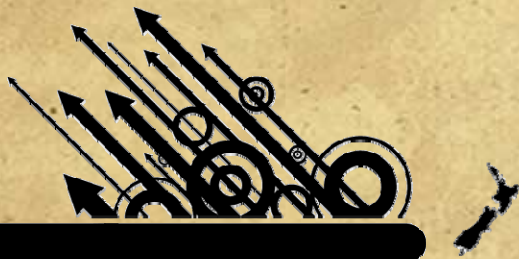
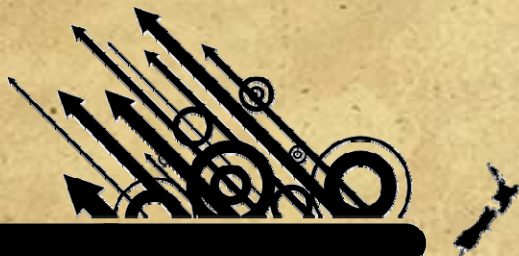


# ***Youth Participation and the Youth '07 project***



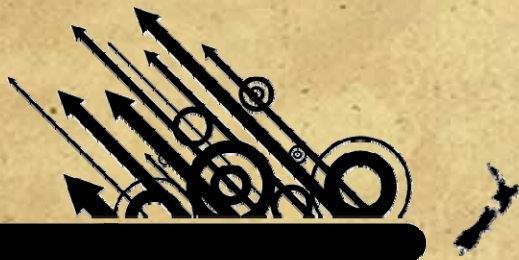
Youthline's vision is to create communities that relate to the needs of young people, respond to them and support them to achieve their potential.





# Who is Youthline?

- Youthline began in 1970 to address the fact that many young people were not accessing existing health and social services.
- Youthline is about developing young people's leadership and skills so that they can create positive change in their communities
- Youthline utilises technology as a means to connect with young people to support and refer them and their families.



# Youthline overview

Youthline has seven centres across the country

Youthline has over 60 full time staff and 1000 volunteers across the country

## **Youthline works in five key service areas:**

Counselling services

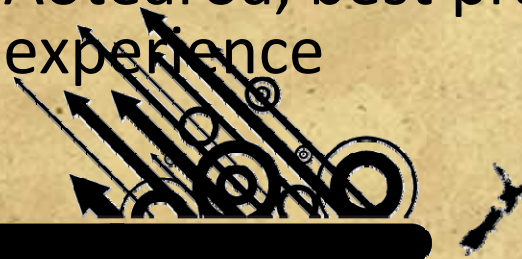
Information and referral

Youth work services

Training and leadership

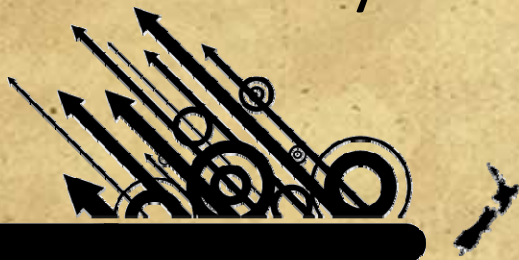
Research and advocacy

Our work is guided by the Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa, best practice research and nearly 40 years experience



## Research 2009

- Development of a tool to measure the outcomes of Youthline Services
- Scoping the therapeutic effectiveness of text counselling
- Scoping the needs of youth sex workers in Counties Manukau
- Better Practice for Mentoring At-Risk Youth
- Pathways to Resilience (with Massey University)



## Research 2008

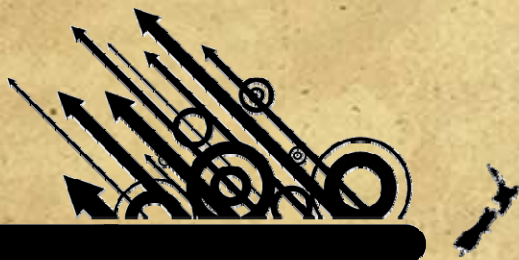
- Are we doing a good job? Providing evidence for the effectiveness of Youth One Stop Shops
- What would a health service for alternative education students look like? Review of best practices
- Parenting Teenagers: A review of best practice principles In New Zealand parenting programmes
- Young people's views on sexual health



# Research & Development

- Scoping of a Pacific One Stop Shop
- MYD Youth Engagement Project
- Manukau Youth Development Model
- Young Men's View on Risk-taking Behaviours

[www.youthline.co.nz/research](http://www.youthline.co.nz/research)





# Youth Development The Holistic Approach

Youth Development:

- considers what is required to equip young people aged 12 to 24 with the skills and attitudes they need to achieve good outcomes
- promotes a broad whole person approach to addressing the needs and issues of youth.



# YDSA Principles

*Principle 1* - understanding the 'big picture'

*Principle 2* - connecting young people to their social environments

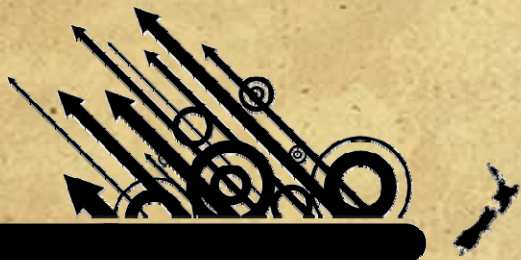
*Principle 3* - taking a strengths-based approach

*Principle 4* - building quality relationships

*Principle 5* - promoting youth participation

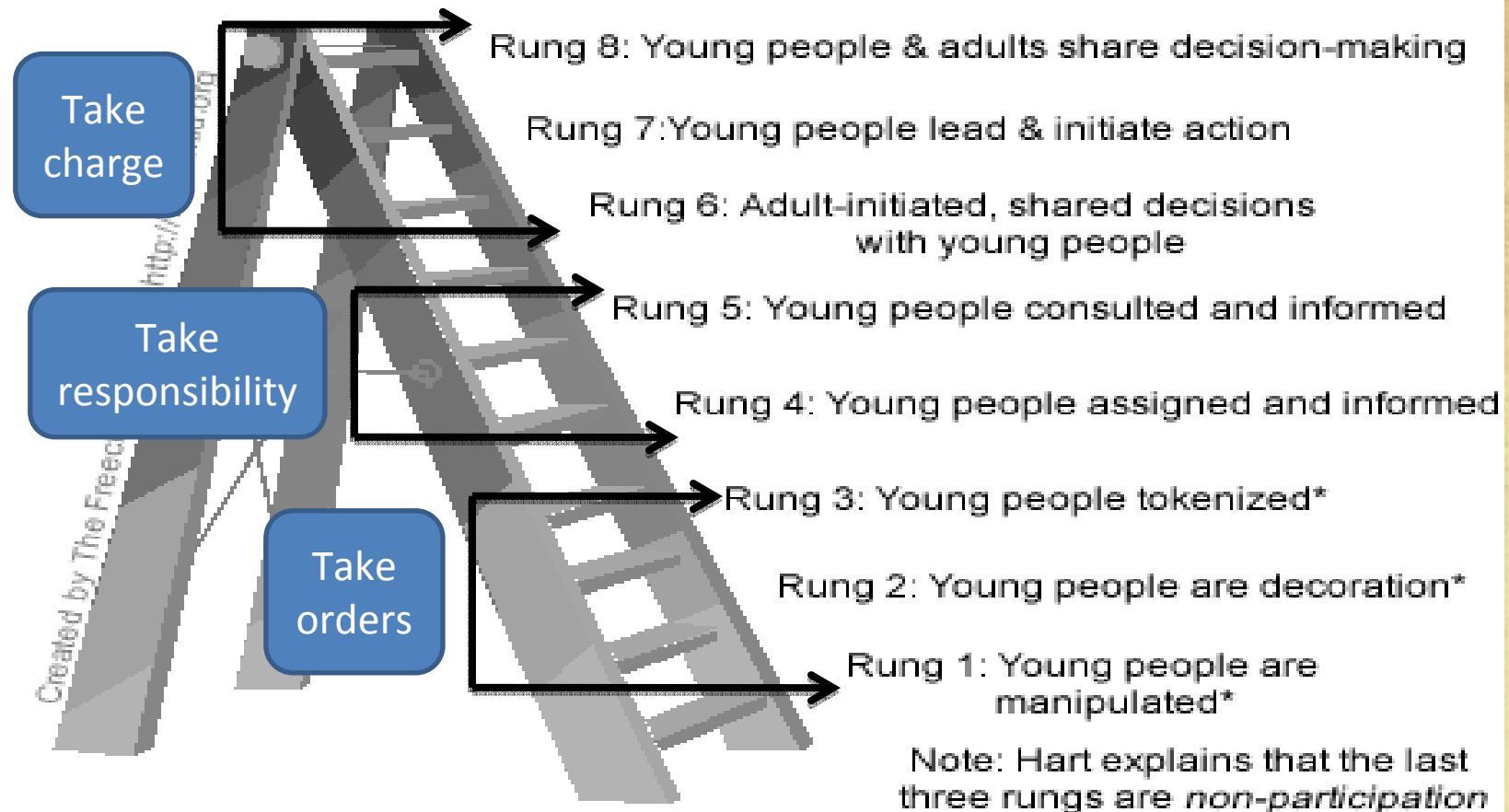
*Principle 6* - getting good information.

**So what does the YDSA look  
like in a youth advisory  
group?**



# Models of Participation

## Roger Hart's Ladder of Young People's Participation



Adapted from Hart, R. (1992). *Children's Participation from Tokenism to Citizenship*. Florence: UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre.

# Putting the YDSA in to practice

*Advisory Groups aren't just about 'ticking the box' but is foremost about supporting and developing young people to reach their potential.*

- Provide training
- Get young people (ages 18-25) involved. They will attract younger people.
- Consider young people for staff roles
- Have youth involvement on your management committee or trust board
- Develop youth representatives in schools
- Interactive online developments – be where young people are, text, web, email.
- Evaluate young people's experiences of your service, ask for their suggestions
- Be flexible to accommodate school, study and work commitments
- Have meaningful rewards that are relevant to young people, e.g. Movie tickets, cd's etc
- Provide recognition and certificates

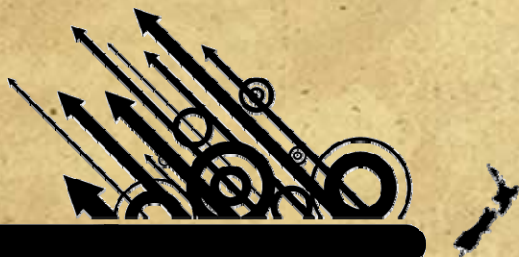


# Benefits of involving young people in your projects

- Bringing fresh perspectives to challenges
- New ideas and angles which genuinely represent the perspectives of young people
- Access to new networks that the young person is involved with
- New opportunities for young people to develop themselves further
- Young people are best placed to support other young people as they can gain respect of their peers and understand youth issues
- Young people can connect with and support other young people in their communities
- Increase credibility of the organisation with other young people

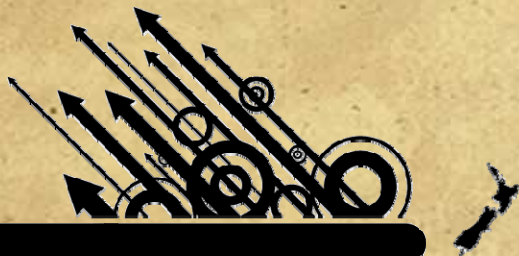


- Ensure that young people are valued by providing acknowledgement, and clearly identified benefit through reciprocal exchange (does not mean money but could be vouchers, small gifts to show your awareness of their value).
- Understand that a small group of young people cannot represent the views and experiences of all young people.
- Provide training for the task, and show development opportunities and pathways. Often young people need to be developed and mentored to participate fully.
- Young people will sense tokenism or exploitation; take young people seriously and give them the time they need and deserve.



# Realise...

- Providing transport is essential for some young people to participate
- Take care with scheduling. Young people have less perceived power when negotiating time off with their workplace or school. Sometimes providing communication with work, school, parents will increase participation
- Having several youth members will increase their individual participation
- Being young is not enough! Choose the young people for their skills, not their youth
- Give them tasks that are achievable and meaningful





# Youth'07 Background

Study undertaken by University of Auckland School of Population Health

Over 9000 young people across New Zealand surveyed

New Zealand's second national survey of secondary school students (first one in 2001).

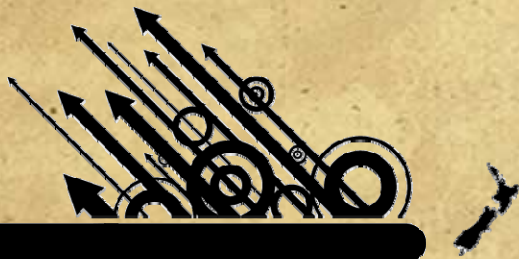
Report also includes comparisons between the 2001 and 2007 survey results

Grant received from The Vodafone Foundation to create youth friendly resources



# Tackling Youth '07

- Process – Merging Urge Advisory Group and Youth Actors
- Meeting – warm ups, transportation, kai!
- Looking at the big picture – parents, professionals, young people
- Feedback – recording all recommendations
- Encouraging involvement
- Key points





# Recommendations

## For Parents – key message “communication”

Report highlighted that many YP feel they are missing out on time with their parents, and that 29% are not happy with their family relationships, 40% don't have fun with their families, 28% didn't feel close to their parents.

### Communication Methods-

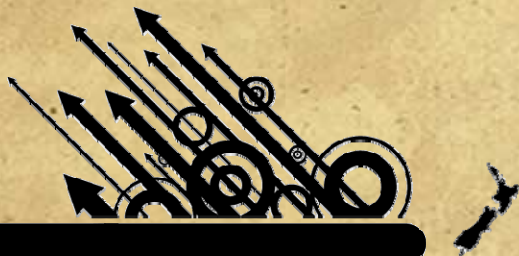
No one method for reaching parents – access and cultural sensitivity (workshops, email, school newsletters, radio stations)

Small doses of info – don't tell parents how to raise their kids!

Positive messages - Framing the message positively to adults as being “for your child” to help them succeed and be healthy!

### Potential resources-

Youth led ‘parent pack’ – effects of family violence, internet safety, tips on communicating and taking your young person seriously when they have probs



# Recommendations

## For Professionals - key messages

Need to be comfortable dealing with different cultures – obvious when they are not!  
Friendly but professional

Understand how interaction with professionals will impact YPs experiences in school and in accessing help and health services – understanding the role they play in this.

***“Just under half (49%) of students report that teachers at school treat students fairly most of the time” (Youth’07 Initial Findings)***

Understand dynamic with family

Nutrition – greater awareness in schools that YP are not all eating breakfast or having access to healthy foods – and what are they going to do about it?

## Resources/Outcomes-

Requirement that all professionals working with YP read the Youth 07 report or have it presented to them by young people in workshops

Youth worker training

Student feedback to teachers - ‘overall satisfaction’

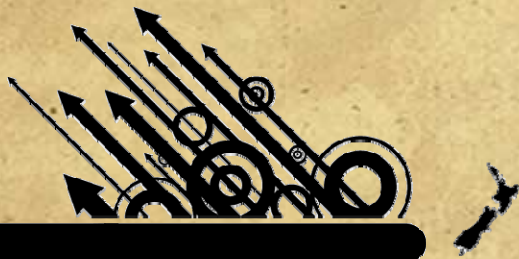
Free breakfast – making time for this in class, cheap fruit in schools, packages, cooking class



# Recommendations

## For Young People- other possibilities!

- Resources in different languages
- T-shirts designed by YP with positive messages derived from the report about young people, sold in popular retail clothing stores as well as in schools and online, for a reasonable price. Online application could be used to facilitate this process
- Training for peer mediators in schools around the issues that the findings of the report raised



# Youth '07 Resources



# Online Quiz



Facebook, Bebo, Tearaway, Urge, NZAAHD, Youthline  
and other sites

