



youth service
ratonga taiohi

ratonga taiohi pānui

what you need to know

Rāmere 22 Kohitātea 2026
Thursday 22 January 2026



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
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**Auckland
Anniversary Day**

26 Jan



**Nelson
Anniversary Day**

2 Feb



obligations and sanctions

changes in how we notify young people that they are not meeting their obligations


From 2 February 2026, young people who have not met their obligations will receive an SMS text message or email asking them to check MyMSD for their detailed letter.

This letter gives them clearer information about what they didn't do, what will happen to their payments, and what they need to do next.

Young people will receive a text or email asking them to log in to MyMSD to read their letter. The letter explains the activities they didn't complete/do, how this may affect their payments, and the activity they need to complete to re comply with their youth activity obligations.

Youth coaches will still get a notification in ART when a young person has not met their obligations.

This gives the youth coach a chance to check in with the young person and support them to understand what they need to do to re comply.



Youth coaches who work with YP or YPP taiohi **MUST** complete this e-learning module **by 2 February**. To get started, please click the **“Start course”** button below.

traffic light system february 2026 changes

START COURSE



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guestbook – elearning modules

to complete youth service elearning modules, you'll be asked to fill in the guestbook

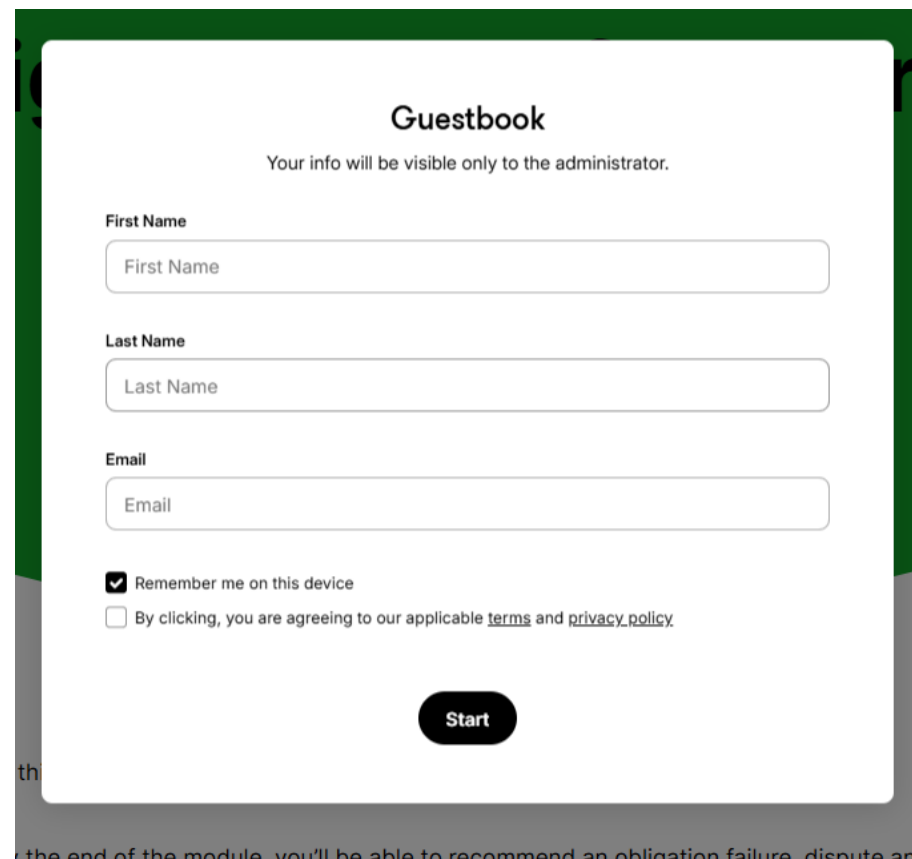
Over the next month, you'll start being asked to fill in the guest book to our Youth Service eLearning modules.

You'll need to enter your:

- First name,
- Last name, and
- Email address.

We collect this information so we can confirm who has completed each module, track completion for reporting, and ensure you get the right support if you need it.

No additional information is collected, and your details are used only for training and support purposes.



The screenshot shows a 'Guestbook' form with the following elements:

- Title:** Guestbook
- Disclaimer:** Your info will be visible only to the administrator.
- First Name:** A text input field with a placeholder 'First Name'.
- Last Name:** A text input field with a placeholder 'Last Name'.
- Email:** A text input field with a placeholder 'Email'.
- Remember me:** A checked checkbox labeled 'Remember me on this device'.
- Agreement:** An unchecked checkbox labeled 'By clicking, you are agreeing to our applicable [terms](#) and [privacy policy](#)'.
- Start Button:** A black button with the text 'Start' in white.



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help with back to school costs

young people receiving a payment can get help for things they need for school

If taiohi are attending secondary, or Alternative Education

→ Use **School Costs Advance** such as uniform, stationery and school equipment.

If taiohi are in tertiary study eligible for Student Loan

→ Use **Course Related Costs** through Studylink for items such as books, course equipment, travel linked to classes and other costs the provider list.

For young people receiving a payment

Young people may be able to get an advance of benefit payment to cover these costs. To apply, submit a task to YSSU.

Task category: Hardship Assistance

Task type: OTHER

If the young person is applying for school costs through OfficeMax, they must contact OfficeMax for a quote reference. Add the reference number to the ART task.

For young parents

Young parents may be able to receive Training Incentive Allowance (**TIA**) to help with these costs if their course is 12-weeks or more and at levels 1-7 on the New Zealand Qualifications Framework (NZQF). **TIA** may cover their course and other study-related costs such as tuition or course fees, books, equipment, travel and childcare.

[Learn more about TIA here](#). To apply, fill out the [application form](#) and submit a task to YSSU.

Task category: Reviews **Task type:** Training Incentive Allowance (TIA)



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learners can now apply for fees free

taiohi who completed and passed their first eligible tertiary qualification or work-based programme in 2025, can apply for Fees Free now.

From 2025, Fees Free will help eligible learners with the cost of tertiary education – **up to 1 EFTS of provider-based study, 24 months of work-based learning, or \$12,000** of their final year's fees.

Taiohi can visit [Feesfree.govt.nz](https://feesfree.govt.nz) for more info on eligibility and claiming Fees Free entitlement through Inland Revenue. Fees free will impact the use of Training Incentive Allowance for course fees.

Fees Free and Training Incentive Allowance

Taiohi who are eligible for Training Incentive Allowance will need to choose how they'll fund their course fees in their final calendar year. You'll need to talk with these taiohi about their options and help them make an informed decision.

They could choose to:

- use TIA for course fees in their final calendar year. If they do this, they won't be eligible for any Fees Free, including for future qualifications.

or

- fund their course fees in their final calendar year in another way (like a Student Loan) and then apply for Fees Free provided they complete their study.



**Taiohi can still use
Training Incentive Allowance for other costs**
(like travel, childcare, and stationery)
in their final year, without impacting their eligibility
for Fees Free.



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online parenting courses with whānau āwhina plunket

this course is approved by msd as a parenting programme for young parents

Whānau Āwhina Plunket offer a two-day parenting course for young parents, broken into 10 modules on topics that will help taiohi learn about being a parent.

This online parenting course may be a good option for young parents when a face-to-face course is unavailable or unsuitable.



Learn more:

- [Youth Parenting Online Course Brochure](#)
- [Registration form](#)

Contact: sharelle.rowntree@plunket.org.nz



2026 Next Course Dates

February	March	April
Tues 17 (Day 1)	Wed 4 (Day 2)	Wed 1 (Day 2)
Wed 18 (Day 2)	Wed 11 (Day 1)	
Wed 25 (Day 1)	Tues 17 (Day1)	
	Wed 18 (Day 2)	
	Wed 25 (Day 1)	



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free addiction and mental health support workshops

blueprint offers a range of mental health, addiction and wellbeing workshops

These workshops are designed for people supporting someone experiencing mental health or addiction challenges, and maintain your own wellbeing.

They are available online and in person in various places across the motu.

Visit [Workshops - Blueprint for Learning](#) to check them out.



Addiction 101

10 Upcoming Workshops

A workshop for people to gain an understanding of addiction and recovery, learn how to respond supportively and reduce stigma.

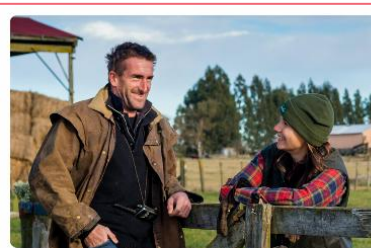
Online or In Person



Addiction 101 PLUS

A NZQA-approved micro-credential training for people to gain an understanding of addiction and recovery.

Online or In Person



Rural MH101®

1 Upcoming Workshops

A workshop for people in rural communities to learn how to support someone experiencing mental health challenges, and maintain your wellbeing.

Online or In Person



MH101®

18 Upcoming Workshops

A mental health workshop to learn how to support someone experiencing mental health challenges, and maintain your own wellbeing.

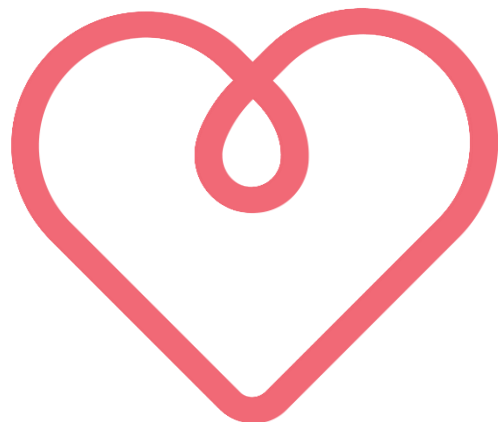
Online or In Person



Rainbow MH101®

A mental health workshop to learn how to support someone experiencing mental health challenges, and maintain your own wellbeing.

Online



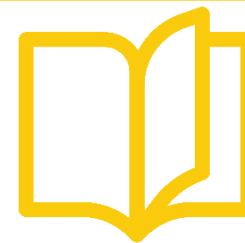
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upcoming drop-in sessions

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



keeping ourselves well Tuesday 27 January, 10am

As a youth coach, a huge part of your role is looking after the taiohi in your service.

To best look after others, it is important that you are looking after yourself.

In this session we will be joined by a workplace wellness expert, to learn about some strategies and tools to help you look after you.

Join the teams meeting

induction for new coaches Wednesday 4 February, 10am

In this drop-in session we'll cover:

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

You'll also get to meet some other new youth coaches and be able to ask us any questions.

Join the teams meeting

youth plan and education outcomes Tuesday 10 February, 10am

Youth Service plans are one of the crucial elements of Youth Service. They help taiohi identify their goals and make a plan to achieve them, broken down into 90-day increments. Recently, many taiohi will have earned an NCEA qualification.

In this session you'll learn about recording Youth Service plans and education outcomes in ART.

Join the teams meeting

You can find the full drop-in session schedule on our provider site

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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