

WAITAKERE CITY SECONDARY SCHOOLS YOUTH COUNCIL

Background Information

Waitakere City's Youth Council has been in existence since 1993. It draws its membership from all 10 local high schools i.e.,

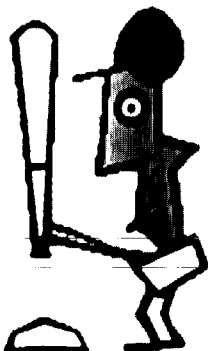
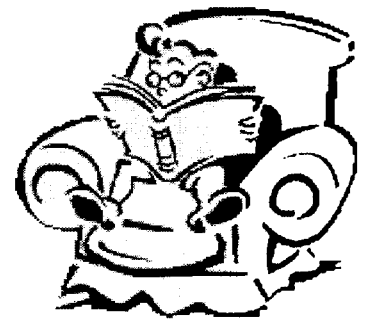
- Kelston Boys High School
- Rutherford College
- Waitakere College
- St Dominic's College
- Henderson High School
- Kelston Girls High School
- Massey High School
- Te Whare Kura O Hoani Waititi
- Green Bay High School
- Liston College

Role & Background

Waitakere City Council principles are based on "sustainable development" which takes a *holistic* approach. That means that when Council is developing policy and services, we must consider *the social, economic and environmental impacts together*.

Waitakere City Council has three goals, to be; sustainable; dynamic, and just. *The practices to achieve these goals include the belief of community involvement in decision-making.*

A conscious effort has been made by Waitakere City Council to make our services, programmes and activities more suited to meet the needs of young people. The commitment Council has made to children and young people is called "First Call for Children". This recognises that 33% of Waitakere City's population is under the age of 20 years, and therefore, Council has to make our services as youth and child-friendly as possible.



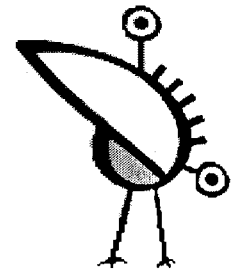
Youth and youth involvement in decision making is an aim of this Council and the Youth Council is seen as a practicable means of involving young people in this decision making. The Youth Council provides a channel for Council to liaise with secondary school youth and provides a voice for young people.

The Youth Council is seen as an appropriate forum for youth issues to be discussed. Council Committees and Officers refer issues for consideration and comment to the Youth Council and the Youth Council can also refer issues onto Council Committees and Officers from the community.

The Youth Council is supported by Council and has powers to make submissions and recommendations to Council Committees. It has an accepted advisory role and is recognised as an independent body from Council, ensuring it has the freedom to act by itself.

The Youth Council has been consulted about a number of youth issues and services including:

- Waitakere City Health Promoting School Project
- Environmental research projects focussing on youth issues
- Auckland Regional Council submission re., transport fares
- Te Taumata Runanga Rangatahi (Maori Youth) position
- Community Funding and Assistance Policy
- Sport Waitakere youth programme development
- Lowering the drinking age discussions
- Holiday Programmes and Youth Activities
- West Coast Plan Committee membership
- Proposed national Youth Radio network
- Titirangi meetings re., youth services in response to 'riot'
- Waitakere City Safer Community Projects
- Long Term Financial Strategy for Waitakere City Council
- Advisory work with the West Auckland Youth Service
- Keep Waitakere Beautiful membership



Many services provided by Council e.g., footpaths, cemeteries, roading, rubbish etc are used by all of the City's population including young people. However, many other services provided by Council are utilised particularly by young people such as libraries, recreation centres, and parks.

Therefore steps have been taken to ensure that young people's needs are incorporated into these services e.g., the "Safe Routes to Schools" programme; the "Summer Reading Programme" in libraries; Council staff giving talks / presentations in schools on energy, waste, water, City history.

2002 Youth Council Representatives

The 2002 Youth Council will be opened on 20 Feb so contact details for individual Youth Councillors is currently unavailable. However, a general rule of thumb for students wanting to contact their school's Youth Council rep's is to ask at the school office. Any other enquiries contact Ian Leader (Partnership and Advocacy Leader: Youth and Children) 836-8000 ext: 8425.