

National's Youth Plan

Policy Summary

National's Youth Plan is about giving young New Zealanders the opportunity and responsibility to better themselves, no matter what their circumstances, abilities, or track record.

Youth Guarantee

National expects that all young people under the age of 18 should be in work, education, or training.

- National will provide a universal education entitlement for all 16- and 17-year-olds. This will allow them to access, free of charge, a programme of educational study towards school-level qualifications.
- Most will continue their education at school. However, the entitlement will allow 16- and 17-year-olds to access education at a non-school provider if it can better meet their needs. For example, a polytechnic, wananga, or private training establishment.
- Courses offered under the Youth Guarantee will have to meet strict quality criteria.
- This new entitlement will be on top of, not instead of, the education entitlements young people have now.
- Sixteen and 17-year-olds who are not working, and who fail to take up this new entitlement, will not be eligible to receive a benefit.

Youth Justice

It's time to provide the Youth Court with a modern set of tools for getting teenagers out of the crime cycle. We must act now to defuse these unexploded human time-bombs.

- 1. Extending the jurisdiction of the Youth Court:** National will give the Youth Court the power to deal with 12- and 13-year-olds accused of serious offences.
- 2. New orders for the Youth Court:** National will give the Youth Court the power to issue a new range of compulsory orders. We will back these orders up with funding for the relevant services.
 - *Parenting orders:* Parenting courses to address problems at home that may be contributing to a young person's offending.
 - *Mentoring programmes:* Providing role models to young offenders for a period of up to 12 months.
 - *Drug and alcohol rehabilitation programmes:* Designated funding to help get young offenders sober.
- 3. Tougher Sentences:** National recognises that some young people have committed crimes so serious and so chilling that we must take drastic action:
 - a. Longer residential sentences:* Up to six months in a Youth Justice facility.
 - b. Fresh Start Programmes:* Revolutionary, year-long, intensive programmes designed to instil discipline and address underlying causes of offending; including up to 3 months of residential training at, for example, an army facility.
 - c. Spotlight Sentences:* Non-compliance with these Court-ordered supervision contracts will result in electronic monitoring using an ankle bracelet.