

# **MAYORS TASKFORCE FOR JOBS**

**Core Group Meeting  
24<sup>th</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010**

**Present – Mayors** Dale Williams (Chair), Jenny Rowan, Jono Naylor and Malcolm Campbell.  
Jan Francis Executive Officer-Mayors Taskforce for Jobs, Bry Kopu Mayors Taskforce for Jobs and Mariska Wouters, LGNZ.

**Apologies – Mayors** Frana Cardno, Len Brown, Les Probert, Lawrence Yule, Alistair Sowman, Wayne Guppy, Brendan Duffy, John Forbes, Kelvin Coe and Kevin Winters.

## **PARTNERS MEETING**

**Present –** Peter Conway [CTU]

**Apologies –** Samantha Seath [EDANZ] and Jeremy Baker [ITF]

### **Council of Trade Unions – Peter Conway**

Peter began by acknowledging the Pike River disaster which was unfolding and also the aftermath of the Canterbury earthquake.

He noted that there was still fall out from the global financial crisis e.g. Ireland. New Zealand had fared better than many, primarily on the back of the Australian economy. He noted that unemployment was still over 6% and although there had been a drop in the last quarter it was still 48,000 more than in 2008. He said the CTU was supportive of some of the new measures around benefits being announced by the government particularly around the invalids and sickness benefits. However he noted that families were struggling and although most were holding it together some just spin out. He cautioned about jobless growth given that previous jobs had been in the service sector and in casual and temporary work. He advocated for the government to re-look at Community Max and the Job Opportunities packages which had proved to be very successful, noting that in these times we needed to make sure young people were not once again left behind.

He was disappointed in the governments response to the underspend by ITO's by allocating \$55million to fund 3,000 university places when the money could have been put into relieving unemployment. He felt there was still some confusion around the Youth Guarantee and what that actually meant.

There was likely to be some amalgamations in the industry Training sector but there was not a lot of dialogue within the sector which was under a lot of pressure.

The CTU was disappointed in the government's attitude to employment rights and felt they were talking past each other. There was less churn in the labour market.

## **INZONE**

Peter Doak gave a presentation of his career information kiosk. The kiosks cost \$5,000 per year and he is aiming to get them in as many schools and communities as possible. He noted that the careers grants were often not all allocated to careers or even used most effectively. Within the 350 High Schools there were only 4 people qualified specifically in career education. Content on the kiosks was able to be regionalised with a “jobs available now” option and could provide excellent data for businesses and communities.

The Taskforce undertook to investigate funding options for the kiosks to be trialed in communities. **Jan to follow up.**

Peter’s presentation will be available on the Taskforce website as soon as possible.

## **OFFICIALS MEETING**

**Present – Mayors** Dale Williams (Chair), Jenny Rowan, Jono Naylor, and Malcolm Campbell  
Jan Francis Executive Officer-Mayors Taskforce for Jobs and Bry Kopu Mayors Taskforce for Jobs.

**Officials** – Mike Smith, Penny Nelson (MSD), Shenagh Gleisner (DoL), Lynne Dovey (MED), Peter Palmer, Susan Shipley (TEC), Ruth Harrison (DIA), Geoff Short (TPK), Heker Robertson (MPIA) Andrea Schollmann, Ben O’Mera, Christine (MoE), Janet Brown (Career Services), Dibs Patel (MYD).

Mayor Dale Williams welcomed everyone to the meeting explaining why these particular people (Deputy Secretaries) had been invited to the meeting and noting that the work with the officials underpinned the MoU and Action Plan. A general discussion on the purpose of these meetings was held. Mike Smith suggested that a meeting at this level be held once a year to discuss policy settings, share plans and develop work programmes. Andrea Schollum and others from MoE agreed noting that they were very keen to participate as the Youth Guarantee was their flagship programme. Lynne Dovey (MED) noted that their focus was the skills agenda and the economic growth agenda. This was generally discussed at the local government forum so this needs to be aligned. She would be happy to provide the Core Group with a presentation in the future. Penny Nelson also noted the work of the Welfare Working Group and that it would be good to have the Taskforce views on this too.

Other officials agreed that this was the best approach and that the best meeting for this discussion would be the June meeting. **Jan to organise.**

## **Deputy Secretaries Roles**

Officials gave a brief description of their roles within the sector:

**MSD** – Mike Smith – in charge of Work and Income – all service areas.

**MYD** – Dibs Patel – deputising for Carl Crafar – all policy work on youth, youth engagement key work, also youth voices on line work.

**MOE** – Andrea Schollum – Responsible for corporate services and one of the 6 Core priorities – Youth Guarantee.

**Career Services** – Janet Brown - strategic leadership team member responsible for direct delivery.

**TPK** – Geoff Short – Implementing whanau ora plus social policy roles and investment and the new advisory group to Minister Pita Sharples – the Maori Youth Council (15 young people).

**DoL** – Shenagh Gleisner – all policy work – will come under one unit from December 1.

**TEC** – Susan Shipley – Director of Policy and part of the executive team – currently under review.

**DIA** – Ruth Harrison – Local Government Community Branch – administer grant funding, service delivery. From 1 February will interface with policy

**MPIA** – Heker Robertson – Chief Adviser – overseeing whole of government activity for economic and social development. Administering the Pacific Action Plan with a strong focus in Auckland.

**MED** – Lynne Dovey – Director Policy Branch – linking strategy with agencies and local government on the economic development strategy. Also links with new Ministry of Science Innovation and Trade – links with MFAT and NZTE to align with the economic growth agenda.

Dale thanked officials and noted the problem the Taskforce had had previously with changing personnel. Officials agreed that this was unsatisfactory and for the annual meeting they would look at only Deputy Secretary and/or nominated person to attend meetings. Other meetings should be at General Manager level so that things could be processed in a timely fashion.

#### **Presentation on Youth Guarantee from Andrea Schollum**

Andrea Schollum gave a presentation on the Youth Guarantee (available on the Taskforce website). Following the presentation there was a general discussion on the policy. It was noted that schools were self-managing to respond to needs of their communities which resulted in different processes. It was agreed that careers advice was uneven and that there was a lack of specialised careers workforce. Careers education had small budgets so it was necessary to collaborate and share best practice. Mayors mentioned the INZONE concept and asked how they could encourage schools to take up this offer. It would appear that there is no process for doing this other than school by school. There are guidelines on career education which is required from Year 7.

The enrol data base does have contact details and the ministry is working to improve systems to provide information and working with MSD to look at how the services can inter-link.

## **CORE GROUP BUSINESS**

**Present:** Dale Williams, Jono Naylor, Jenny Rowan, Jan Francis, Bry Kopu, Mariska Wouters

### **Previous Minutes**

As a true and accurate record

**Moved** Jono Naylor

**Seconded** Malcolm Campbell

**Carried**

### **Finance/Accounts**

Report accepted

**Moved** Jenny Rowan

**Seconded** Jono Naylor

**Carried**

### **Teleconferencing**

Jan reported on the agreement for telecom to sponsor conference calls (no formal agreement yet) and it was agreed that these should be used for administrative business 2 weeks prior to the Core Group meeting. **Jan to organise.**

### **Ministerial Group**

It was agreed that there would be a ministerial group from the Core Group who would always attend Ministers meetings to give some consistency to these meetings. Dale and Jenny would be on this group and members agreed to call other Core Group members to ask of their wish to stay on the Core Group and then Dale, Jenny and Jan would ask members to be part of the Ministerial group.

### **Youth Transition Forum update**

Jono reported that there had been an excellent meeting on this proposal, that they were looking for suitable dates (July/August) and had identified a good, positive team to work on the event.

### **Youth Transitions Proposal**

The Core Group discussed the proposal and agreed in principle to the continued negotiation with officials to implement the Taskforce vision and plan. Jono noted that the process for implementation and discussion with local authorities would be crucial to its success.

### **Modern Apprenticeships**

Dale updated the group on progress with the apprenticeship programme. Jan and Dale are meeting with Steven Joyce following the Ministers meeting and would be reiterating our concerns about the programme and asking for further information on implementation. **Jan to report back on this meeting.**

### **INZONE**

**Jan** to approach MSD/ DoL /MoE about trials for putting the kiosks in libraries.

### **General Business**

The group was introduced to Philip Shackleton who has been appointed as the economic development policy analyst at LGNZ. Local government would be writing a manifesto for next year's general election. The Taskforce would be holding its usual election meeting with all political parties.

## **MINISTERS MEETING**

**Present – Mayors** Dale Williams, Jono Naylor, Jenny Rowan, Malcolm Campbell and Executive Officer Jan Francis, and Bry Kopu

**Minister** – Paula Bennett

**Officials** – Penny Nelson, Christina Connelly

Minister Bennett apologised for the canceling of the usual meeting and thanked Mayors for meeting with her. A discussion on how the meetings might proceed next year was held with the Minister suggesting perhaps theming the meetings to ensure there was a focus and particular Ministers could then advise on the policies and issues. Dale noted that the Taskforce was focused on making the partnership work and will give advice and support to Ministers.

The Minister noted that the YTS work was moving ahead and that there was a crisis with our young people at the moment and working on the transition area was the most responsible thing to do. Mayor Jenny Rowan noted that there was definitely an opportunity within the economic development discussion to add in the social development context.

The Minister said that she had initially been getting a handle on the programmes and delivery and was now working on the evaluations and other information coming to hand. She was interested in how effective the hundreds of millions of dollars being spent were. There was a need to really work out what NEET meant and what was currently happening with this age group. This was also a priority for the Prime Minister. She said she was aware that with regard to youth programmes about 30% were very good, 20% were performing poorly and 50% she didn't know about. Minister Tolley was supportive of the national call centre and was working to ensure young people and their families would need to opt in not out. There was a general discussion on what was the best way to find the most difficult young people with options ranging from community groups and programmes such as community max to a finders fee. Bry noted that community links was the best way as people within the community did know where they were.

Dale said that step one was agreeing the process, and step 2 what to do with your local people. He asked Paula what were her expectations from the paper currently being worked on. Paula said she wanted officials and the Taskforce to work together and come to the same conclusion and then work the details out as the process evolved. The work should be seen as a genuine partnership. However she needed to move quickly and had to convince her colleagues but she was in agreement with the concept. She saw the Taskforce as being able to provide information on what it would like on the ground giving a practical perspective.

Dale said that the Taskforce could hold the contracts and asked how committed the Minister was to that concept. She replied that she would need to look at how it would work and what accountability there would be. Also was there good buy in from all Mayors? Jono Naylor noted that the response would be different if the communities had the funding. Paula was concerned about who would hold the data and how this would be passed on locally.

Jenny Rowan noted the issue around careers needed to be built into the model and asked if it was possible to tag the career advice funding to this outcome. The Minister was unsure about this.

The Minister thanked everyone for their participation and support of the government goals and hoped to see the outcome of the current work in the near future.