

ECCT RANGATAHI PROJECT:

INFORMATION SHEET FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATIONS

Purpose

This project relies on the generosity and support of those working with young people across the region championing youth wellbeing and supporting young people to reach their potential.

This information sheet provides information about the project for youth development organisations and communities who may wish to get involved.

Why

ECCT is committed to contributing to positive youth development outcomes for the regions we serve.

Our communities have told us that children and young people are key priorities. We believe in supporting communities to develop their own opportunities and solutions.

ECCT is working with rangatahi and community organisations to develop an Action Plan to guide our funding to young people over the next five years.

What is happening - Partnering with young people

Young people are leading the project, in partnership with ECCT's Board. This Regional Rangatahi Rōpu is made up of young people, aged 18-24 years, from around ECCT's rohe. The action plan will be based on what young people say is important. The engagement model can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

The Rōpu will develop the Action Plan from October 2020 to June 2021. There is also youth-led project funding of \$50,000 to give out during the project. The rōpu will decide on how the funding will be used and who it will go to during their wānanga.

This is a flexible project and membership of the rōpu may change over time as the lives of young people change. We are talking with youth workers around the region about people they know who would be interested in being on the rōpu. The rōpu will meet with the Board at significant times in the process to share their learnings and the action plan as it emerges.

Supporting local youth voices

ECCT welcomes youth development organisations, working with young people aged 10-24 years, to get in touch if they want to be involved in the action plan. There are several ways to be involved:

1. **Be part of the engagement.** Do you work with or support young people who are interested in having a voice in this project? This could include:
 - a group who could share their thoughts and ideas with the regional rōpu
 - a young person that might want to be on the regional rōpu.
2. **Connect us with the insiders.** Can you connect us with people and initiatives in your local areas? This could include introducing us to:
 - existing local youth initiatives, youth voice projects, or up and coming youth-led projects
 - groups that want to learn more about effective youth participation in decision-making
 - people running a youth worker network training or hui.
3. **Share your local knowledge.** We'd love to hear your thoughts, ideas and/or research (whether formal or informal) about your youth community. We are visiting different communities over the duration of the project and can visit you in person or meet you virtually.
4. **Tell people about ECCTs Youth-led Funding.** ECCT has funding of \$50,000 for youth-led projects. The funding will be available from November 2020 with a simple process that young people aged 10-24 years can easily access.
5. **Join the mailing list.** Email your name and email address to rangatahi@ecct.org.nz to join the mailing list. We will keep you up to speed with the journey and funding opportunities, with updates starting in November 2020.

Whose youth voices?

The action plan is for rangatahi aged 10-24 years. We are keen to ensure the diversity of young people across the region can engage with the project, and are talking with a wide range of organisations about the different youth communities they support.

Young people have been clear with us about the need to strengthen the opportunity for those rangatahi who are not heard. A common theme has been that marginalised young people feel that district wide or regional youth voice opportunities are not open to them. They have challenged us to “turn it upside down” and seek out opportunities to involve young people who are marginalised and not often heard or offered leadership opportunities.

“Get voices of people like me who don't get heard much if you really want to change things”

This aligns well with ECCT's [Funding Strategy](#) with its focus areas of Children & Young People, Māori, Families Experiencing Disadvantage, and Older People. The Rangatahi Project will ensure a strong voice of rangatahi Māori and young people experiencing disadvantage. It will ensure their ideas, experiences and priorities are at the forefront in our youth engagement processes in a way that promotes resilience, equity of access, leadership, capacity, and self-determination.

A draft Engagement Model for this work is available by clicking [here](#).

Local youth connections

Young people have told us they would like to hear about what other young people are saying and have the opportunity to give feedback and influence the regional rōpu as they make decisions. We are identifying opportunities for in-depth engagement with young people in local communities, so they are involved as they wish to across the project's duration.

In some communities, this is about supporting youth-led aspirations and opportunities for the project, to support what communities are already seeking to achieve for their young people. We are focusing on communities that fit with the priorities in ECCT's [Funding Strategy](#). In some districts, young people want to connect across many communities, and we are exploring how we can support this.

In other communities, we will be undertaking hui with groups of young people to gather information about what young people see as the important things to help them reach their potential in life. We will be working with specific groups of young people connected to youth organisations.



Buzzing after a great Rangatahi Project wananga at Pukemokimoki Marae in October are, from left: Piripi Ropitini (Nuhaka), Eastern & Central Community Trust Chair, Shelly Mitchell-Jenkins, Wiremu Rupapere (Wairarapa), Eastern & Central Community Trust General Manager, Jonathan Bell, Molly Fuauli (Levin), Jy Henare-Casford (Eketahuna)

Engagement Timeline

May - Aug 2020	Draft Youth Engagement Model shared for feedback and review. Conversations with young people about strengths, opportunities and challenges for their youth communities.
Oct 2020	Regional Rangatahi Rōpu Wananga to decide on local youth engagement. The rōpu will meet with the Board and plan how they will hear youth voices and work together with young people in local communities.
Nov - Dec 2020	Youth engagement activities to connect with local youth groups to better understand local priorities for youth development. Emerging themes will be provided to key youth development organisations for comment. Youth-led funding grants will be available.
Feb - Apr 2021	Action Plan takes shape. Engagement activities will focus on the dialogue between the rōpu and local youth groups across the region. This includes sharing ideas and experiences and ensuring feedback loops are in place. Engagement with key youth development organisation will continue around the emerging elements of the Action Plan.
May – Jun 2021	The Board and regional rōpu will meet to finalise the Action Plan.

**Timeframes may be adjusted in response to needs of young people and an uncertain COVID-19 environment.*

How to get in touch

If you want to connect with us to support local youth voices, we would love to hear from you. Please contact

Project Manager: Emma Haxton

Email rangatahi@ecct.org.nz

Web: www.ecct.org.nz/rangatahi-project

Mailing List: Email rangatahiproject@ecct.org.nz with your name and email address to be added to the mailing list.