

Positive Youth Development in Aotearoa

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The Problem

- *The voices of young people themselves are consistently missing from policy responses. It is not simply that young people are not organised to give submissions or are silent on the topic, but rather their views and feelings are systematically silenced. (Smith, 2000)*

PYD Key points

- A move from deficit approaches
- Youth as an asset
- Strengths based
- Participatory
- Population, community focus
- Targets system change

PYD

- Benson et al (2004) internal and external (community) developmental assets
- Edwards et al (2007) build assets across (eg) whole school population and environment
- Increased use of complex multi-level evaluation designs (Lerner et al, 2005)

Positive Youth Development

[PYD implies] a new social contract that effectively challenges the status quo, exposes harmful policies and provides healthier alternatives to guiding adults and youth on how to become the better social agents we all hope to be (Pittman et al, 2002)

PYD approaches seek to realise the full potential of all young people to learn and thrive in the diverse settings where they live (Damon 2004)

YDSA

- Development is contextual
- Youth connectivity
- Strengths based
- Relationships are crucial
- Youth participation
- Research evidence based

YDSA framework

A Youth Development Approach = Better Outcomes For Young People = Better Outcomes For Society

Figure 2 The Youth Development Approach

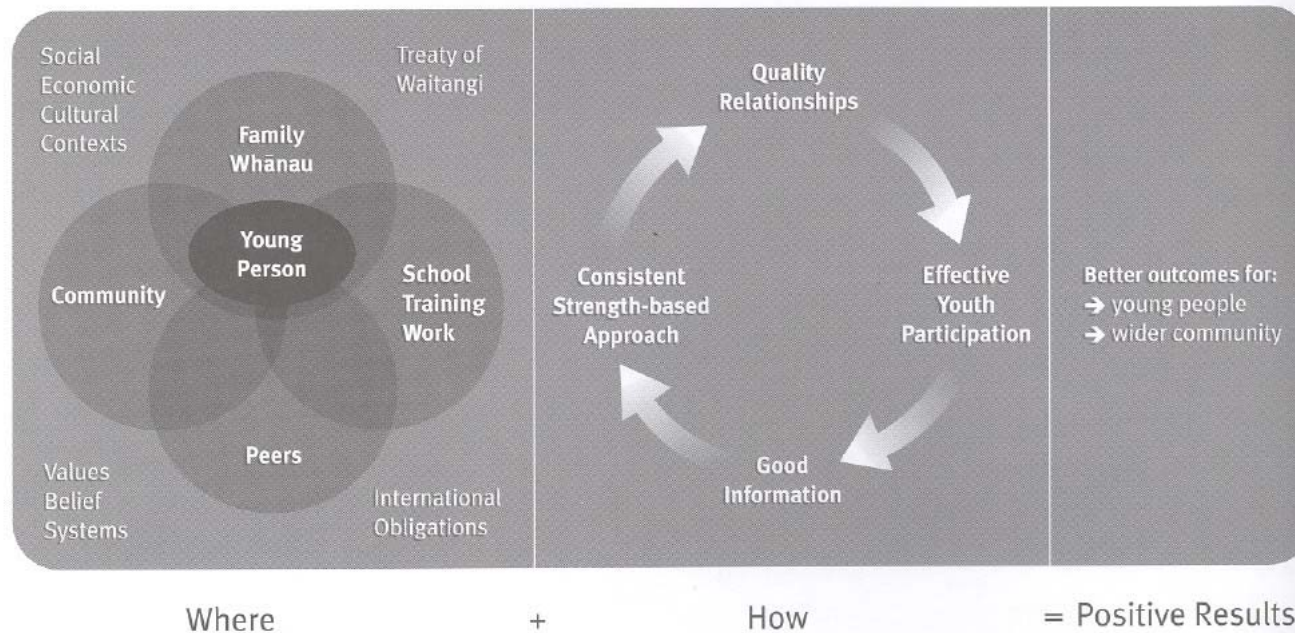


Figure 2 combines the six principles to explain the youth development approach in one diagram.

PYD Research

- Uses the theories of the PYD paradigm
- Youth-led, youth oriented, youth engaged
- Youth ownership/control of methodology, analysis and application

Current status

- Monitoring research
- Youth oriented research
- Youth community action research
- Evaluation research

Data/information/monitoring

Examples

- Youth 2000, Youth 2007
- Chch and Dn longitudinal studies
- Children and Young People: Indicators of wellbeing in Aotearoa from MSD

Youth oriented

Examples

- **Youth First**
- **Youth Mental Health Promotion**
- **In Transition project**
- **Social Connectedness**
- **Pathways to Resilience**

Youth community action

Examples

- **Waves**
- **Mangere/Clendon Photovoice**
- **Whaia te Hauora o nga Rangatahi**
- **Streets Ahead**
- **Dziah**
- **Naenae Boxing Academy**

Challenges

- Build national collaborations
- Systemic research rather than problem-focussed, issues-based
- Formative, process and outcome evaluation crucial
- Youth participatory/action research
- Show community wide benefits