

Nelson - Tasman *Connections*

Tuesday 31 March 2026, 10.30am
Sport Tasman Boardroom

Meeting Minutes

Present

Luke Shaw (Tasman District Council), Debra Bradley (Writing for Councils), Suzie Shaw (Health Action Trust), Paul McConachie (Nelson Tasman Youth Workers Collective), Katrina Schmahl Taylor (Nelson City Council), Amy Caulks (Nelson City Council), Robyn Fenselau (Nelson Bays Primary Health), Jess van Arendonk (Whanake Youth), Uzma Gull (Red Cross), Kate Gloeggler (Canoe Wilderness Trust), Amy Thompson (Health Action Trust), Heather Smith (Nelson Bays Primary Health), Ihaia Stretch (Te Kotahi o Te Taihū Charitable Trust), Josie, Rochelle Scott (Choices NZ), Robz Jones (Mentored By Nature), Renee Hamilton (Nelson Bays Primary Health), Hilary Genet (Public Health), Darney Takao (Te Kotahi o Te Taihū Charitable Trust), Melessa Winslade (Koha Kite Aroha)

Apologies Saskia Walsh (NMIT)

Notices

- Suzie (HAT) highlighted Mangenta is running a youth space on Tuesdays between 3-5pm.
- Kate (Canoe Wilderness Trust) highlighted that they offer funded canoe journey's.

Ihaia Stretch & Darney Takao | Te Kotahi o Te Taihū Charitable Trust

- Ihaia is the Kaiārahi rangatahi navigator and has been tasked with putting young people into jobs.
- Whakatipu Tū programme runs for 12 weeks and is focused on building confidence, life skills, and real-world readiness for employment, training, and further education.
- It is based off a Youth Employability programme Ihaia was running previously through Marlborough Youth Trust.
- The programme targets rangatahi, aged 15-24 years. It is primary for Maori and Pacifica, but also open to tau iwi that are in need of assistance. Participants must be NEET (not in education, employment or Training).
- Qualifications and courses are offered as part of the programme, including drivers license, first aid, and L2 Foundations.
- Rangatahi come up with their own personal goals and a plan to help them achieve this.
- Volunteering and work placements including apprenticeships are set up to provide rangatahi with experiences.

- Confidence building is a key outcome of the programme.
- There are currently 30 people signed on. Of this cohort, 10 are now in paid employment and 5 are back in study.
- To find out more or to sign up, complete the self referral form on Te Kotahi o Te Taihū website.
- Darney provided an overview of some of the other Te Kotahi o Te Taihū services available to the community;
 - Emergency Management – shipping containers are now situated on each marae with emergency supplies. Solar panels have been installed and a safe water supply secured.
 - Social Supermarket - stocked with essentials and available to anyone. Need to show a genuine need for support and access wrap around services to qualify. AI tools are integrated to generate recipes for the grocery items selected.
 - School Lunches –this contract was taken over from an iwi partner who could not deliver the services any longer and was in danger of being removed completely from local schools.
 - ACC navigator
 - Drivers licensing

Debra Bradley and Paul McConachie | Nelson Tasman Youth Workers Collective

- Paul provided a short overview of the Strengthening the Youth Sector Project including activities undertaken so far. He highlighted that a considerable amount of data and research had been collected from the sector and this was being used to create a ‘state of the youth sector’ report and accompanying action plan to address youth sector inefficiencies.
- Debra highlighted the changes that had been made in response to the input provided at the February Connections Hui. An adjustment to the plan has been to slow down the process and make it more representative of the youth sector. Key tasks and timeframes include;
 - Late April to late May: Informal engagement with the sector to consider the report and provide ideas for the action plan.
 - End of June: Draft action plan.
 - 21 July to 11 August: Consultation on the draft action plan with the sector and wider public.
 - End of September: Finalise the report and action plan.
- Debra also highlighted a broadening of the scope of the report. The first draft of the report focused heavily on mental health. The updated version covers a broader range of topics including education, employment, housing, transport, safety, and cultural identity.
- Additionally, there is now a narrower scope to the project. The updated report makes it clearer that the scope of the project is the youth sector, not young people directly. Of course, young people will benefit when the sector is stronger and more connected.

- More information on these topics have come from the original feedback submitted by the sector, the establishment group and their colleagues, along with additional source documents.
- Changes to the report include;
 - Context
 - More data is included to provide an overview of who young people are in Nelson Tasman.
 - What's Happening for Young People
 - Mental health and wellbeing
 - Education and school engagement
 - Employment pathways
 - Housing, transport and access to services
 - Safety and belonging
 - Cultural identity and environmental connection
 - Substance use
 - Pressures Facing the Youth Sector
 - Stretched mental health services
 - Funding pressures
 - Demands on youth workers
 - Barriers to coordination
 - Strengths to Build On
 - Diverse services making a difference
 - Strong networks and professional development
 - Collaborative initiatives
 - Cultural and environmental initiatives
 - Other positive trends
 - Gaps
 - It's not always obvious who to contact for help.
 - It's hard to keep up with what everyone else is doing when you're busy.
 - It's difficult to provide hard data when working relationally.
 - Three Ideas to Strengthen the Sector – For discussion, not final decisions
 1. Interactive directory
 - Enhance the search functionality of the existing Youth Services Directory
 2. Shared picture of youth sector programmes
 - Make it easier to know what others are doing
 - Spot opportunities to collaborate or avoid duplication
 - Consider what programme details organisations will want to share
 3. Report on the outcomes of youth work
 - Assessing the impact of youth services
 - Methodology of valuing relationship
 - Doesn't replace the stories or qualitative stuff, but gives strength to reporting, on both a regional and organizational level
 - reduces administration and reporting

- Hands for Impact process
- Co-designing the engagement process. The group were asked to discuss in pairs; “What would make it easy for you to take part in the engagement process?”. Responses included;
 - “Making it accessible and easy as possible, disruptions to workplace.
 - “A really good form, good questions to get answers you need”
 - “Having options for those that prefer in person consultation”
 - “Online survey that is easily accessible. Layout not as important as long as it the wording makes sense”
 - “Integration of an accessible online portal”
 - “Not having compulsory questions”
 - “Having multiple choices questions, with an example included. Also having an auto save option to allow for reflection and to return and complete”.
 - “Online survey with open ended questions. Have recommendations to promote collaborative discussion with team to feedback collectively”
 - “Don’t dismiss the power of in person korero, as this keeps it human”
 - “Choices, giving people options. Some mechanisms that work for some do not always work for others. A lot of information is already out there, so provide some context around this”
 - “Combination of online, and in person. Survey’s can lose richness, so give people choice to engage in person”
 - “Wananga, with kai is a good way to get people along and engaged”
 - “First time engagement should be face to face, then re engagement via email”
 - “Combination of email, survey and hui.”

Katrina Schmahl Taylor | Nelson City Council

- Katrina facilitated a session about youth housing, continuing the korero started in September and November last year.
- She explained the purpose of today’s korero was not to rehash, but to summarise what was discussed. A summary of issues, where they got to for including potential solutions and what can be done to address issues surfaced is to be presented.
- She reminded the group that Nelson City Council is not in the business of building housing but have ‘levers’ that can pull to support this issue.
- Katrina reiterated that youth housing is complex, with multiple issues, such as mental health and neuro diversity. Housing stability for young people is key, as it gives them a stable platform to get into employment, independence, and identity.
- She explained that the most acute housing gap is for 16–18-year-olds and that there are risks and issues with under 18’s around duty of care, safeguarding, what the alternative are.

- There are limitations in respect to emergency housing options. These generally require a referral with certain requirements being met. There are limited short term or transitional options, and they are at capacity or have waitlists.
- Katrina then asked the group to provide feedback on ‘what you are hearing/observing in relation to youth housing vulnerability? Responses included.
 - “Not aware of it if my line of work”
 - “I’m seeing a bit of it in my role as a HIP. Mainly from vulnerable females, coming from broken relationships, running away from home and sleeping rough (under bridges). We don’t capture numbers, but I can think of 4-5 people over the last couple of years in a chronic cycle of homelessness”.
 - “Coming from a school perspective, there are 15-16 year olds who have conflict with family values then go to live independently. Schools will have insights and statistics on this”.
 - “Some young people don’t want to be at home, can’t deal with what’s happening at home, have been kicked out for being LGBT. Also rural people can’t get a job, live too far away, then couch surf. There has been half a dozen in past year alone.”
 - “Just today, there was a young person who dropped off their bags with us as they had left their home that they considered to be unsafe”.
 - “There is a bit of couch surfing going on, with some young people in a pattern of moving between home and friends’ places in response to fractured relationships with whanau. This situation often improves, and they return home, only for the relationship to breakdown and the couch surfing cycle continues”
 - “Young females moving into Franklin village is not considered a safe option”
 - “I have noticed young people’s resilience being acute, meaning that they take ownership of looking after themselves and removing themselves from unsafe home situations.”
- Possible Idea’s/solutions include;
 1. **Broker** to connect need to existing housing, such as relationships with private landlords.
 2. **Navigator/Connector** (link between youth providers and agencies/info/funding to access housing). Better coordination of existing services. How can we work together to better support young people who need help? Connect with other agencies to find suitable housing solutions for young people. Or linking young people to the resources and support to assist them find accommodation, such as Youth Services, Nelson Tasman Housing Trust, MSD.
 3. **Emergency housing supply** (crisis → transition) – do we simply need an increase in the number of emergency housing options for young people that agencies who support them can get them into when the need arises? What options already exist (rather than building new)?

4. **Supported lodging with wraparound support** (Pathways/Gateway model) – again there isn't funding for new homes but how can those in need be connected to suitable housing. This model has recently been established in Christchurch, with Dr Sue Bagshaw instrumental in developing a facility to support vulnerable young people.

- The group were then asked to vote, using coloured stickers, on which solutions they saw as most favourable (red – 1st priority, blue – 2nd priority).
- The voting exercise indicated strong support for Emergency Housing (6 red/2 blue) and Supported lodging (6 red/2 blue), and Youth Housing Connector/Navigator (9 blue).

Meeting closed at 12.18pm