



Youth in Emergency Services Programme

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Youth in Emergency Services programme?

Youth in Emergency Services (YES) is a national programme run collaboratively with the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) and Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management. The YES programme is designed to strengthen and encourage young people's connection to their community by encouraging them to engage with a range of emergency services.

Is the YES programme new?

The YES programme was piloted in Rotorua during March and April 2013 involving 15 young people aged between 16 and 18. Following the pilot, young people reported a significant increase in a connection to their community, and several participants indicated their experience enabled them to actively participate in their communities. The second phase of the programme involves launching YES programmes in a small number of communities across New Zealand.

Where will the second phase of YES programmes take place?

The second phase of the YES programme is due to take place in the following communities:

- Kaikohe
- Gisborne
- Rotorua
- Mangakino/Taupo
- Kaikoura
- Alexandra.

How is the YES programme structured?

The YES programme starts with an orientation programme for young people. This introduces them to the skills they need to work in the various volunteer emergency services.

Local emergency services are invited to deliver the training sessions to young people. Following the orientation programme, young people will have the opportunity to demonstrate these skills in a range of group scenarios in real life settings.

How is the YES programme delivered?

Emergency Services, with support from a YES Programme Coordinator will deliver the programme. The local working group will determine the structure and processes of elements such as recruiting young people and how ongoing support will be provided.

Who will be involved in a YES programme?

Each YES programme will be driven by a local working group, likely to comprise of community representatives of the volunteer emergency services, local councils, schools and other relevant organisations interested and/or involved in the programme. The working group will meet the advisory and governance needs of the programme.

What is MYD's role in the YES programmes?

MYD is developing a toolkit to guide new YES programmes. It includes information on candidate recruitment, programme design, evaluation and risk management. In addition to this, MYD will be on hand to provide support to each YES programme.

How can emergency services get involved in a YES programme?

For more information on how to get involved in a YES programme in your community, please contact MYD's Programme Lead, Blair Gilbert (contact details are below).

I am interested in supporting a YES programme, how can I get involved?

For further information on how to get involved in a YES programme in your community, please contact MYD's Programme Lead, Blair Gilbert (contact details are below).

How many young people take part in the programme?

There is space for 12-15 young people in each community YES programme.

How are young people selected for the programme?

Each community will recruit suitable candidates (aged between 16-19 years) from their local schools and/or local social services agency.

What happens after YES?

Each young person will have the option of volunteering in an emergency service following their completion of the orientation programme.

Where can I go for more information on the YES programme?

For further information on the YES programme, please contact MYD's Programme Lead, Blair Gilbert on Blair.Gilbert005@myd.govt.nz . You can also visit the Ministry of Youth Development's website at: www.myd.govt.nz for further details on YES.

