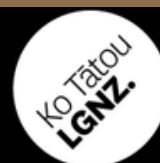


Mayors Taskforce for Jobs Working Group

Case Story: #6



MTFJ
MAYORS TASKFORCE FOR JOBS

What is Mayors Taskforce for Jobs?

Initially Mayors Taskforce for Jobs (MTFJ) was a programme connecting local businesses with youth that were displaced in 2020, by COVID-19, to create sustainable employment opportunities for both parties. Now the focus is to place NEETS (young people not in education, employment or training), people with disabilities and other disadvantaged people into work.

Overview

With a high number of MTFJ referrals requiring pastoral support before embarking on their employment journey, the working group provides a safe space to ensure that their needs are identified and best supported. The programme is made up of various tasks including CV writing, drivers licensing, cooking, and community projects (that involve a practical skill base such as painting).

Challenges

For Staff:

- Staff have provided intensive pastoral support to the young people, some with very complex issues, referring a young person onto a service provider is not always an option.
- Staff want to provide more comprehensive support such as career pathways rather than just finding them a job to meet the MTFJ programme KPI's.
- The working group works well and is a good foundation for the young people, however it does need to be refined to give more focus on providing more outcomes such as career pathways or providing more skill development opportunities. The working groups often involve a lot of time and resource from the MTFJ team.
- Over the years the funding model has meant loss of good staff and retraining team members, as well as short term planning.

For Young People:

- It hasn't always been easy to be part of the working group and to start working alongside others that they don't know.
- Some are coming to MTFJ with no idea of what they want to do as a career. They've been told to talk with MTFJ staff or else their benefit will be cut, so some are coming already in a negative head space.
- Each has a different backstory but often they share the same issues; some haven't had direction before, no positive role models, struggle with authority or they may have mental health concerns.
- Being in professional environment with people that they normally wouldn't socialise with has been beneficial. The variety of working with people from all walks of life and jobs has meant that they are learning skills without knowing it.



Building a produce sharing shed in Waikari



Time to take a drivers test



Basic Building Skills



Bagging Pinecones

Our Solution - Setting up a Working Group

Council staff developed the working group to provide additional support for the young people. It provides routine, opportunities, support and is a constant in the young persons life. They know what is required of them and that they can rely on council staff.

It provides basic life skills that have been missed in their home environment e.g. driving licences, budgeting advice, self care or good food habits including cooking skills.

Outcomes

The working group has been a very successful concept and staff have seen the young people go from strength to strength:

- Confidence has grown as they become more settled in the working group routine.
- They have more ability to engage with variety of adults.
- They know its okay to make mistakes and that they won't be dropped from the programme because of it.
- They become employable... they're now job ready!
- Independence levels increase/improve.
- Basic life skills workshops have been enjoyed and appreciated.
- Every year a graduation celebration is held for those that are now employed.

Overall for staff the working group has been a mix of reward, support and mutual understanding. To see each young person grow in confidence over time has been humbling and when a placement is made its exciting to see what the future holds for them.

The Future...

- Next stage is to develop into an intensive 6 week programme providing even more life skills.
- We will continue with the working group concept and being able to provide work experience opportunities.
- We would like to work with other businesses to provide different skill opportunities eg. barista course.
- Be able to provide a variety of work environments to gauge the young persons skills and interests.
- Partner with youth related agencies to provide workshops and skill development sessions.



Ben and Joel - 2023 Working Group

“

MTFJ teaches you skills and you meet new people from different backgrounds, it gets you up in the morning.

Ben, 2023 working group participant

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Read one of our 2023 media releases: [MTFJ youth appeal for job placements](#)