



youth service
ratonga taiohi

ratonga taiohi pānui

what you need to know

Rāpare 24 Mahuru 2026
Thursday 24 September 2026



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

27 Setema - 3 Oketopa

TE 'GANA TUVALU

Tuvalu, alofa ki tou fakavae, kae teugina
tou iloga i tau kete fai malaga



Back row — Kesia Nukulani and Siara Sam
Middle row — Kailalei Tefaiva, Liisi Papau & Puagesu Tevesi
Sitting — Teavanoa Aloseta and Aborosio Apelu
Photographed at Oāmaru

20 PACIFIC
26 LANGUAGE
WEEKS

Tuvalu, cherish your foundation,
and carry your identity along your journey



Ministry for
Pacific Peoples
Te Manatū o te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

learning for parental assistance test coming up



training for youth coaches will be rolled out from 5-22 October

Learning to support the introduction of the Parental Assistance Test for 18 and 19 year olds applying for Jobseeker Support is coming up. This is for all youth coaches – Youth Payment, Young Parent Payment and NEET.

Training will begin Monday 5 October, and will be rolled out over three weeks until Thursday 22 October.

Training will consist of two online modules and an online workshop.

Team leaders should have received an email from YSTraining@msd.govt.nz on how to book in the training sessions. If your team leader hasn't received the email, please reach out to us.

Available training sessions			
Day	Date	Session	Session
Monday	5/10/2026	11am - 1pm (Fully booked)	
Tuesday	6/10/2026	11am - 1pm	2pm - 4pm
Wednesday	7/10/2026	11am - 1pm	2pm - 4pm
Thursday	8/10/2026	11am - 1pm	2pm - 4pm
Friday	9/10/2026	11am - 1pm	
Monday	19/10/2026	11am - 1pm	
Tuesday	20/10/2026	11am - 1pm	2pm - 4pm
Wednesday	21/10/2026	11am - 1pm	2pm - 4pm
Thursday	22/10/2026	11am - 1pm	2pm - 4pm



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learning for parental assistance test coming up

training for youth coaches will be rolled out from 5-22 October



Reminder about this change

The learning is about the change from Monday 2 November, where young people will need to complete a Parental Assistance Test to be eligible for Jobseeker Support, Jobseeker Support Student Hardship or the equivalent Emergency Benefit.

The young person applying will need to prove:

- there's a good reason they can't reasonably rely on their parents for financial support (Parental Support Gap) and/or
- their parents' combined total income (before tax) is at or below the \$67,225 income limit (Parental Income Test).



Link for more info here:

[eligibility changes to Jobseeker Support | Work and Income](#)



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winter energy payment ends soon

winter energy payment ends on Thursday 1 October



Remember the Winter Energy Payment (WEP) ends on **Thursday 1 October 2026**.

Winter Energy Payment is currently being paid to young people to help them pay for costs like heating over the winter period. It is automatically paid along with their regular payments.

How the final payments work:

- Young people will get their last full Winter Energy Payment in the week starting 28 September.
- They'll get a part Winter Energy Payment (4 days' worth) in the week starting 5 October.
- The young person's first payment **without** Winter Energy Payment will be in the week starting 12 October 2026.

Use the [Check what you might get](#) tool to ensure young people are getting the correct payments.



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Karure black robin has won 2026 Bird of the Year – a first for our wee mate, taking the win with over 25,500 votes.

There were once only five karure left in the world but thanks to a mammoth conservation effort, there are now around 350-400 birds hopping about in Rekohu | the Chatham Islands.

Top ten manu:

1. **Karure, black robin – 25,610**
2. Kākāpō – 19,445
3. Kārearea, New Zealand falcon – 17,423
4. Kea – 16,511
5. Takahē – 14,511
6. Ruru, morepork – 13,923
7. Tawaki piki toka, eastern rockhopper penguin – 12,948
8. Pīwakawaka, fantail – 12,769
9. Toroa ingoingo, northern royal albatross – 12,658
10. Hoiho, yellow-eyed penguin – 11,822



Find out more info here:

[Bird of the Year | Forest & Bird](#)



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drop-in recap: youth service plans

missed the drop-in or need a recap? you're in the right place



Youth Service plans

- Youth coaches need to meet with taiohi face-to-face at least every 90 days to complete or update a Youth Service plan
- In the plan, you'll set goals, recognise strengths, identify barriers, and look at the actions which take taiohi to get to where they want to be
- You can use the Youth Service plan templates or your own one, so long as it covers the basics.

Exit plans

- Before taiohi exit Youth Service you'll need to do an exit plan with them
- It's more detailed, covering things they should know about as independent adults and reflects on their time with Youth Service
- Can't contact them? Use an uncontactable Youth Service plan to record information to help others support the young person in the future.

Helpful links

[YP/YPP youth service plan template](#)

[NEET youth service plan template](#)

[when you can't contact the young person](#)

Ensure the goals being set are **SMART**

Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timebound



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upcoming drop-in sessions

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



emergency housing activities and responsibilities

Tuesday 29 September, 10am

When a young person is in emergency housing, they have responsibilities and need set activities that they must complete before their next grant. YSSU will join us to cover:

- what these are
- how to make good activities
- and more.

[Join the Teams meeting](#)

transition to studylink Tuesday 6 October, 10am

Moving into education is a big step, there are some tips to make it easier for taiohi.

In this session, you'll learn about helping young people to apply for support from StudyLink.

We will have guest speakers from StudyLink to answer all your questions.

[Join the Teams meeting](#)

induction for new youth coaches Tuesday 7 September, 10am

This session covers basic information about Youth Service, designed for new youth coaches.

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](#)

We've added the drop-in sessions for the rest of the year to the Youth Service website.
Have a look at what's coming up: [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

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