

# Better Pathways Package Progress Update

**Our Better Pathways Package to break the cycle of youth crime is paying dividends.**

## Kotahi te Whakaaro

**As at 25 November 2022, over 100 young people have been supported through KtW and the West Auckland MDCAT. In addition, this support has been extended to the siblings of these young people, which includes over 200 young children.**

Kotahi te Whakaaro (KtW) provides wrap-around support for children under 14 years apprehended in ram raid and fleeing driver events across South and West Auckland. They also work with siblings of children apprehended in these events.

As part of KtW, the West Auckland Multi-Disciplinary Cross Agency Team (MDCAT) is being expanded. This includes the use of the allocated \$600,000 funding, to be used to extend the service across to West Auckland, expand the service 14-17 year-olds and increase community provider workforce. This funding will also resource a small discretionary fund, which will enable youth to participate in activities or programmes, and access essential supports and resources that aren't already funded through existing government initiatives, for example, holiday programmes, or after-school activities such as sports teams, cultural groups, drama or dance classes, etc.

## He Poutama Rangatahi (Whakawātea te ara Poutama)

**Currently, He Poutama Rangatahi providers are working with 635 young people who have been expelled or stood down from school, or who have committed criminal offences.**

Whakawātea te ara Poutama is a targeted He Poutama Rangatahi programme that supports young people at risk of engaging in organised crime.

Current interventions focused on youth crime and involvement with gangs are being extended through a reprioritisation of funding.

MSD is currently working with 15 potential providers in the target regions of South and West Auckland, Waikato, Northland, and the Bay of Plenty on proposals, with several due for funding decisions shortly.

## Akongā Fund

The Ministry of Youth Development Ākongā Fund supports youth development providers in delivering programmes outside of traditional education settings that support youth (12 to 21 years) to stay engaged in their education journey.

Between Term 4 2020 and the end of Term 3 2022, 6,260 ākongā have been or are enrolled in a youth development programme:

- 1,140 new enrolments were recorded during Term 3 2022
- younger ākongā aged 12-16 years continue to feature as the highest proportion of enrolled participants (71%).
- 3,705 (59%) of enrolled ākongā achieved an education, training, or employment outcome
- 758 ākongā completed an exit survey upon completing their respective ākongā programme, of which:
  - 94% reported they are more connected with whānau
  - 89% are more connected to community
  - 98% are more hopeful about their futures
  - 89% are planning to return to school, kura, or training.

The 6,260 ākongā who have been or are enrolled in a youth development programme as at the end of Term 3 2022, exceeds the original target of 5,500 ākongā by 14%.

There has been an increase in ākonga planning to return to school, kura or training (from 74% in 2021 to 89% in 2022).

Over 8,250 ākonga (aged 12-21 years) will be supported through ākonga programmes delivered by 27 Iwi and community-based providers over the 2021, 2022 and 2023 calendar years.