

Wairarapa Rangatahi

Development Strategy 2016 – 2021

Masterton and Carterton District Councils
June 2016

Strategy Ownership

The Wairarapa Rangatahi Development Strategy 2016 – 2021 (WRDS) was developed by the Wairarapa District Councils of Carterton and Masterton. It outlines the way in which the Councils will work together to improve and integrate their work for rangatahi¹. Discussions continue with the South Wairarapa District Council on their participation in the strategy. The WRDS is informed by each of the Council's Long Term Plans, other local development plans and relates to young people aged 12 – 24 years.

Introduction

New Zealand/Aotearoa communities are rapidly changing. Today, 15.2% of the Wairarapa population is aged between 12 – 24 years. Wairarapa rangatahi sit within a context of an aging population as well as lower than national average rates of education employment and incomes. The large geographical area and small overall population also affects how rangatahi are dispersed and their access to services and opportunities.

The WRDS has been developed to reaffirm the Carterton and Masterton District Councils' commitment to rangatahi and outline the ways in which the Councils will work together. In particular the WRDS focuses on strengthening rangatahi voice and supporting rangatahi potential. It outlines a strategy for District Councils to work together with the rangatahi development and services sector to maximise their community development, funding and partnership resources for the benefit of rangatahi.

Masterton Mayor Lyn Patterson is confident the rangatahi strategy will benefit both the region's young people and the region itself. Wairarapa is growing fast and our skills base needs to grow with it. This strategy will not only enable us to meet the developing needs of our region but bring rangatahi with us on the journey to prosperity. People are at the heart of any successful community and empowering our rangatahi to develop their skills can only bring benefit to the Wairarapa. We want to inspire our young people to reach their full potential, and this strategy will be an important part of that.

Carterton Mayor John Booth explains the importance of developing Wairarapa's framework around rangatahi. "With an ageing population it has never been as important than now, to put a strategy in place to develop and strengthen youth opportunities within the Wairarapa. Providing "youth to work" programmes, and educating local employers and councils to support youth related opportunities could help retain our rangatahi and provide a future workforce for our region. We need our rangatahi, and should endeavour to look at all possible strategies which would aide successful outcomes for their future."

¹ Rangatahi translates as: to be young, younger generation and youth <http://maoridictionary.co.nz/search>. In the context of this strategy it is used to describe youth and young people. Maori is one of three official languages of Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Background

Wairarapa Rangatahi Development Strategy 2016 - 2021

The Wairarapa Rangatahi Development Strategy (WRDS), was developed by:

- A peer review of the original Wairarapa Youth Development Strategy (WYDS) 2012-14
- A review meeting of WYDS 2012-14 with local stakeholders in August 2015
- Community consultation with local stakeholders February – April 2016
- Meetings between Wairarapa District Council Officers to discuss strategy scope and actions

See [Acknowledgements](#) and [Appendix one: Summary of rangatahi development community consultation](#) for more detail.

Strategy Focus

The original WYDS 2012-14 was intended as a Wairarapa wide strategy. For more information on how this was developed see [Appendix two: Wairarapa Youth Development Strategy 2012-14](#). However, as it was not formally adopted by all Wairarapa District Councils the strategy was not resourced, implemented or monitored. The key focus of the WRDS is for the Wairarapa District Councils to work together more closely to build their capability for rangatahi development for the benefit of rangatahi across the Wairarapa District Councils.

Rangatahi Involvement

Rangatahi from across the Wairarapa District were involved in the development of the original strategy and as the WRDS 2016-21 has retained the higher-level principles from the original strategy, rangatahi have been re-consulted through the Wairarapa Youth Council and Rangatahi Tu Rangatira. However, it is vital that rangatahi are central to the development of the actions, monitoring and evaluation of the strategy moving forward.

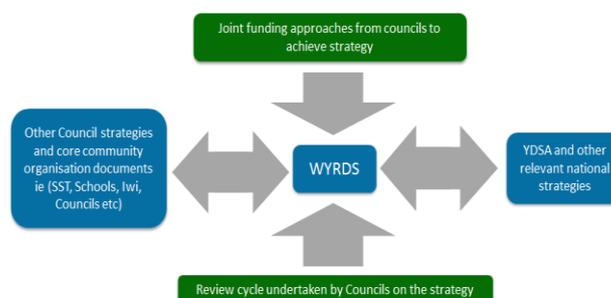
For more information on rangatahi in Wairarapa see [Appendix three: Key data on Wairarapa rangatahi](#)

Alignment with best practice and local plans

While led by the Carterton and Masterton District Councils, WRDS 2016-21 has been informed by a range of key community organisations and plans. See diagram one.

See [References](#) for full list of local plans and documents identified.

See [Appendix four: Alignment with best practice](#) for a link to best practice rangatahi development and engagement principles.



Resourcing

To be agreed on by the participating District Councils.

Review and Evaluation

All monitoring, review and evaluation of the WRDS 2016-21 will be conducted with rangatahi from the Wairarapa Youth Council and other agreed rangatahi forums and will include:

1. The participating District Councils' agreement on actions, measures and work plans
2. Regular monitoring through joint participating District Council quarterly meetings of appropriate officers, Councillors, Wairarapa Youth Council members and other rangatahi forums
3. Annual review and evaluation through Annual Plan, business plans and reporting processes
4. Final review and evaluation, including scope review in consultation with the wider rangatahi development and rangatahi services sector

Goals

Two key goals have been identified for this strategy:

1. **Strengthening Rangatahi Voice**

Rangatahi positively participate in Council and community affairs

Rangatahi are valued members of our community, and the Wairarapa District Councils are committed to ensuring their participation in the democratic process. This outcome will be achieved by actively seeking the advice, participation and meaningful engagement in civic and community affairs of rangatahi – with special consideration will be given to those not traditionally heard by Councils.

2. **Supporting Rangatahi Potential**

Wairarapa rangatahi are supported to reach their full potential and grow into vibrant, optimistic and connected adults

Rangatahi are our future citizens, and the Wairarapa District Councils are committed to ensuring that they are supported with positive environments and opportunities to reach their full potential. This outcome will be achieved through the Wairarapa District Councils sharing information and decision making in the areas of rangatahi community development, partnerships and funding. See Goals, Objectives and Actions below.

Once these have been approved by participating District Councils measures, business plans, resources and review processes and dates to be developed.

Goals	Objectives	Actions that will help achieve these objectives Note: It is assumed that <i>all</i> of these actions will be developed and reviewed with rangatahi through a range of forums
<p>Strengthening Rangatahi Voice</p> <p>Rangatahi positively participate in Council and community affairs</p>	<p>1. We know our rangatahi</p>	<p>1. Ensure all rangatahi engagement follows best national and international practise with special reference to indigenous models and research²</p> <p>2. Create or source a detailed demographic profile of rangatahi that maps the diversity of the community (ethnicity, gender, location, abilities, access etc), strengths and struggles of these communities, now and into the future</p>
	<p>2. A strong Wairarapa Youth Council (YoCo)</p>	<p>3. Review the Wairarapa Youth Council (YoCo) to identify its successes and potential to become a valued source of guidance for the Wairarapa District Councils, government agencies and community sector</p> <p>4. Resource and support YoCo to ensure their voice is politically and operationally embedded in Council and community affairs</p>
	<p>3. We listen to our rangatahi</p>	<p>5. Map the existing avenues that represent rangatahi voice and aspirations to Wairarapa decision makers³ and identify representation gaps</p> <p>6. Work with local rangatahi and Māori⁴ development organisations to create rangatahi forums to fill representation gaps</p> <p>7. Review Youth Reserve against best practice on-line rangatahi information services. Develop and resource Youth Reserve or other mediums as needed.</p>

² In particular note guidelines from Ministry of Youth Development and Te Puni Kokiri

³ For example Wairarapa Youth Council, Rangatahi Tu Rangatira, Iwi Kainga, Tuia, Wairarapa Youth Focus Network

⁴ For example Te Kotahitanga, Hauora, Kaumatua Council

	<p>4. Support and celebrate rangatahi leadership</p>	<p>8. Provide mentoring and development for rangatahi forums and the District Councils in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural competency • Good practice rangatahi engagement (for Councillors and Council officers) • Best practice rangatahi advocacy (for rangatahi) <p>9. Support Civic Engagement education for rangatahi</p> <p>10. Review Wairarapa Youth Awards to ensure they are inclusive and effectively delivered</p>
<p>Wairarapa Rangatahi Potential</p> <p>Rangatahi are supported to reach their full potential and grow into vibrant, optimistic and connected adults</p>	<p>5. Strong working relationships between Wairarapa District Councils and organisations working with rangatahi</p>	<p>11. District Councils share information and decision making with each other, about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • funding streams administered for rangatahi • facility developments/infrastructure • partnerships that support rangatahi development; <p>with the purpose of improving outcomes for rangatahi</p> <p>12. District Councils actively participate in community networks that support rangatahi development</p>
	<p>6. Rangatahi have access to safe, healthy, accessible and friendly spaces and services</p>	<p>13. District Councils consult rangatahi to identify the Wairarapa spaces, places and services that need development and collaboratively implement these</p>
	<p>7. Rangatahi have access to a range of recreation, creative, cultural, sporting and social activities</p>	<p>14. All District Council provision of recreation and cultural activities includes consultation with rangatahi</p> <p>15. Identify key current and emerging organisations that provide opportunities for rangatahi. Provide community development advice and partnerships to prioritised opportunities.</p>
	<p>8. Rangatahi successfully transition into adulthood</p>	<p>16. District Councils actively participate in the Wairarapa Education, Training and Employment (YETE) network</p>

Appendix one: Summary of rangatahi development community consultation

Peer Review

A Peer Review of the Wairarapa Youth Development Strategy (WYDS) 2012 -14 was conducted by [3R Consulting](#) in August 2015 and highlighted the need for:

- Greater youth involvement in strategy actions and evaluations
- Greater evidence of Māori, Pasifika and any other prominent ethnic minorities
- Action plan/implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the strategy
- Additional information on youth in the Wairarapa

Consultation process one: Stakeholder Review Meeting

In August 2015, Masterton District Council and Connecting Communities held an externally facilitated meeting of local stakeholders to review the outcomes of the Wairarapa Youth Development Strategy (WYDS) 2012 - 2104. The meeting was attended by 13 local government and community stakeholders.

Outcomes of the meeting included:

- General agreement amongst those present that working together in this way was important for Wairarapa youth
- Commitment to ensuring future work included a wider representation of youth, Iwi and all Territorial Authorities
- Identifying the need for a combined action plan to forward the work
- Review of the strengths and weaknesses of the current Wairarapa Youth Development Strategy
- Potential success criteria and measures for current and future strategies
- Commitment to use of Youth Development Principles in all future strategy work

This led to a decision at the Masterton District Council November 2015 meeting to update the strategy.

Consultation process two: Stakeholder consultation

Masterton District Council engaged with an Industry Expert to lead a process for reviewing the WYDS 2012 -14. Stakeholder consultation during February to April 2016 included:

- Group meetings with the Wairarapa Youth Council, Rangatahi Tu Rangatira, Wairarapa Youth Focus Network
- Individual consultation interviews with a range of individuals and organisations recommended by the District Councils and Connecting Communities (see [Acknowledgements](#) for a full list)
- A presentation of progress to the Social Sector Trials Advisory Group
- A series of meetings with Officer representatives from the three District Councils to recommend goals, objectives and potential actions moving forward

Key issues and findings identified from the consultation processes included:

- Lack of leadership, ownership, resourcing and monitoring of the current strategy
- The urgent need for a cohesive working relationship between the District Councils to ensure effective outcomes for rangatahi
- Lack of youth engagement/voice for the District Councils and in the community
- Iwi have identified lack of Māori rangatahi voice in the community
- Lack of resources for developing and supporting youth leadership within Wairarapa
- Lack of spaces and information for youth
- Central versus dispersed services and support for youth

The WRDS 2016-21 has taken these findings into account.

Appendix two: Wairarapa Youth Development Strategy 2012-14

The purpose of the first Wairarapa Youth Development Strategy (WYDS) (2012-2014) was to provide “A holistic framework for supporting the transition of Wairarapa youth towards become valued members of the Wairarapa region.” It was intended as a community wide strategy and was based on best practice outlined in the [Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa](#). It included six key goals and 31 requirements although Council endorsements, partnerships, MOUs and action plans for achieving the strategy outcomes were not developed at this stage. The strategy was jointly produced by Te Kura a Rangi Trust and the Wairarapa Workforce Development Trust through funding from the Masterton District Council.

Research and consultation for the strategy included:

- A survey of around 100 Wairarapa youth (approximately 2% of the Wairarapa youth population) conducted in 2011. Participating youth were from local secondary schools, Work and Income, a tertiary training centre, The Spot and the Wairarapa Youth Council.
- Stakeholder consultation included focus groups, hui, and interviews with local education providers, youth development agencies and government agencies.
- The final format was developed by the Wairarapa Youth Council that they felt best represented them as young people, was easy to read and allowed young people to use, understand and access it.

In 2015, Masterton District Council requested a review and updating of the strategy in consultation with local stakeholders based on best practice and using updated statistical data.

Appendix three: Key data on Wairarapa Rangatahi

Demographic data

This snapshot of Wairarapa rangatahi has been compiled using Profile ID at: <http://profile.idnz.co.nz/>

- 12-24 year olds make up 15.2% of the Wairarapa population with 8.4% of these secondary school aged. Actual numbers are 6,231
- As a total population the Wairarapa region has a population spread of 8,235 in Carterton District, 9,528 in South Wairarapa District Council and 23,352 in Masterton
- 84.9% of the region identify as European, 15.5% Māori, 2.6 Pacific and 2.1% Asian. 2.1% also identify as New Zealander. This is an above average number of European/NZ compared to the national average, and lower average number of Māori and Pacific people
- 23.6% of the Wairarapa population have no qualifications, and 31.8% have only secondary school qualifications. This is compared to 18.6% and 32.5% respectively as national averages
- Compared to New Zealand, the Wairarapa has overall a lower income per household with 31% and 28.7% of households in the bottom two quartiles (50% combined nationally)
- The top three industries in the Wairarapa are Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing (15.5%), Health Care and Social Assistance (10.1%), and Retail Trade (10%)
- Family types vary slightly from national averages at 35.4% couples with children, 16.8% one parent families and 47.8 couples without children (41.3%, 17.8% and 40.9% respectively)
- 68.2% of households have access to the internet, slightly lower than the 72.8% national average

Secondary school sport participation

	Wairarapa %	National average %
Secondary students involved in sport	72%	54%
Girls - secondary school girls involved in sport	71%	51%
Boys - secondary school boys involved in sport	72%	58%
Teachers involved in sport	30%	34%

Compiled using data from the New Zealand Secondary Sports Council a <http://www.nzsssc.org.nz/school-sport-data/nzsssc-census-reports>

“As a small region we punch above our weight when it comes to the number of regional and national champions who go on to represent the country.” Dayle Clarkson, Regional Development Manager of Sport Wairarapa

Appendix four: Alignment with best practice

The following frameworks were used in the development of the Wairarapa Youth Rangatahi Development Strategy:

Harts Ladder

Hart's ladder is an easy to use model for evaluating the level of youth participation. It was developed in 1979 by Roger Hart (Hart 1992), and has been widely used in New Zealand/Aotearoa to evaluate youth participation in the sector since. It is recommended that this model be used to measure the level of youth participation in projects and actions and in future training of Councillors, Officers and Rangatahi Council members.⁵



Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa

The [Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa](#) developed by the Ministry of Youth Affairs (2002) outlines six key principles for the development of youth. These principles have been adopted by youth strategy developers across the country and include, including both WYDS 2012-14 and WRDS 2016 -21. This approach, along with HART's ladder as an evaluation tool was also endorsed by the August 2015 community stakeholder meeting.

Acknowledgements

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Anglican Diocese
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Carterton District Council
DHB Compass Health
Masterton District Council
Masterton Medical Centre
Ministry of Education
Ngāti Kahungunu O Wairarapa
Rangitāne O Wairarapa
Rangatahi Tu Rangatira
Social Sector Trials
South Wairarapa District Council
Sport Wellington
Students Against Drunk Driving
Violence Free Network
Wairarapa Counselling Services
Wairarapa Road Safety Council
Wellington Regional Youth Worker Trust
Wairarapa Youth Council
Wairarapa Youth Focus Network
Youth Education Training Employment (YETE)
Youth Kinex

⁵ Diagram sourced from: <http://www.myd.govt.nz/documents/engagement/harts-ladder.pdf> 19 April 2016

References

The following organisations and/or associated key documents and plans were identified in the development and review of this document.

[Carterton District Council Annual Plans](#)

[Masterton District Council Annual Plans](#)

[Ngāti Kahungunu 25 Year Plan](#)

[Social Sector Trials Wairarapa Youth Action Plan 2013](#)

[South Wairarapa District Council Plans](#)

[Sport Wellington Strategic Plan 2014](#)

[Wairarapa District Health Board Annual Plan 2015/16](#)

Wairarapa – Youth Crime Action Plan

[Wairarapa REAP Strategic Direction 2013](#)

Other organisations

- Youth Education Training and Employment (YETE)
- Connecting Communities <http://www.connectingcommunities.org.nz/>
- Kinex Youth Health Clinic <https://www.facebook.com/mml.youth.clinic/>
- Safer Community Trust <http://www.waisct.org.nz/>
- Wairarapa Road Safety Council and SADD <http://www.wairsc.org.nz/>
- Violence Free Network <http://www.vfnw.org/>
- Rangitāne o Wairarapa <http://www.rangitane.iwi.nz/>
- Strengthening Families <http://www.strengtheningfamilies.govt.nz/>

Other references

Ministry of Youth Affairs January 2002, *Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa*, Ministry of Youth Affairs, Wellington. Accessed from <http://www.myd.govt.nz/documents/resources-and-reports/publications/Youth-development-strategy-aotearoa/ydsa.pdf>

Hart, Roger A, March 1992, *Children's Participation from Tokenism to Citizen Ship*, UNICEF International Child Development Centre, Italy. Accessed from https://www.unicef-irc.org/publications/pdf/childrens_participation.pdf

New Zealand Secondary School Sports Council, NZSSC Representation Census 2015. Accessed from: <http://www.nzsssc.org.nz/school-sport-data/nzsssc-census-reports>