

## Careers update for Mayors Taskforce for Jobs

**Careers New Zealand** is the government agency responsible for leading the career development of all New Zealanders.

We recently changed our name and image from Career Services to better reflect our national focus and to raise awareness of the importance of career development for New Zealand's social and economic success.

We offer expert, free advice and support to help people make smart, well-informed decisions about their career. We are an extensive hub of careers expertise and support. It's our goal that New Zealanders can confidently manage their own careers throughout their lives.

### Strategic shift

In response to the Government's goals and the economic environment, we have shifted our strategic focus to leading the careers sector, improving the careers system, and contributing to economic growth in New Zealand. For individuals this leads to better transition into work and learning and improved financial and personal wellbeing. Employers will benefit from a better match between employees and jobs, and the country will benefit from reduced tertiary churn, and educated, motivated people trained for the jobs available in New Zealand.

### What's currently on our agenda?

#### New benchmarks for secondary schools

Careers New Zealand, in conjunction with the Career and Transition Education Association (CATE), is developing career education benchmarks for secondary schools.

The benchmarks are a self-review tool for schools to measure their performance, identify strengths and development areas. They will set high expectations for career education in New Zealand and will promote an understanding of effective career education and a more consistent national approach, with the aim of contributing to better outcomes for students.

The benchmarks have been field tested in 30 schools (a mix of state, integrated, single-sex, co-ed, rural and urban and kura kaupapa) across the country. Schools not involved in testing have also had the opportunity to attend cluster meetings to view and provide feedback on the draft benchmarks. The benchmarks are now being finalised and will be launched in late October, and available for use in secondary schools from 2012.

#### Intensive schools support

We assist schools to develop a whole-school approach to career education across a number of effective practice indicators in a systemic and planned way. This service requires a school to sign a support agreement and develop an action plan. We are currently supporting 60 schools across the country.

#### Capability building – working through others

Because of our size, there is a limit on the number of New Zealanders we can reach directly. With this in mind, some of our delivery work is shifting to building the capability of other organisations and individuals to support their clients, and family/whānau. We offer professional development and support to organisations to increase their skills to help their clients on the right career path. This work involves:

- training their staff on the career planning process, developing their skills to use career tools with their clients
- reviewing an organisation's policies around careers, employment and learning.

Across the country, we are working alongside staff at a range of youth-focused organisations and trade academies as well as with Private Training Establishment tutors, Ministry of Social Development (MSD) front line staff, Literacy Aotearoa, Youth Justice staff and parents.

## Group deliveries

Increasingly, our face-to-face delivery is with those with the greatest needs. We are reaching at-risk youth directly or in partnership with other agencies, e.g. MSD clients, Limited Service Volunteer participants, Conservation Corps, Youth Trainees and Rangatahi M ori in schools.

## Opportunity Canterbury

We have responded to the extraordinary needs of the people of Canterbury by working with redundant workers and the migrant community. Our web development team designed the Canterbury Job Matcher . an innovative online tool that lets people identify their transferrable skills, get a range of job ideas and then find related jobs available in Canterbury. See [www.canterbury.careers.govt.nz](http://www.canterbury.careers.govt.nz) Plans are underway to enhance this site into a one-stop-shop to address the supply and demand of skills in the region.

## Economic development

We are developing working relationships with regional Economic Development Agencies (EDAs) to ensure that employers and local government are communicating employment opportunities and their needs effectively. This has led to joint initiatives between Careers New Zealand, EDAs, employers and education providers in several areas.

## Labour market

We regularly gather labour market information from business, industry, trade organisations, and training providers across the country. From this we provide up-to-date information for the 600+ jobs on our website, including the chances of getting a job (together with regional variations), the types of employers in that field, and the likely pay rates.

We also provide information about skill shortages, a summary of current trends in the New Zealand labour market, and the outlook for the year ahead.

We are continually updating our labour market information and tools, and will soon launch a job vacancy map by region with links to live job vacancies. This is based on the success of the Canterbury Job Matcher tool.

## Careers Summit

In July, Careers New Zealand hosted a Careers Summit which brought together senior leaders from the public and private sectors for a focused discussion on how to 'join the dots' to ensure the career system works for both employers and individuals, and contributes to economic growth in New Zealand. We were privileged to have Dale Williams on our panel discussion. The rich discussions have been developed into a set of themes and action points which will be led by the relevant agencies and organisations. Keep updated on the Summit actions at [www.careers.govt.nz/summit](http://www.careers.govt.nz/summit)

## Working with Careers New Zealand

If you'd like to discuss any items in this newsletter or areas in which we can work together, please get in touch with the relevant Area Manager.

Northern (offices in Kaitiaia, Whangarei, Manukau, Eden Terrace, Waitakere)  
Dale Bailey [dale.bailey@careers.govt.nz](mailto:dale.bailey@careers.govt.nz) Tel. 09 262 4031

Central North (offices in Tauranga, Hamilton, Rotorua, Gisborne)  
Ross Jones [ross.jones@careers.govt.nz](mailto:ross.jones@careers.govt.nz) Tel. 07 834 0341

Central South (offices in Napier, Palmerston North, Wanganui, New Plymouth, Wellington)  
David Bradbury [david.bradbury@careers.govt.nz](mailto:david.bradbury@careers.govt.nz) Tel. 04 381 5812

Southern (offices in Nelson, Christchurch, Timaru, Dunedin)  
Peter McBeth [peter.mcbeth@careers.govt.nz](mailto:peter.mcbeth@careers.govt.nz) Tel. 03 474 2664

[www.careers.govt.nz](http://www.careers.govt.nz)

0800 222 733



@careersnz

[New Zealand Government](http://www.newzealand.govt.nz)