

Memorandum of Understanding:

The Mayors Taskforce for Jobs & Government Partnership for Jobs

Purpose

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) sets out the nature of the relationship by which Central Government and the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) will cooperate to achieve better employment outcomes for young New Zealanders.

The Parties to the MOU will collaborate with the ambition to see all young people under the age of 25 engaged in education, training, work or other positive activity that will support their growth and development.

The Parties recognise that barriers to employment are often best addressed at a local level. They also believe that cooperation can make a significant difference to the lives and prospects of young people through the leadership of Mayors working closely alongside Central Government.

The Parties

This MOU is an agreement between the Minister of Local Government, the Minister of Employment, the Minister for Building and Construction, the Minister for Youth and the Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (the Parties), supported by officials from other Government agencies that include but is not limited to:

- The Department of Internal Affairs
- The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
- The Ministry of Social Development
- The Ministry of Youth Development
- Te Puni Kōkiri
- The Tertiary Education Commission

The MTJF is a nationwide network of most of New Zealand's Mayors governed by a core group of 17 Mayors. This MOU recognises the importance of the role Mayors play in driving local change. The role of the MTFJ, and Mayors, is that of holistic place shapers.

The MTFJ will endeavour to create a supportive environment for officials to achieve our common goals. The Parties acknowledge that there are other parties such as NGOs, iwi and businesses who play a key role in the employment of young people.

The Parties recognise that the work done by the MTFJ, and its knowledge of these areas, in particular, should be utilised by Government. Additional areas of work are possible, if the relationship between the Parties uncovers the need for increased scope.

Areas of Focus

The MTFJ has identified four key areas of work on employment issues that it wishes to focus on:

- Education, including:
 - Educational and training pathways
 - Skill gaps
 - Employer engagement
- Health, including:
 - The impact of Mental Health on employment

- The impact of drug testing on employment and user behaviour
- Driver Licensing, including:
 - Review of progress on driver licensing initiative
 - Advocacy by MTFJ; and
- Rangatahi Mentoring, including:
 - Importance of mentoring and support for young people to succeed socioeconomically
 - The role Mayors can play in mentoring or enabling mentors/mentees.

The initial focus of work with the Parties will be on supporting local initiatives to increase employment including implementation of He Poutama Rangatahi and the Provincial Growth Fund. Other agencies will be invited to contribute to the key areas of work, where they have responsibilities and expertise, such as the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education.

Context

The Government is committed to ensuring that New Zealand has a highly skilled and innovative economy that provides well-paid, meaningful and sustainable jobs. We want a high-performing economy that will deliver good jobs, decent work conditions and fair wages.

Current labour market objectives to guide policy and implementation include:

- Improvement of aggregate labour market productivity
- Creation of decent jobs
- Reduction of unemployment and under-employment across all regions, ages, ethnic and disability groups
- Higher wages across the wage distribution
- Opportunities for people to have access to lifelong learning
- Ensuring that people and workplaces are adaptive in the face of economic transitions.

The MTFJ runs advocacy projects and sets out to partner with best-practice organisations to promote the economic well-being of young people. The MTFJ mission is to:

- Advocate for the importance of education, training, employment, economic and community development
- Maximise opportunities for our young people that are future-focused and aligned with economic development
- Build knowledge, skills and relationships with on-going benefits to young people, employers, communities and the New Zealand economy.

The MTFJ is also a channel for providing employment-related information to local stakeholders, as well as providing ways to facilitate access to the right people and groups locally.

Agreement

The Parties support an integrated approach to ensure that all young people have the opportunity to grow and develop skills, including in work places, which enables them to participate fully in society. The Parties will operate in accordance with the following key assumptions:

- Young people are a key focus of this MOU especially those currently not in education, employment, or training (NEET). Particular attention will be paid to Māori, Pasifika and young people with disabilities

- Employment initiatives should form an integrated part of wider regional economic development, skill formation and labour market policies
- Central and Local Government will collaborate through productive partnerships. The partnership approach will focus on the respective strengths of Central and Local Government in pursuit of improved employment outcomes for young people
- The Parties will operate through open information exchange and identify areas for collaboration that add value and avoid duplication of effort
- Given the diversity of New Zealand's regions, flexible and adaptive approaches will be explored to meet the differing needs of young people.

Engagement

The Parties commit to establish and maintain an effective relationship based on trust, respect and openness.

The relationship will be underpinned by clear and regular information flows between the Parties. Feedback loops will be created to ensure that there are insights and lessons learnt to inform Central Government policy development as well as dissemination of best practice across the different regions.

The Parties will support the piloting of new approaches including bringing together local parties to develop innovative approaches to employment of young people. The involvement of Mayors will be sought in developing, supporting and implementing local initiatives as appropriate.

The MTFJ will assist in advising on the local knowledge or parties needed for successful stakeholder groups where possible.

The MTFJ will promote and celebrate successful collaboration, where appropriate highlighting the role that Central Government has played.

The Parties commit to regular meetings and discussions, including providing updates on the four key work areas at quarterly meetings.

The Parties will identify initial priorities and discuss key performance measures for joint initiatives, reporting on these as appropriate in the quarterly meetings.

The Parties recognise that these quarterly meetings are a valuable means to share knowledge of their respective areas at governance and operational levels.

Where relevant, updates on employment initiatives of the Parties will be summarised and jointly presented on websites to ensure there is clear and well aligned information available to a wide range of audiences.

Opportunities for joint branding will be explored where possible.

Comments made by the Mayors on any operational reports that agencies provide will be acknowledged, and where appropriate, utilised to inform future operational outcomes.

The Parties acknowledge that the role of Mayors may vary in different areas but there is a commitment to working for maximum impact and consulting as appropriate with all the relevant parties.

The Parties acknowledge that commitment to work together on employment in this MOU does not preclude participation and input to wider related work led by Central Government.

Issues outside the scope of this MOU, such as wider issues of funding of local government, will be dealt with in the appropriate forums.

Progress of the MOU will also be reported in the annual Central - Local Government Forum.

Funding

This MOU recognises that there will be opportunities to work together on joint initiatives and that in some cases it will be appropriate to discuss the potential for Parties to provide funding, while recognising that each party will need to make a determination of their own ability to fund initiatives based on policy and financial considerations.

Information and Measures

The Parties agree to monitor and report on initiatives jointly undertaken under this MOU.

Officials will work with the MTFJ Secretariat to ensure regional NEET rates (or numbers) are made available to the Parties after the release of the quarterly Household Labour Force survey results.

Officials and the MTFJ Secretariat will also discuss monitoring data and information needed to ensure that Mayors are well equipped to analyse employment dynamics in their areas. Central Government officials will also work with the MTFJ secretariat to ensure well aligned and consistent information and messaging on employment initiatives.

The Parties will share information in accordance with their obligations under the Privacy Act 1993. The Parties may share:

- Statistical information that supports initiatives under this MOU
- Personal information can be disclosed to the other party if the disclosure fits into one of the exceptions under Principle 11 of the Privacy Act 1993.



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Minister of Local Government



Max Baxter
Chair, Mayors Taskforce for Jobs
Mayor, Otorohanga District Council

17/7/2018



Hon Jenny Salesa
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17/7/2018



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17/7/2018



Hon Willie Jackson
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