

Services for Young Refugees: Ministry of Youth Development

1) Services for Young People

MYD purchases Youth Development Services for young people between the ages of 12 and 24 years from providers:

- which deliver youth development opportunities for young people in order to achieve positive outcomes
- who can deliver programmes and services that help young people acquire new skills, increase their confidence and motivation, support their active participation and remove barriers to education, employment and training

The Ministry of Youth Development contributes to the well being of our country through ensuring all young people have maximum opportunities to develop and gain the attitudes, skills and knowledge required to make successful transitions to independent and responsible adulthood

Participants can gain a nationally recognised certificate of achievement and most courses also offer NZQA unit standards. Examples include practical trade skills, first aid, driver's licence, computer skills, writing, maths and how to prepare a curriculum vitae. Participants also take part in a range of activities designed to develop life skills and leadership skills such as abseiling, caving, kayaking, rafting, rock climbing, tramping and team sports.

For more information: contact your local Work and Income Office or phone MYD on 04 916 3645 or email us at mydinfo@myd.govt.nz

2) The Young New Zealanders' Challenge

The Challenge is a youth development programme for 14- 25 year olds funded by MYD and open to all young people in New Zealand, regardless of background or ability. The award is internationally recognized, develops leadership qualities, new skills and self-discipline, and is highly regarded by employers.

Young people are supported to take part in a wide range of activities that challenge and extend them, including learning new skills and sports, offering service to their communities and taking part in expeditions in New Zealand's great outdoors.

For example group of Somali girls in Wellington in early 2006 took up the challenge and through the award have had the opportunity to experience bush-walking and camping, tikanga Maori, lessons in Somali language and heritage and swimming lessons for the first time. This has led to interest from other refugee groups who are taking up the Challenge. Refugee youth groups can apply for funding to run programmes with their own young people, or young people can contact YNZC to find out where an already existing Challenge is being run.

For more information: contact Andy Woodhouse on 0800 69 29 27

3) Keepin' it real workshop

Effective youth participation is key to the success of projects involving young people and the Keepin' it Real workshop is a free one-day practical training on youth participation. The workshop is useful for a wide range of people who work with young people, including teachers, clinicians, youth workers and community leaders.

The workshops provide an interactive training that explores and explains the benefits of effective youth participation. Participants develop an action plan for applying youth participation to their own projects throughout the course of the training workshop.

For more information: contact MYD on 04 916 3645 and ask to speak to one of our youth participation advisors or email us at mydinfo@myd.govt.nz

4) Youth Development Partnership Fund

The Youth Development Partnership Fund is open to territorial authorities (TAs) only, who can apply to MYD for funding for projects which benefit local young people and demonstrate a positive youth development approach.

Councils interested in initiatives involving refugee young people are encouraged to apply.

For more information: visit our website at www.myd.govt.nz

5) Activate Youth Advisory Group

Activate is the youth advisory group for the Ministry of Youth Development. Activate's role is to:

- inform the Government on youth issues and opinions
- provide youth input and advice to MYD and the Minister of Youth Affairs
- develop communication channels between young people and government.

The group currently contain 13 young people aged between 15 – 22 years old. Members develop leadership and team-building skills as well as having the opportunity to bring to the attention of government issues that they are passionate about. Some of their recent accomplishments are:

- Presented oral submissions to select committees
- Developed an implemented a national post card campaign to canvas young people's views on the youth minimum wage issue

Many of the Activate members have not have been in any leadership positions. This makes it ideal for young people who have leadership potential and issues they are passionate about, but are only recently arrived in the country, like refugees.

The Activate group is only active in Wellington at the moment, but plans are underway to develop a national youth representation mechanism start Youth Advisory Groups in all the major centres.

For more information: contact MYD on 04 916 3645 and ask to speak to one of our youth participation advisors or email us at mydinfo@myd.govt.nz

8) PROVOKE

PROVOKE is a national project with over 450 young people involved as youth voice advocates, they are the central players in PROVOKE, and are aged between 14 to 18 years of age.

Youth voice advocates receive three newsletters, a series of action guides to provide them with ideas and ways to get heard and make a difference, emails alerting them of opportunities they can get involved in, training workshops and an online discussion forum.

The second newsletter for PROVOKE was focused on International days and Awareness weeks, with an article on World Refugee Day and suggestions on what youth voice advocates can do on this day, for example holding a mufti day at their school and donating the money to RMS Refugee Resettlement.