

YOU^E VOICES ACTION



**WE CONNECT,
PARTNER AND
COLLABORATE**

WE ARE THE CONNECTOR FOR ALL THINGS YOUTH.
Ko mātou te kaituitui mō ngā kaupapa rangatahi katoa.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Youth Voices Action (YVA) is the central connector for the youth sector across Tauranga and the Bay of Plenty. We exist to bridge the gap between rangatahi and the organisations, services, and opportunities designed for them.

Rather than replicating existing services, YVA acts as an umbrella organisation. We bring youth voice to the table and connect with organisations doing epic work in areas our young people care about. By joining forces, we combine skills, share resources, and leverage joint funding to deliver outcomes that are more impactful, efficient, and sustainable for rangatahi.

We don't ask young people to fit the system; we ask the system to make room and highlight how youth voices can help change a system when they are leading initiatives and projects designed for and by them directly. We work with our partners to ensure that youth engagement isn't consultation theatre, but rather decision-making power with rangatahi at the table from the start.



OUR MODEL: **CONNECT, PARTNER, COLLABORATE**

Our model is built on **connection over competition**. We recognise that the youth sector is most effective when organisations work together rather than operate in silos. We bring this to life through three core pillars:

WE CONNECT

We connect young people to opportunities and initiatives. We create safe, empowering spaces where rangatahi can find the right services, discover opportunities, and connect with each other to lead community initiatives. We act as the bridge linking youth directly to the things that matter to them.

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WE PARTNER

We partner with organisations who want youth voice in their programme design or ideation. When organisations want to ensure their initiatives are genuinely youth-informed, we bring our Youth Panel and engagement expertise to the table. We help design, review, and shape programmes so they actually work for the young people they are intended to serve.

02

WE COLLABORATE

We collaborate with organisations looking to deliver programmes to young people. Instead of duplicating services, we share resources. We combine our expertise in youth engagement with the in-house strengths and established programmes of other organisations. This means we aren't replicating things - we are amplifying them, making joint funding go further and delivering better outcomes.

03

HOW IT WORKS: SUCCESS STORIES

The following case studies demonstrate how our Connect, Partner, Collaborate model benefits the sector in practice.

CONNECT: Here to Help U (The Youth Portal Initiative)

The Challenge: Young people told us they wanted a single, accessible place to find out what organisations are in their community, what they do, and how to get involved. **The Solution:** Here to Help U already had a robust directory service, but it didn't specialise in the specific needs and communication styles of young people. Instead of building a competing platform, YVA partnered with them. **The Outcome:** Together, we are developing an interactive, empathetic Youth Portal. YVA provides the youth voice, outreach, and design input, while Here to Help U provides the backend infrastructure. This prevents duplication and ensures resources are used where they are most effective.

The logo for 'Here to help U' is written in a black, handwritten-style font. The 'U' is stylized with a small smiley face above it.

PARTNER: Cancer Society (National Relay for Life)

The Challenge: The Cancer Society wanted to increase youth participation in their national Relay for Life event but lacked the specific channels and engagement strategies to reach rangatahi effectively. **The Solution:** YVA partnered with the Cancer Society to deliver the youth engagement elements of the event. We also brought in another partner, Greerton New World, who sponsored the resources needed to run a free sausage sizzle for participants. **The Outcome:** Our rangatahi didn't just attend; they actively participated, ran the food station, and managed social media coverage to raise the profile of the event. The social media content generated by our young people continues to perform well, and there is already an eager cohort of rangatahi ready to form fundraising teams for the next event.



COLLABORATE: Hikitia with Tautoko Mai

The Challenge: Delivering authentic youth voice into established community activations requires specialised engagement models. **The Solution:** YVA collaborated with Tautoko Mai on the Hikitia initiative to integrate our youth members and Youth Panel directly into their activations. **The Outcome:** This collaboration proves that it makes sense for organisations to share funding and focus on their respective areas of expertise. Tautoko Mai focuses on their core service delivery, while YVA ensures the initiative is youth-led and youth-informed. Together, we deliver great community initiatives without either organisation having to stretch beyond their primary capabilities.



FUNDING COLLABORATION: The Piritahi Steering Group

Note: While YVA is deeply involved in collaborative funding models, our core work and branding remain distinct from the Piritahi Steering Group.

We are currently engaged in a funding collaboration project to develop evidence-based research for designing an independent organisation that connects youth sector organisations. This work focuses on building sustainable, sector-wide infrastructure that supports all youth-focused entities to thrive.



WHY FUND YOUTH VOICES ACTION?

When you fund YVA, you are investing in a model that prioritises efficiency, authenticity, and systemic change across the entire sector.

- **We prevent duplication:** By acting as the connector and collaborator, we ensure funding is spent on frontline service delivery, not on reinventing the wheel or replicating existing programmes.
- **We provide authentic youth voice:** Our Youth Panel and engagement models ensure that funded initiatives are genuinely shaped by the people they are designed to serve, guaranteeing better uptake and impact.
- **We amplify your investment:** With a reach of over 170,000 social media views in 90 days and a network of 500+ engaged young people, we ensure your funding reaches the right audience and achieves maximum visibility.

Real Voices. Real Change. Real Digital.

We are ready to collaborate. Let's combine our skills, resources, and funding to achieve better outcomes for rangatahi across Tauranga Moana and beyond.

We welcome conversations with councils, organisations, and businesses seeking meaningful youth engagement.

Ngā mihi nui to the partners who walk alongside us. Together, we strengthen rangatahi voice, build trust, and shape decisions that support youth wellbeing in Tauranga Moana and beyond.

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