



youth service  
ratonga taiohi

# ratonga taiohi pānui

what you need to know

Rāpare 23 Hōngongoi 2026  
Thursday 23 July 2026



MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

26 Julae – 1 Ogis

# VANUATU BISLAMA

Tokbaot klaemet jenis – Hemi tru samting  
mo yumi mas lukaotem gud laef



Talk about climate change—it is  
real, and we must look after life

TOP: Antonio Bere-Lequi Soares, Richard George, Tanna George, Taralee George, Saskia  
Kalotapu, John Kalotapu, Chris Moffat (kneeling) BELOW: Samantha Kaltonga, Elsie George,  
Emmie George and Allegriah Lava photographed at Rutland Reserve, Otautahi  
*In loving memory of Richie*

20 PACIFIC  
26 LANGUAGE  
WEEKS



Ministry for  
Pacific Peoples

# parental assistance test for 18- and 19-year-olds



## some upcoming changes for taiohi applying for a working age benefit

From 2 November, there's a change that will tighten eligibility for 18- and 19-year-olds without children applying for Jobseeker Support, Jobseeker Support Student Hardship and the equivalent Emergency Benefit (there is no change to Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment).

Young people aged 18- and 19-year-olds, and some 16- and 17-year-olds, will need to complete the Parental Assistance Test and prove:

- there's a good reason they can't rely on their parents for support, or
- their parents combined total income (before tax) is at or below the \$67,225 income limit.

The Parental Assistance Test will be rechecked if young people reapply for Jobseeker Support. They may need to complete the test each time they reapply, depending on their situation. The best outcome for young people is to be in education, training and work so they can improve their prospects.

To be eligible for a working age benefit, they'll need to demonstrate that there's a good reason why their parents can't support them – like a family breakdown.

Youth coaches will be able to support young people receiving Youth Payment or Young Parent Payment with their Parental Assistance Test by providing supporting statements on their family situation.

If young people can't get a benefit, they may still be eligible for supplementary and hardship assistance payments. MSD may also be able to help connect young people into training, education or work opportunities.



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# family reconciliation counselling

reuniting families where a breakdown has occurred



A reminder that Family Reconciliation Counselling is a service available for young people and their families where reconciliation is suitable, and everyone is willing to participate. This applies to all young people enrolled in Youth Service, including NEET taiohi.

MSD will pay for Family Reconciliation Counselling if:

- all parties are willing to participate in Family Reconciliation Counselling
- the parent/s want to have the young person return home, and
- the young person is not at risk.

Family Reconciliation Counselling services provide:

- up to a maximum of six one-hour sessions per family
- face-to-face counselling with all family members that the counselling provider deems appropriate in their professional opinion
- counselling within a timeframe that best supports the young person and their family.

If you think Family Reconciliation Counselling will help one of your taiohi contact YSSU:  
[Youth Service Support Unit | Youth Service providers](#)



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# drop-in recap: supporting taiohi into employment

missed the session or need a recap? you've come to the right place!

## what makes taiohi employable?

- Attitude & confidence
- Qualifications (foundation skills, NCEA levels, driver licence, first aid certificate, food safety certificates, barista training)
- Discussion around soft skills
- Understanding workplace expectations
- Digital skills
- Volunteering/work experience.

## talk to taiohi about the type of employment they want to explore!

When they're choosing a career, they might want to think about:

- The environment. Do they want to be outside, or in a workshop or office?
- The kind of work they like. Do they prefer working with their hands, or at a computer?
- The people. Do they like working alone, or in a team?

## support taiohi into work: programmes, products and services that can be offered

- Transition to Work Grant (TTW)
- Course Participation Assistance (CPA)
- Training Incentive Allowance (TIA)
- Flexi-Wage
- Mana in Mahi
- Limited Service Volunteer (LSV)
- Relocate for Work Support (18+)
- Industry Partnerships
- Programme Fund

If jobs aren't immediately available, think of ways you can help taiohi become more employable in the meantime



**Learn more**

[employment support | Youth Service eLearning](#)



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# upcoming drop-in sessions

drop-in to meet other youth coaches and learn about youth service

## obligations and sanctions Tuesday 28 July, 10am

Young people who receive a payment have youth activity obligations. A tool that can be used to make sure young people meet these obligations is sanctions.

In this session, we will dive into what the youth activity obligations are, and when you should consider using sanctions.

[Join the Teams meeting](#)

## incentives Tuesday 4 August, 10am

Young people who consistently attend education, complete a budgeting programme and manage their money well, or do the parenting things they've agreed to, can get weekly incentive payments.

We'll go over what the incentive payments are, how they work, and what you need to do to help young people get them.

[Join the Teams meeting](#)

## induction for new coaches Wednesday 5 August, 10am

In this drop-in session we'll cover:

- how legislation and policy determines how Youth Service operates
- the people and teams that help deliver Youth Service
- where to find information to help you in your role.

[Join the Teams meeting](#)

## full drop-in schedule

[Drop-in sessions | Youth Service providers](#)



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# realising the dreams and aspirations of youth

tau awhitia te taiohi, ka puta ki te wheiao

[providers.youthservice.govt.nz](https://providers.youthservice.govt.nz)

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