

## Passing of the Fresh Start reforms

The Children, Young Persons and Their Families (Youth Courts Jurisdiction and Orders) Amendment Bill is likely to complete its third and final reading in Parliament next week.

## Forums

We've had a lot of interest about the regional forums, which we initially planned to run in December. Because of the level of interest, and to ease any travel requirements, we have now decided to run sessions at a more local level around the country. We are coordinating with our regional offices to determine where and when these sessions will be held, which we anticipate will be in the next four weeks, and we will give you as much notice as possible.

The intention of the forums is to let you know more about the initiatives, provide detail around the service specifications, and outline how you can be involved.

## Programme updates

### Innovation Fund

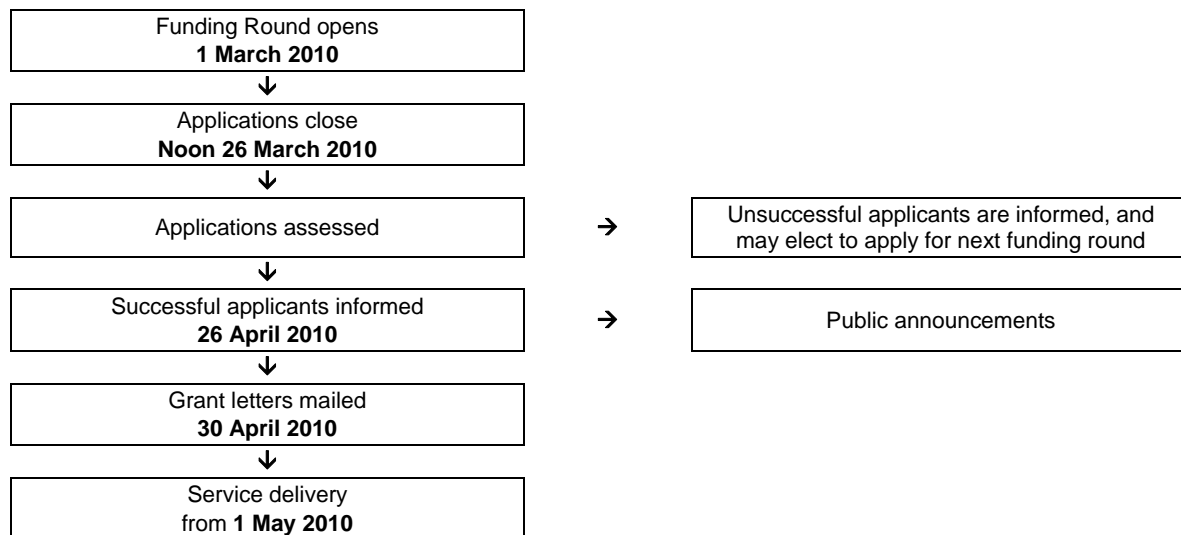
The purpose of the Innovation Fund is to encourage and stimulate communities to deliver their own promising solutions to local youth offending problems, with a particular focus on addressing the needs of Maori children and young people in the youth justice system. This is a great opportunity for providers with new ideas or who have a programme that offers a different approach.

To allow maximum flexibility, the fund will be distributed through a system of grants, with a maximum of \$100,000 pa for each grant application.

We are establishing a national selection panel, to assess the applications and recommend programmes to be funded. In making their decisions, the panel will assess:

- how well the proposal aligns with the intent of the fund
- the needs of young offenders and the community's need, including the range of existing programmes and any identified gaps in local services
- ability of the programme to show existing tangible results
- the proposal's practicality, viability, and value.

The timetable for the Innovation Fund application process for the initial round of funding is outlined below:



Application forms and guidelines and more information about the fund will be available on our website, [www.cyf.govt.nz](http://www.cyf.govt.nz), by the end of next week. We will also establish a dedicated help-line, to help with any enquiries you may have, and will send out reminders as each the deadlines mentioned above approaches.

## Mentoring, and parenting programmes

We have been working with expert focus groups to look at the mentoring and parenting programme descriptions and what services might look like. We have now finalised the service descriptions and dedicated concept testing of both the programmes will get underway in Auckland next month. The focus groups will meet again at the end of the tests to review the findings and to look at any amendments to the service descriptions.

We are also in discussion with the Youth Mentoring Network to develop options for standardised national mentor training.

## Drug and alcohol programmes

We will be using the clinical version of the Substances and Choices Scale (SACS) as the primary screen to identify alcohol and other drug issues for child and young offenders. This approach targets children and young people referred by Police or Youth Court to a youth justice coordinator for a youth justice FGC.

We met with the four residential youth alcohol and drug rehabilitation providers in December, to discuss initial service specifications, and the approach for concept testing the programme, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health. All involved have agreed to use Rongo Atea as the provider for the test, which will take place over the remainder of the 2009/10 year.

We will come back to you regarding the outcomes of the test and opportunities for the 2010/11 year.

We will continue to keep you updated through these e-newsletters, but in the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact the project team on [freshstart@cyf.govt.nz](mailto:freshstart@cyf.govt.nz), or Bernadine MacKenzie, who is leading the Fresh Start for Young Offenders project.



*A service of the Ministry of Social Development*

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FRESH START