

## Rangatahi Project

ECCT is committed to contributing to positive youth development outcomes for the regions we serve. We are developing a Rangatahi Action Plan to guide funding decisions over the next five years, to support young people aged 10 - 24 years to reach their potential.

This will be a practical strategy and action plan developed in partnership with young people across our regions. It will help us to measure the impact of our funding so that we can all see the difference being made and where more support might be needed.

Our current grant schemes and funding will not change. There is an opportunity to grow funding opportunities for youth development priorities identified through the Rangatahi Project.

### Rangatahi-led

We are seeking to partner with rangatahi to develop the action plan in a way that honours the Mana Taiohi principles for Aotearoa's youth development sector and supports whai wāhitanga, young people's participation.

The strategy will be based on what young people tell us is important to them. Key project decisions will be made with and by young people. Young people have told us so far that they want to engage locally and share their ideas, thoughts, commonalities and differences across the region. We want to explore how this can happen.

To ensure effective youth participation in decision-making throughout the project we will be:

- Involving rangatahi from the beginning to the end of the project
- Valuing diversity and support marginalised voices
- Offering real roles and relevant issues to rangatahi
- Engaging with Te Ao Māori to shape the work
- Supporting rangatahi development and leadership growth
- Ensuring safe inclusive spaces and access
- Creating timely feedback and dialogue loops to rangatahi throughout the project
- Community focused

We recognise that youth development in our communities is nurtured by local expertise within whanau, hapu, iwi and kaimahi who work with young people every day. We are committed to learning from the unique communities in our region about how they 'do' youth development and how we can help. We have a diverse region and we will connect with local communities in ways they want to engage with this project. We want the conversations, hui and opportunities which may come out of this project to be meaningful and inclusive for communities.

### Learning and changing

The project's process will be flexible so we can respond quickly to new opportunities, support innovation and try the new ideas and solutions that young people come up with as we go. The project will be influenced by the feedback from young people and communities as we go. We want to learn by doing and reflect with young people so we can innovate, learn, and adapt more fully.

If you would like to hear more about the project, please contact Emma Huxton on [rangatahi@ecct.org.nz](mailto:rangatahi@ecct.org.nz)

# Eastern & Central Community Trust: Draft Rangatahi Engagement Model

"Acknowledging mana, whai wāhitanga [participation] recognises young people as valued contributors to society, giving them space to participate, assume agency and take responsibility." (Mana Taiohi, 2019)

Young people are a priority for our communities and we want to work with them to enhance their mana. This is a draft model and we are reviewing and revising it with rangatahi and kaimahi taiohi. We believe this could lead to a Rangatahi Action Plan to guide ECCT's funding for young people aged 10-24 years.

