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STANDUP  
AND BE  
HEARD.**  
AOTEAROA YOUTH  
VOICES NETWORK

 **MINISTRY OF  
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**  
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIAŪ TAHIHI  
Established by the Ministry of Social Development

**E-NEWS**  
AOTEAROA YOUTH  
VOICES NETWORK  
ONLINE  
MYD.GOV.T.NZ



## Your low-down on what is happening around NZ this June!

In this edition you will find out about:

- The Wairarapa Youth Conference
- National Volunteer Week
- Enrolling to vote
- Young people's success stories
- A survey of school services
- Get Sussed - The online reality check
- Are you that someone? - The new anti sexual violence campaign
- LaunchPad
- A secondary school sport survey

We would love to hear about youth-led initiatives happening in your communities. Contact us at [ayv@myd.govt.nz](mailto:ayv@myd.govt.nz) - your contribution to your newsletter matters to us!



Ministry of Youth Development (MYD)

## Wairarapa Youth Conference

With funding support from the Ministry of Youth Development, the Masterton District Council is hosting a Youth Council Conference on 14-15 July 2014 in Masterton.

The conference aims to inspire youth to become leaders, encourage youth to actively participate in their community and advocate for their voice to be heard.

Topics of the conference will include: connect community, leadership, communication, youth engagement, youth participation and youth parliament.

To find out more information, visit our [website](#).

Applications for this are open until 30 June. If you would like an application form email [youthteam@connectingcommunities.org.nz](mailto:youthteam@connectingcommunities.org.nz)



## Happy National Volunteer Week!

National Volunteer Week is taking place from 15-21 June 2014 with the theme of *Naku te rourou nau te rourou ka ora ai te tangata* which translates to *With your contribution and my contribution the people will live*.

[Volunteering New Zealand](#) (VNZ) have expressed the importance of youth volunteering in our communities: "We are proud to count youth among the incredible range of people who are committed to volunteering. We encourage everyone to give back to volunteers by showing them appreciation this National Volunteer Week, and saying thank you."

Visit VNZ's [website](#) and keep up with what's going on this #NVW2014.

[Zeal](#) is a not-for-profit organisation that works alongside young people for personal development in the arts, leadership and education. Read VNZ's profile on the new youth volunteer approach at Zeal [here](#) - and just in time for National Volunteer Week

As part of National Volunteer Week, we asked what you or other young people you know have been doing in your communities to help others.

We had some very inspiring feedback. AYV



member Eloise came back to us with this frank and inspiring story - here she is pictured to the right volunteering for The Cancer Society.

### **A snippet of Eloise's story**

"My favorite volunteering experience was definitely a few years ago. A few friends and I decided to fundraise for the Cancer Society's annual Relay For Life. We were ten bored teenagers, and decided to turn what would have been a monotonous collection into our own thing. With collections, most people decide to stand hopelessly and silently with a bucket, occasionally getting donations. Not us."

To read the rest, open this [link](#) in new tab!

What can you do to make a difference? Have you done any volunteering lately that you would like to share? Contact us through the AYV Facebook page or email us at: [ayv@myd.govt.nz](mailto:ayv@myd.govt.nz)

## **Enrol to vote**

The upcoming election is on 20 September this year. You can enrol online [here](#), and check that you are in the right electorate too. If you would like to enrol to vote, make sure you do this by 20 August to ensure you get your enrolment pack by election day.

**Less than half of the New Zealand population under 30 voted in the 2011 election.** [The Wireless](#) are trying to change this and with some creative and thought provoking flair too! Check out their [website!](#)

Their website has also become more interactive with their enabled commenting feature - this gives a chance to have some good banter about issues you care about.

[On the fence](#) is the new nifty web tool to remind you to not be a sheep this election! Check it out [here](#).  
Baaaaa...

[Ask Away](#) is a website where New Zealanders can ask parties questions they care about, in the lead up to the elections. Help to set the agenda for the upcoming elections [here](#).



# Young people's success stories

Ofeina Langi recently graduated from her Asia Pacific Leadership Fellowship in Hawaii. The programme has a network of 461 leaders from 53 Asia Pacific countries. She attended the Leadership Programme through her work, as Manukau Community Advisor at the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA).

Ofeina progressed her career path following the things she feels passionate about. She has moved from being a young person involved in MYD's youth participation training, to currently working with the DIA and doing great things in between.

Ofeina was the coordinator and member of the Otago Youth Collective, which MYD worked with in 2009 by providing training and mentoring to its members.

Since attending the Fellowship Programme, Ofeina has been appointed as a member of the Auckland Council's Pacific Advisory Panel, where she contributes to dealing with important issues involving the city and its people.

Melissa Lelo, MYD Regional Youth Participation Advisor says "Ofeina is a motivated young woman with the great vision and insight into making a difference for young people and communities. Not long after meeting she said "I want your job!" I believe she has the ambition to do whatever she sets her mind on achieving. I'm proud to have been part of her journey."

Ofeina plans to continue learning and having discussions about key themes she is passionate about - social enterprise, leadership and creating a community of action.

## Survey of student services

The Ministry of Education wants to know what you think about putting a whole lot of services together in schools to support students e.g. youth workers, counsellors, nurses etc.

This survey is for young people aged 12-17, currently in year 7 to 13 at school. It asks questions about where you go for help and about student services you have available at your school.

This report is part of the Prime Minister's Youth Mental Health Project (YMHP) which aims to improve mild to moderate mental health issues and better meet the needs of young people aged 12 to 19 years. More information about the YMHP can be found [here](#).

You can complete the survey [here](#).

## Get Sussed

There are lots of choices to make when it comes to planning your future in tertiary education. The decisions you make are very important and StudyLink have created an interactive tool called "Sussed", to help you figure out what things you'll need for your future studies and how you might pay for them.

To find out more about Sussed and take the [online reality check](#) to get you on your way.



## Are you that someone?

Today, a new campaign was launched by Social Development Minister Paula Bennett, aimed at helping young New Zealanders stop sexual violence.

The campaign encourages young people to identify the signs that someone may be at risk of sexual violence, and find ways to safely step in early. It will use social media to share advice and information and encourage people to think and talk about preventing sexual violence.

"That means for example recognising when someone's too wasted to give consent to sex, and speaking up on their behalf. It means checking in with your mates to see if they're OK with the attention they're getting," says Minister Bennett.

Check out the campaign at:  
[facebook.com/areyouthatsome1](https://facebook.com/areyouthatsome1) #areyouthatsome1



## LaunchPad

Got a great idea of a social enterprise?

The Department of Internal Affairs, Akina Foundation and Contact Energy have recently launched a new accelerator Programme "the Launchpad", which has been designed to take inspired business ideas and turn them into tested, investment-ready social enterprises that will have a big impact on a social or environmental problem.

With six months of intensive support and coaching, their aim is to turn 10 inspired social enterprise ideas into thriving, self-sustaining businesses.

The programme will run from October 2014 to March 2015. It will provide participants with high-quality business mentoring and coaching: theory, tools, access to networks, markets and investment; and a window into the reality of what makes a successful social entrepreneur.

Applications for the programme close on 29 June, so if you think this sounds like you make sure to get in quick! Visit their [website](#) to learn more.



## Secondary school sport survey

iTunes vouchers up for grabs! Do a quick survey about school sport/PE, whether you're into it or not.

This 10 minute survey (run by [Sport New Zealand](#)) is looking for your views about secondary school sport and PE (eg, what do you think of it?).

It's not just about team sports either, but everything from skateboarding to camping or anything else that your school has going on.

The survey information will be used to plan how to make school sport and PE better in the future.

[Click here to take part or to find out more.](#)

