



Submission to Long Term Council Community Plan

Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Our Vision – The Zero Waste of Young People

The Mayors Taskforce for Jobs requests that the youth goal of the Taskforce *“that all young people under the age of 25 should be engaged in appropriate education, training, work or other options, which will lead to long-term economic independence and well being”* be included in your Long Term Council Community Plan. Your community outcomes which underpin your plan, support this goal and your Mayor is a current member of the Taskforce.

While there has been a huge reduction in youth unemployment we know there is still much to do in our communities. We all have young people who are not connected into our communities, who engage in negative behaviour and who need to overcome enormous barriers to lead a full and positive life. As Mayors, we are determined to support and encourage all our young people through the establishment and drive for various programmes. They ensure we know where our young people go when they leave school and that we devote the necessary resources to provide for those who are struggling.

The current economic situation has seen youth unemployment rise sharply – an increase of 34% since December 2008. So our goal *“that all young people under the age of 25 should be engaged in appropriate education, training, work or other options, which will lead to long-term economic independence and well being”* is even more important now.

In addition, at the recent Prime Minister’s Job Summit, the Taskforce was asked to broaden the scope of the initiative to include communities that are disproportionately affected by the current economic situation and we are happy to do this.

Mayors know their communities extremely well and are therefore in the best position to know where the gaps are, who needs extra help, which agencies are delivering best and who needs to be around the table. It is the Mayors leadership which makes the difference – and that is what we are about – *making a difference*. As a nationwide network of Mayors, the Taskforce is a potent voice to those in Wellington. Our collective energy has enabled excellent progress on our goals thus far and we continually strive to move ahead.

At our recent Strategic Planning Meeting (Wellington, 18th February) the key message that *local solutions to local problems by local people* is the most effective way to work was reiterated. We are building resilience – Mayors are there to help. The Mayors Taskforce for Jobs can be the eyes and ears of the community with regard to young people and education, training and work and the economic health of our cities and districts.

The past year was busy and productive with one highlight being some of the wonderful projects run by young people, supported by their Mayors, during Youth Week. Other successes included:

- Commitment to providing Connections/Youth Transitions Services type programmes in all Territorial Local Authorities (TLA)
- Youth statistical information at the TLA level
- Fora around the country involving Celia Lashlie and Marcus Akuhata-Brown – available to work further in your community
- Continued growth of Mayoral led Industry Graduations.

At the recent Jobs Summit further support was gained for the Taskforce and a Memorandum of Understanding with Government. The Government is very keen for the Taskforce to be used as a conduit for projects and programmes, so we will be developing guidelines around this in the near future.

The Mayor's continued membership of the Taskforce and commitment to its goals is an integral part of the progress we strive to make in our individual communities, giving young people a belief in their abilities, encouragement to achieve and acknowledgement of their successes.

Please consider our request for the inclusion of the Taskforce goal in your plan seriously, as it will give you and government agencies the mandate to work effectively with young people to ensure all young people are making positive contributions to your community.



Jan Francis
Executive Officer
Mayors Taskforce for Jobs