

# ratonga taiohi pānui

what you need to know

**Rāmere 1 Haratua 2025**



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



[NZSLWEEK.ORG.NZ](https://nzslweek.org.nz)

**5 TO 11 MAY**  
**2025**

# programme fund is changing

we're making changes to how the programme fund can be used

These changes aim to strengthen our impact by focusing on one-off costs that directly remove barriers to education, training, work-based learning, employment, or wellbeing, when no other support is available.

We know you all are committed to walking alongside young people and backing their full potential. The refreshed guidelines are designed to support you in that mahi.

It's all about ensuring our support is targeted and creates real movement toward positive outcomes for young people.

Make sure you attend the drop-in session on Tuesday, where we will go through the programme fund changes and answer any questions you have!



**drop-in session**

**Programme fund changes**

Tuesday 6 May, 10am

[Join the teams meeting](#)



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# winter energy payment starts today

the winter energy payment runs from 1 may – 1 october

**The Winter Energy Payment (WEP)** is an extra payment to help with the cost of heating your home over the winter months.

Young people receiving Youth Payment or Young Parent Payment don't need to apply – they'll get the Winter Energy Payment automatically, along with their other regular payment (unless they've asked not to).

## The payment rates:

- \$20.46 for single people with no dependent children, and
- \$31.82 for couples, and people with dependent children.

Because benefits are paid in arrears and 1 May is a Thursday, taiohi will receive a part payment in the week of 5 May and full payments from 12 May.



Find out more here: [winter energy payment](#) | [Youth Service providers](#)



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# new zealand sign language week

new zealand sign language week runs from 5-11 may

This year the theme for New Zealand Sign Language week is “**An Aotearoa Where Anyone Can Sign Anywhere**” – so why not give it a go?

## NZSL Week Challenges

1. Come together over morning tea with your team, [use resources](#), and spend just 7 minutes giving NZSL a go!
2. Learn 7 Signs – Can you learn seven new signs this NZSL Week?
3. Sign Sing – Give [Six60's Pepeha song](#) a try!

Visit the [New Zealand Sign Language website](#) for more information.



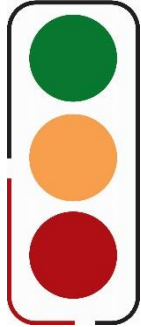
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# drop-in recap – traffic light system and jobseeker profiles

## part one – what the changes are



### The traffic light system

The traffic light system is a communication tool to make it clear to young people when they're not doing what they need to do while getting payment from MSD.

The obligations for young people **haven't** changed, the lights are just here to make it easy for taiohi to see when they're not doing the things they need to do.

### Jobseeker profile

From 26 May 2025, it will be mandatory for anyone applying for a benefit with work-related obligations (like Jobseeker Support or Sole Parent Support) to have a Jobseeker profile.

You'll need to support young people transitioning to a working age benefit to make sure their Jobseeker profile is complete before sending the supporting documentation to YSSU. If it is not complete, YSSU will not be able to process the task and will push it back to you, causing delays.



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# drop-in recap – traffic light system and jobseeker profiles

## part two – resources and what's next

### eLearning

Next week we'll be sharing eLearning for YP/YPP youth coaches on the Traffic Light System and Jobseeker profiles. We'll share the link in next week's update.

### second drop-in session

Tuesday 13 May, 10am

In this session, we'll run through the information about the changes again – but really, this session is for you to ask questions and bring up anything you want to learn more about. If you think of any questions in advance, please send them to [YSTTraining@msd.govt.nz](mailto:YSTTraining@msd.govt.nz)

[Join the teams meeting](#)



### resources

#### Available now

- [Drop-in slides](#)
- [Traffic light conversation guide](#)
- [the traffic light system | Youth Service - ratonga taiohi](#)
- [Jobseeker profile - Work and Income](#)
- [How to set up your Jobseeker profile | YouTube](#)

#### Coming soon

- New messages on this page: [Text messages - Work and Income](#)
- Adding traffic light information to [youth activity obligation failures | Youth Service providers](#)



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# upcoming drop-in sessions

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



## programme fund Tuesday 6 May, 10am

The Programme Fund is here to help taiohi pay for things that will improve their employability, education or wellbeing.

We are making some changes to how programme fund. Come along to learn about these changes and ask any questions you have.

[Join the teams meeting](#)

## Induction for youth coaches Wednesday 7 May, 10am

In this drop-in session we'll cover:

- what determines how youth service operates
- the people that help deliver Youth Service
- an overview of the Activity Reporting Tool (ART), and
- where to find information to help you in your role.

Come along to learn and connect with other youth coaches

[Join the teams meeting](#)

## traffic lights and jobseeker profiles Tuesday 13 May, 10am

In this session, we'll run through the information about the changes again – but really, this session is for you to ask questions and bring up anything you want to learn more about.

If you think of any questions in advance, please send them to [YSTraining@msd.govt.nz](mailto:YSTraining@msd.govt.nz).

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

[national\\_youthservice@msd.govt.nz](mailto:national_youthservice@msd.govt.nz)