



A brighter future for young New Zealanders

Youth Opportunities

Our young people are important. We want them to succeed. We want them to reach their full potential.

The National-led Government is determined to provide 16- to 24-year-olds with opportunities to help them get the work experience, training, and education they need to make the most of their future, and contribute to our communities.

We're spending \$152 million to secure a brighter future for young New Zealanders. We know that young people are being particularly hard hit by this recession. And we know that for people starting out in the workforce a long period of unemployment can be really damaging.



"These policies will provide young unemployed Kiwis with an expanded range of opportunities to better themselves, whether through work, training or education."

John Key, Prime Minister

<http://beehive.govt.nz/feature/youth+opportunities+package>

We've said we'll back them, we're committed to playing our part – and now we need our communities to make these opportunities available. Groups with entry-level employment or volunteering opportunities can call Work and Income and get young people into these roles quickly.

Success for school sport

Sport is really important for children. It's a great way to exercise and it teaches valuable teamwork, leadership and fair play skills.

That's why the National-led Government is committed to helping more children take part in organised sport at school, after school, and during the holidays. We want all Kiwi kids to have the opportunity to play sport.

Our Kiwisport initiative answers calls from schools, clubs, and regional sports trusts in Christchurch for greater support and investment in sport for children. It delivers \$82 million over the next four years directly to the frontline. Kiwisport will see more children getting active and enjoying sport.

Schools and sports clubs play a crucial role in introducing young New Zealanders to organised sport. By providing funding directly to schools and regional sports trusts, Kiwisport will make a difference. More children will see the benefits of physical fitness, being part of a team, developing leadership skills, and having fun.

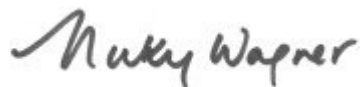
Boy Racers and Back Benches

Last week I had fun being part of TVNZ's Back Benches show, which was in Christchurch for the boy racer special. While Back Benches is a new way to look at news and current events, we discussed the serious and enduring issue – boy racers.

Boy racers and street-racing are big issues in Christchurch and people in our communities are right to be concerned. I'm not against young people enjoying their cars, but it's time the anti-social behaviour was stopped so we are working hard to pass legislation to deal with the issue before Christmas.

Watch the show [here](#) and let me know what you think. <http://tvnz.co.nz/back-benches/s2009-e28-video-2907617>

All the best,



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