

These updates aim to keep you informed about the development and progress of the Fresh Start initiatives, outlined in earlier newsletters available on our website.

Reforms 'go live'

The 'Fresh Start' youth justice legislation reforms took effect last Friday, 1 October, bringing change and exciting new opportunities to help young people get their lives on track.

As you'll be aware through these updates, a huge amount of effort has gone into making sure that we're ready to provide a 'Fresh Start for young offenders', ahead of the reforms 'go live' date. Thanks to everyone who has played a part in the development or testing of the new programmes – your expertise and input will ensure the programmes have the best chance of success in helping young offenders get their lives on track.

Innovation Fund

Once again, there was a high level of interest in the second round of the Fresh Start Innovations Fund. 74 applications were received for the fund, which aims to encourage and stimulate local innovation. The Panel noted that the standard of applications in this round was high, with a strong focus on innovation. They recommended 14 applications be supported, which included:

- > Advance Training Centres Ltd (Auckland) - to work with young Māori males to reduce offending and reconnect them with their families, culture and community. Interventions will include substance abuse counseling, career planning, life skills, mentoring, and camps and outdoor pursuit activities.
- > Canterbury Youth Development and Te Ora Hou Otautahi (Christchurch) – to help young people to re-engage in work, and reduce offending by developing individual vocational development plans and providing employment and training through micro business.
- > Challenge 2000 (Wellington) - to strengthen rangatahi, restore links to their communities, and encourage their leadership skills, through mentoring, community service, life skills and self development.
- > Family Works Central (Porirua) - a joint initiative between Family Works and Cannons Creek Opportunity Centre, to provide long term mentoring by mentors selected from the local community.
- > Family Works Wairarapa (Featherston) - a community based solution to address youth at risk, involving restorative justice whānau conferences, mentoring and support packages tailored to suit each young person's requirements.
- > Kapiti Youth Support (Kapiti) - to reduce youth offending by developing an individualised plan, that may include mentoring, substance abuse education, school and peer programme, anger management and skills training.
- > Marlborough District Council (Blenheim) - a therapeutic outdoor adventure programme that encourages young people who have disengaged from education to return to school, enter further training or work.
- > Merivale Community Centre (Tauranga) - to train and upskill whānau around Merivale to provide a network of crisis support. Each whanau's house will be identified as a "Helping home" available to assist local families and buddy-up with youth who is at risk of offending.



- > Tararua Community Youth Services (Dannevirke) - to develop a Sport and Wellness Marae based programme for young men identified with 'at risk' behaviour. A youth worker will work with the young people on goal and relationship development and career and education plans.
- > The Change Works 2006 Trust (North Shore) - to deliver the 'Living without Violence' programme to young people, using drama, music, cognitive learning, role plays and behavioural learning to improve behavioural problems and resolve issues.
- > The Wellington Boys and Girls Institute (Wellington) - for vulnerable, 'hard-to-reach', high-needs young people at risk of offending. Youth workers will work after hours in the streets of Wellington, and will provide mentoring and support, outdoor activities and marae visits.
- > YMCA Gisborne - to reintegrate young people who have been suspended or excluded, back into school or pathway them into further training. The programme includes workshops focussing on stress, anger management, conflict resolution and their relationships with authority figures.
- > YMCA New Plymouth - a mentoring programme based on an individual needs assessment and tailored specifically for the needs and strengths of each youth. Interventions offered may include professional counselling, numeracy and literacy skills and extra academic tuition.
- > YMCA Southland Education - youth worker will engage with young people and their families to create a support plan and will mentor and work with the young person to develop positive communication skills, improve self esteem, increase participation in leisure activities and explore options for the future.

Applications for the third funding round for the 2011/2012 financial year will open in February 2011. The application form and guidelines will be available on the Child, Youth and Family website early next year, or you can email freshstartapplications@cyf.govt.nz.

Preferred providers

Regional panels have now finalised the first round of successful applications for preferred provider status, as outlined below.

- > mentoring programmes
- > parenting education programmes
- > Court supervised camps
- > Community youth programmes

Applications can now be made at any time, with panels meeting on a monthly basis to review any applications received. Successful applicants will be added to the list of preferred providers, and will be contacted when a need for their services is identified.

More details about the [preferred provider selection criteria and how to apply](#) are available on our website.

Supervision with Activity and Supported Bail

The number of Supervision with Activity providers has increased from seven to 17, to broaden the national coverage of services. Similarly, the existing Supported Bail programme has been expanded to add additional places for young people, with several Supervision with Activity providers contracted to also provide supported bail services in areas that did not previously have coverage.

Hillcrest Home is a new programme run by Child, Youth and Family and modelled on Supervision with Activity programmes, combined with our Supervised Group Home framework. It will be supported by community providers, and will target at-risk males, aged between 14 and 17 years

The logo for 'FRESH START' in a large, bold, black, hand-drawn font. The background features a collage of blue and white textured paper.



old. The first young people are due to take up residence later this month. The Hillcrest facility formally housed the Te Hurihanga programme, and was transferred from the Ministry of Justice to Child, Youth and Family in July 2010.

Approval standards for Supervision with Activity programmes have been developed, and we will continue to work with providers to develop their capacity and capability against these standards.

Fresh Start implementation launch

Minister Bennett recently hosted an implementation launch event in Wellington, which was attended by local key stakeholders. It provided an overview of the services that have been developed to accommodate the legislative reforms, the work that's been done to build our capacity, and measure the performance of services and outcomes for young people.

Central to the presentation was the introduction of the Fresh Start for young offenders booklet, developed for Child, Youth and Family staff in support of the operational roll out of Fresh Start. It sets out each of our priority areas, and sets a single direction and set of expectations for our staff working in the youth justice area. It focuses on:

- > responding to community needs and expectation
- > strengthening family group conference decision making
- > actively managing family group conference plan
- > teaming up to achieve, working closely with our care and protection and residence colleagues, partner agencies, and NGO providers
- > helping create a better and brighter future for each young person, by addressing the underlying causes of their offending behaviour and engaging them in, education, training or employment
- > ensuring victims are engaged and supported in the FGC process.

If you have any queries about Fresh Start, please contact the project team on freshstart@cyf.govt.nz



FRESH START