement is encouraged in Council and Community projects and events.

Objective 1.3: Consultation

Youth are actively consulted in decision-making processes, particularly those that affect youth development.

Objective 1.4: Support

Opportunities are created and ongoing support provided for the development of young people.

Objective 1.5: Celebrations

Opportunities are created and supported that celebrate the achievements of young people.

PRINCIPLE 2: ADVOCACY

Hauraki District Council will support mechanisms for advocacy on issues that affect youth.

Objective 2.1: Assistance

Council will advocate on behalf of youth.

Objective 2.2: Support

Council will mediate on identified issues that affect youth.

Objective 2.3: Information

Youth are educated and informed of their rights and responsibilities.

PRINCIPLE 3: PARTNERSHIP

Hauraki District Council will collaborate with young people, their families, whanau, and relevant agencies in the co-ordination and support of youth services in the District.

Objective 3.1: Networking

Regular networking and information sharing opportunities between Council and youth service providers are promoted.

Objective 3.2: Assistance

Community youth organisations are advised on available funding and resources.

Objective 3.3: Promotion

Communities are made aware of the role of Council as a resource and voice for young people.

Objective 3.4: Connection

Relationships between Council and service providers are enhanced, to support the delivery of events and services for young people.

PRINCIPLE 4: PROVISION

Hauraki District Council will provide and support recreational, leisure, social and cultural opportunities for youth both within neighbourhoods and the main towns within the District.

Objective 4.1: Funding

Available funds are distributed for youth events and activities in Hauraki.

Objective 4.2: Access

Information on Council services, events and activities are provided and accessible for youth and their families.

Objective 4.3: Resources

Collaborative projects with other agencies and organisations are undertaken to facilitate the coordination and further development of youth services and facilities.

HOW THIS POLICY WAS MADE?

The Hauraki District Council Youth Policy was prepared in consultation with representative elected members, Hauraki Youth forums and Hauraki District Council staff focused on youth development.

The group aimed for a policy that:

- Is user-friendly;
- Is functional, a document that enables implementation;
- Identifies key roles and responsibilities in relation to the issues faced by young people;
- Is a document that acknowledges the responsibility that adults have to young people;
- Involves youth in the policy making process;
- Benefits young people.

The policy was then consulted on as part of a Special Consultative Procedure, in conjunction with the Draft Hauraki Community Plan 2006-16 Consultation.

POLICY PROCESS

ROLE OF HAURAKI DISTRICT COUNCIL

Many organisations are responsible for meeting the needs of youth in Hauraki. A collaborative approach to meeting these needs is required by central government through Hauraki District Council, the private sector and the community. It is the responsibility of Hauraki District Council to implement, monitor and evaluate the Youth Policy, which is achieved through a Three Year Action Plan coinciding with the Hauraki Community Plan.

Key roles identified for Council include:

- Co-ordination;
- Advocacy;
- Provision of services, resources and facilities;
- Promotion and information;
- Access to services, resources and facilities;
- Education;
- Consultation and participation.

GLOSSARY

1. Advocacy/Advocate

To speak, plead, or argue in favour of, or in support of an interest, cause, or belief.

Example: She is an advocate of youth rights. She supports youth rights.

2. Collaborate/Collaborative/Collaboration

To work together.

Example: We will collaborate and work with other youth organisations to provide better support for youth.

3. Community Outcomes

A collective vision of the community, of major goals, they want to see achieved.

Example: Community goals is actively supported with strategy's put in place in achieving the goal by Council, other organisations and agencies.

4. Consult/Consultation

To seek advice or information.

Example: We will consult (or seek advice) from the Police on safety issues for youth.

5. Demographics

The statistical data of human population.

Example: The demographics (or data) show that there are more females than males in Hauraki.

6. Functional

Workable and practical for intended use.

Example: This plan needs to be functional or practical in order for us to achieve our goals.

7. Homogeneous

Of the same or similar type. All the same, not unique.

Example: Youth are not homogeneous, they are not all the same. They have different interests, likes and dislikes.

8. Implement/Implementation

To carry out an idea, or task, to put a decision or plan into effect or practice.

Example: We will implement or carry out this plan by 2005.

9. Lobbying

To petition, to try to influence or sway a governing body or bodies (e.g. government, District councils) for, or on behalf of, a cause, idea, interest, or belief.

Example: The anti-smoking group will lobby the government to change the law to ban smoking in all public places.

10. Mediate/ Mediation

Occupy an intermediate or middle position or form a connecting link or stage between two other parties.

Examples: Youth requiring a negotiator with Police or education to resolve a specific issue.

11. Networking/Network

Meeting people, or group(s) with similar interests, exchanging information, contacts and experiences, for assistance and support.

Example: Networking with youth service providers is important if we want to keep in touch with people that work with youth.

12. Projections

A prediction or an estimate of something in the future based on present information and trends.

Example: New Zealand's population is projected to peak at 4.81 million people by the year 2046, after which the population is estimated to decline slowly.

13. Provision

To provide something, the act of supplying.

Example: To supply provisions to those in need, such as food, shelter, warm clothes.

14. Socio-economic

Short for "Social" and "Economic". Usually used when describing the status of a person or group in social and economic terms.

Example: Socio-economic status: Are they rich, are they poor? Are they employed or unemployed? Do they own their homes, do they rent?

15. Submit/Submission

To put forward an idea for consideration, discussion, or adoption.

Example: We will put forward a submission to Council to ask for an activity centre for young people.

16. Strategic Plan

Relating to strategy; a plan of action intended to accomplish specific goals.

Example: Our strategic plan for distributing the policy will include writing letters to interested organisations, advertising in local papers and handing out flyers.

17. Strength based

Utilising an identified talent or skill in a positive and constructive manner.

Example: Utilising artistic skills of a tagger to develop a story board (mural) with a community theme.