

"I'm trying to do the right thing – just going about it the wrong way"

# ***"I'm trying to do the right thing – just going about it the wrong way"***



**Submission on the Youth Crime Action Plan as told to staff from the Office of the Children's Commissioner and JustSpeak during September 2012**

The title and artwork created for this submission was written and drawn by young people as part of this consultation process

## Key Messages

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*“What we need is an undercover Minister – just like that TV show – undercover boss. They need to come spend some time in our shoes and see what it’s like for us, how we get hassled by the cops and stuff”*

Young people in New Zealand have some important things to say, they want to be heard on issues that are important to them. The Office of the Children’s Commissioner (the Office) and JustSpeak believe it is important to seek views of young people on policy areas that directly affect them. Therefore when the review of the Youth Offending Strategy, called the Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP) was announced, JustSpeak approached the Office to partner on a consultation with young people. We spoke with 97 young people - many of whom had first-hand experience of the youth justice system in New Zealand, as well as those who hadn’t.

***The key messages to come from this consultation were:***

***Young people understand they need to be held accountable for their actions if they have been in trouble. But they also feel they don’t get enough support early on to prevent offending;***

***Some of the conditions imposed on them set them up to fail; that they really want to do the right thing, but without the right support and guidance, some of them just go about it the wrong way.***

***Young people want to be actively involved in decision making and feel it’s important they have a say in decisions that affect them; this would enable them to take greater ownership of their plans.***

***Encouragingly, young people spoke about programmes already in existence that they find helpful. These include wrap around and mentoring programmes run by people they can relate to. The importance of safe places to hang out, and feel like they are part of their community.***

We believe this submission offers a valuable contribution to the YCAP and we thank you for taking the time to consider this submission. We would also like to thank the young people, from around New Zealand, who gave up their time to talk to us and answer our survey about their views on New Zealand’s youth justice system.

## Introduction

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In order to promote young people’s participation in the development of the YCAP, the Office, in partnership with JustSpeak, sought out the views of children and young people in New Zealand.

Staff from the Office and members of JustSpeak received the views of 97 young people. These views were obtained through visits to two Child, Youth and Family residences, and two community groups which support young people. We also ran consultation sessions with young people from the Office’s Young People’s Advisory Group, and members of JustSpeak. We spent between one to two hours with each group seeking their views on the consultation themes of YCAP. A wider network of young people were also given the opportunity to contribute by answering a short online survey. The questions for the consultation and survey can be found in Appendix A.

"I'm trying to do the right thing – just going about it the wrong way"

Young people who we visited or contacted were invited to take part in one or all of the following activities:

- Draw a picture;
- Participate in a group discussion facilitated by advisors from the Office and JustSpeak;
- Participate in small focus group discussions facilitated by advisors from the Office and JustSpeak;
- Fill out a hand-out questionnaire; and
- Fill out an online questionnaire.

At the start of each of the visits, all of the groups were informed about the consultation process, that their feedback would be presented anonymously as a submission, and that they had a choice about participating. Young people gave self-consent to participate by signing an agreement form. Young people were asked three demographic questions, the details of which can be found in Appendix B. The consultation process was agreed to by the Families' Commission Ethics Committee.

The views expressed in this paper are those of the young people who took part in the consultation and are not necessarily the views of the Office or JustSpeak. The views of the participants have been summarised by Zoey Caldwell, Senior Advisor at the Office who recorded the consultation. Direct quotes are written in italics and quotation marks. A full copy of the feedback gathered during the process is available on request from the Office.

## **General Question**

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This question was used as a warm-up to generate further discussion about the YCAP. It was asked in all of the sessions we facilitated and was the first question on the online survey.

### ***What is the first thing you think of when someone says 'youth justice'?***

Most of the young people we spoke with knew that youth justice was about getting into trouble, crime and the police. A few young people thought it was more to do with your rights and the law. Only a few young people said it was about changing behaviour or getting support. Some young people had had negative experiences and this was the first thing that came to their mind. Overall, most saw youth justice in a negative light.

- *"Trouble"*
- *"It's not fair when they keep you in the cells for four days in a row – you're supposed to be let out after 1 day – my lawyers said they are not allowed to do that"*
- *"Youth of New Zealand having a say... having rights..."*
- *"Law, juvenile, boy's home, cells, police, trouble, unfair, stereotyping, crime."*
- *"Kids that have done bad things and are getting punished for it?"*
- *"That it is when youth get into trouble and are caught"*
- *"Cyfs and underage kids breaking the law"*
- *"Crime and police"*
- *"Drugs and alcohol"*
- *"Reform"*
- *"At risk youth"*

Some groups were asked further general questions:

***What leads young people to re-offend?***

Some young people talked specifically about why they thought young people got into trouble. Generally, they spoke about external factors impacting on them such as drugs and alcohol, not having constructive things to do with their time, or not having their basic needs met.

- *"Drug and alcohol addiction"*
- *"No job – once you have a couple of sentences it's difficult to do anything jobwise, hard to employ young people"*
- *"Nowhere to go once you get out – might break into an empty house to sleep there for a while, safer than sleeping under a bridge – it's horrible on the streets"*

***What isn't working around preventing re-offending?***

Young people who had been in the system were keen to tell us what wasn't working. They all acknowledged they did need to have consequences for their actions but felt many of the conditions imposed were too restrictive and set them up to fail. Some of the specific themes were:

- *"You do your six month sentence inside YJ then made to do a programme e.g. boot camp, or have a curfew after the six month sentence – useless and a waste of time – like being on remand, we want to be free after, when we leave we're motivated to move on and don't want to come back"*
- *"Curfews set you up to fail – especially 24 hour curfew - impossible not to breach and then young people end up back in justice system and back in YJ"*
- *"Boot camps – the ten weeks goes fast and it makes you fitter, teaches you self-discipline, you do marching and learn how to cook dinner, you can even go off-site every weekend and the staff are all good, but the camp is pretty soft – probably doesn't stop young people re-offending though, 90% of everyone I know re-offends so what's the point of that? You just do lots of marching – how does that help re-offending?"*
- *"Too many programmes you are made to do and they are boring"*

## Prevention - Discussion Questions

We described prevention as the things that families, schools, and communities can do to help young people stay out of trouble. We asked all young people what they thought would have helped them to stay out of trouble, or, for those who hadn't been in contact with the youth justice system, what had helped them.

***Are there any activities in your community that help keep young people out of trouble? What is good about them, or what would help to make them better?***

Most of the young people we spoke with could identify several programmes in their community that were supportive. Generally these were programmes that contained a structured routine, supportive staff (in many cases mentors) and relaxed environments where young people could hang out with their friends. Many spoke about the importance of sports and cultural groups, where young people developed a sense of community, team spirit and confidence. Many said it would have been helpful if these programmes had been available to them before they got into trouble.

While there are many great programmes, some of the specific useful programmes named by young people included: Challenge 2000, the Hubs in Rotorua and Hamilton, Genesis, BGI, Big Brother-Big Sister, Secret Level, Zeal, Youthline, LSU, One Stop Shops, the Journey, Cactus, Youth Councils, Church and Community groups, Vibe, Y2Y, Kapiti Youth support, the YMCA, Amp'd, and Urban Vision.

- *"Youth centres are good where you can go hang out and they have activities like pool and food and support people"*
- *"We want to hang out at the mall but the police make us leave – but at the mall there are other people there and we have to be considerate to each other. In the park we kind of do what we want"*
- *"Strengths based programmes / inclusive / anonymous / services that are easy to access - there on your doorstep"*
- *"Youth One Stop Shop Health Services – help youth stay healthy and not do drugs"*
- *"More opportunities for young people to do things in the community that are free as there are lots of activities but most of it costs like go-karts so young people can't afford them"*
- *"The sports clubs and gym, but we need something more. Kids get bored and that's why most of the kids from school seem to just go and smoke, get drunk and go a bit crazy"*
- *"It's not about finding things for all of us to do and it seems like a bit of an assumption that every young person is on the verge of getting in trouble. The youth that are at risk of getting into trouble just need support and someone they can look up to that can encourage them not to do bad things",*
- *"Sports are huge. Church community groups. Support network. School. Outdoor activity group"*
- *"Mentors and role models are helpful"*
- *"Need access to programmes before you get into trouble, not after you are in trouble"*

***Who are the right people in the community and what do they need to help young people stay out of trouble?***

Young people talked a great deal about ethnicity and gender matching so that it was easier to relate to the people that were supporting them. They spoke about the risk of people abusing their power, but what they wanted was respectful, supportive relationships with people who they felt were genuinely interested in helping them out.

- *"They need to have similar backgrounds to the people they are supporting – this helps with connections i.e. Pacifika people can make connections easier with other Pacifika people"*
- *"Approachable – someone you can talk to, who cares"*
- *"People who listen to you"*
- *"Real people – she's like an urban person"*
- *"People who help you because they wanna help you"*
- *"People who actually listen"*

***What sorts of things can help support young people's connection with their community, family, school and peer groups?***

Young people spoke about doing things collaboratively, with families and communities working together. They also spoke about how important it was to have a supportive family and to feel loved. Some were able to connect how their early experiences shaped who they are. They also spoke about the importance of cultural considerations.

- *"They need to try"*
- *"Love them more than anything – put them first"*
- *"Avoiding the family shame can be a powerful deterrent"*
- *"Support role to walk alongside with families so that they feel listened to"*
- *"Community initiatives that involve community and parents"*
- *"I don't know if there is anything you can do to help us – we are broken, all of the stuff we have seen and has been done to us when we are little means we are just broken and you can't fix that"*

***What kinds of things make it easier for young people to access health services (such as the doctor, nurse, or drug and alcohol support services)?***

Young people all recognised the importance of good healthcare, but highlighted the many difficulties with accessing it. They spoke about the impact of cost, the stigma attached with accessing healthcare, and not having good information about what was available for them.

- *"Family planning is good but there are some stigmas to going – it's good because its anonymous"*
- *"We generally need more information about what's available to us – particularly in terms of health care and healthy houses"*
- *"In Sweden they have nurses and doctors that drop into schools – this would be a good idea for New Zealand"*
- *"Young people think that doctors just give you pills and then tell you to leave – there is a perception that it's real quick fire and not very sensitive"*
- *"Access to health services like the Youth One Stop Shop – but you can't access if you don't know about the services "*

***What kinds of things make it easier for young people to access education services (such as school, training, university or future employment)?***

Young people spoke about the importance of having something to do with your time. Many spoke about wanting to contribute financially to their family but that it was hard to find a job. Many felt that employers were not willing to give them a chance because they were young, but especially if they had been in trouble with the Police. Many saw education and employment as key preventative factors.

- *"It's hard to get a job – they judge us before they know us, because we are young they assume we are not responsible"*
- *"Jobs give us something to do and gives us some money"*
- *"Youth should all learn life skills at school like information about flatting – applying for jobs – your rights as an employee"*
- *"Teachers at mainstream have a responsibility to identify young people at risk of non-engagement and look at what supports they can put in place"*
- *"Apprenticeship programmes and work opportunities while you are at school"*
- *"We need options and easier access to education services – a good free education course"*
- *"It would be really good if education courses picked you up and dropped you off"*

## **Diversion - Discussion Questions**

We described Diversion and Alternative Action, as the action Police can take when a young person first gets in trouble.

### ***What are some of the things that Police do well? What do you think they could do better?***

Young people generally felt this depended on the individual; most could identify Police officers that had treated them really well and the reasons why. This included, being respectful, going out of their way to be helpful and supportive, enquiring how things were going, and listening to their point of view. Unfortunately many could also identify Police officers who hadn't treated them well, and in many instances this was their first encounter with the Police, affecting how they perceived Police in the future. Negative experiences generally included feeling stereotyped based on their cultural identities or behaviour of other family members or peers. All felt that the Police did a good job at solving crime, catching bad people and keeping people safe. Many felt they could do better at preventing crime from happening.

- *"The police that talk to you like normal and give you a second chance are good"*
- *"Bad cops are mean; you can't reason with them; they don't listen; they are aggressive"*
- *"When stuff gets hard they don't think about what else is going on in the kid's life"*
- *"About a quarter of the time, police are "good cops" because they are good to deal with and talk to you appropriately instead of trying to be a tough cop"*
- *"Police don't know you and make judgements – Know you've been in trouble before and assume you still will be, they think you're young and dumb and they can take advantage of you"*
- *"They can be intimidating which makes building relationships hard"*
- *"deal with youth better. We all make mistakes especially when we are young. I think they should focus on more serious offending, and not the nitty gritty"*
- *"their jobs of keeping us safe, coming to family domestics and fights. They could catch us being good and praise, encourage etc., so if they pull over a car and the driver is fully licenced and has not been drinking or taking drugs they could give them a BP petrol voucher???? should talk with BP about them as they are volunteers"*

### ***Do you think that the Police treat all young people the same?***

Again young people felt this depended on the individual Police officer. The number of young people who felt they were treated differently because of their ethnicity was about equal to the number who felt they were not treated differently. Most young people felt that boys were treated harsher than girls, with a few exceptions. Most felt that the Police treated you differently because of your age. Many felt this meant they were bullied more as a young person.

- *"Stereotyping by the police sucks"*

*"I'm trying to do the right thing – just going about it the wrong way"*

- *"They treat you bad because of the way you look – like if you are wearing a hoody and a cap; you know baggy clothes and street shoes – they always think you are in a gang if you are wearing certain colours"*
- *"Your attitude depends on how you get treated"*
- *"Every cop is different but some treat you different because of your colour"*
- *"They think we are young and dumb and that they can overpower us"*
- *"A good cop is polite, says hi how are you doing, just check you are staying out of trouble or they might let you off and buy you McDonalds – just treat you like you're a normal person instead of a criminal"*
- *"They should create new training programmes to teach police to connect with different cultures"*

***Do you think that families and communities should be more involved when Police use Diversion or Alternative Action? If so, how could this happen?***

Young people spoke about choice and wanting to have a say in the plan that was developed for them. They also felt that the level of parental input should depend on your age.

- *"It was alright – I enjoyed it – it gave me something to do"*
- *"They should lay out our options so we can come up with a better plan so it will work for both of us."*
- *"If they are going to involve our parents they should let us talk to them first"*
- *"I'd rather not have my family involved – but it's probably OK if you're younger – so it's good to have a different response depending on your age"*
- *"Writing an apology letter is good because it makes you feel better going to the effort of writing an apology and it makes the victim feel better"*
- *"Fines are hard to pay – I have to pay \$500 and I can't afford to pay it"*
- *"But it's good to have options, like instead of a fine, which is hard to pay for young people, do a programme"*

## Family Group Conferences - Discussion Questions

We described Youth Justice Family Group Conferences or YJ FGCs, as meetings run by Child, Youth and Family after young people have got into trouble with the Police"

### ***Have you ever had a Youth Justice Family Group Conference? If so what was helpful?***

Young people spoke highly about their FGCs. They liked knowing what was going to happen once a plan had been developed. They also noted how hard it was meeting their victims, but appreciated the fact that they got to say sorry face to face. Young people also said they liked having a say and seeing their family 'step up' and get involved.

- *"It's good if you have the same social worker – cos they get to know you and you have a relationship with them. They support you and listen to you. They try to find out why you did it and they give you something to do"*
- *"You get to have a say and work on your plan"*
- *"I like knowing what's going to happen and having it agreed by everyone"*
- *"My family stepped up so it was all good"*
- *"If you make a good point they actually listen to you"*
- *"It's good if the victim is there so you can say sorry face to face"*

### ***What was not?***

Young people said that it often felt like the decision was made before they got there by Police and Child, Youth and Family. Some young people didn't feel that their views were considered as part of their plans. Some people experienced FGCs as a 'telling off', without a focus on moving forward.

- *"It was hard to pay reparation – I had no job so no money and it wasn't fair on my parents"*
- *"Lawyers and police just tell you off - Sometimes they just seem angry for nothing"*
- *"It's like the police have already decided what will happen – your family doesn't get to decide"*
- *"It feels like everyone is against you – police, social workers, your lawyer"*
- *"Not good how much say social workers have – needs to be your family"*

### ***If you didn't think it was helpful what would have made it better?***

Young people noted they had better results when they knew the people involved. Several suggest that the time it was held meant that some family couldn't make it, and that the venue wasn't comfortable. Some young people talked about not being prepared about what would happen. They also spoke about the importance of the FGC being an independent process.

- *"Need better relationships with the people involved – you need to know the people there"*

*"I'm trying to do the right thing – just going about it the wrong way"*

- *"They need to talk with you not at you"*
- *"They just told me I had to apologise to the victim, I didn't have any time to think about it and I didn't know what to say – I was shy as and then they nussed at me for not getting it right"*
- *"If you have your own good plans they should let you try that – I had a job sorted but was told no"*
- *"It's better the more family you have there – but sometimes they can't make the week but could have come at the weekends"*
- *"Let you choose where the FGC is going to be held – like on a marae and then the marae is responsible for the consequences like you do your community work there – then I would have understood the rules better"*
- *"I think that an FGC co-ordinator shouldn't come from CYFS, there is a lot of colluding and they tag team to ensure they get a desirable outcome for the statutory agencies"*

### **Anything else?**

Young people said that FGCs were generally fair, that they had done something wrong and needed a consequence for it. However, long curfews, especially those for 24 hours featured highly, as things that set young people up to fail. Some young people said they didn't understand some of their restrictions and how they related to their behaviour, such as having a curfew at night when their offending had been during the day.

- *"Curfews are hard – I had mine for 24 hours a day I wasn't even allowed out with my parents"*
- *"I think they are a good thing – I did the crime – now I have to do the time"*
- *"I think the consequences should match the crime – I got a curfew at night but my offending didn't even happen at night"*
- *"It's out of it when you have to confront your victims – it's hard because you are nervous at the start but good when they forgive you"*

## Youth Court - Discussion Questions

We described Youth Court as a special court for young people, where they might go if their offending was serious enough.

### ***Have you been to Youth Court? If so what did you think about it?***

Young people's experience tended to depend on their interaction with the Judge and their lawyer. Those that had the process explained to them by their lawyer and got to speak directly to the Judge said they had a good experience at Youth Court. They liked opportunities to have a say. Some of their frustrations included the long remands, repeat court visits, and not feeling heard.

- *"My lawyer doesn't speak up and I'm not allowed to answer"*
- *"Going backwards and forwards to court a number of times – you just need to get it sorted properly"*
- *"My Judge was all good; he told his name to talk to me."*
- *"Sometimes lawyers lie to you, over promise – make you believe you will get out sooner than you think, lawyers should fight for us more and be on our side, feel like they kick back they only tell us the plan after everything is decided. Would be good to talk before decisions are made"*
- *"I didn't really understand what was going on half the time until your lawyer talks to you after, just stand and go where I'm told to go"*
- *"They should listen to what that person wants and understand that"*
- *"Remands are too long, they should sort it out faster" – [young person on remand for last nine months]*
- *"Two sentences so it can be cut down a bit"*

### ***Have you been to a Youth Court on a marae? If so, what did you think of it?***

Unfortunately we didn't speak to many young people who had been to a Rangatahi Court. However when we described the concept most young people thought it would be a good idea. Even some young people who didn't identify as Māori said they would feel more comfortable there than regular Youth Court. Generally though young people felt they should have a say about which court they went to.

- *"It's good – they know what it's like to be Māori"*
- *"White courts treat you differently"*
- *"I would know the rules and regulations better than Youth Court, I would probably know what was going on and what to do"*
- *"I would give marae courts more respect"*
- *"I would feel more comfortable asking questions"*

*"I'm trying to do the right thing – just going about it the wrong way"*

- *"Marae is different, it has more meaning to me, Youth Court is just another building – doesn't mean anything"*
- *"Marae based punishments would be better too – cleaning marae – working on marae when tangi are going on"*
- *"I like the idea of Pasifika courts – then all the whanau can understand everything better – although at the end of the day the result is always going to be the same – the law is the law"*

***How could we best help young people at the end of their Youth Court Order?***

Most young people felt that the support they received on their court orders was about right, as long as their plans were realistic and they had the support they needed.

- *"The extra hours are hard – they don't take into account all our other responsibilities"*
- *"Sentences are fair – you can't blame them for why you are there"*
- *"By not setting us up to fail, helping us out to reach our goals when we get discharged"*
- *"More support for courses"*

## Youth Justice Residences – Discussion Questions

Questions on youth justice residences were not included in the online survey. However, several of the young people we met in the community had previously been to a youth justice residence, as well as those we meet currently in a residence.

### ***Do you think that young people end up in residence too easily?***

A large number of the young people we met were in or had been in residence on remand for breaching their conditions, mostly their curfews. Young people had previously discussed that curfews were too restrictive and set them up to fail. Some young people felt they were in residence for a good reason. A few young people felt that more Māori and Pacific young people ended up in residence.

- *"I had to move in with one of my friends so I keep breaching my order cos I wanted to see my family so I ended up in residence"*
- *"No we end up here for doing crime"*
- *"We come here when we deserve to"*
- *"if you're brown you're going down; if you're white you're alright; if you're black you ain't never coming back"*

### ***What things would help young people return to the community following time spent in residence?***

Young people felt that their time spent in residence get them ready to leave and get on with their lives. However, several felt that their subsequent orders dragged it out and frustrated them. Some felt that their plans were good but that they needed more support to find jobs.

- *"Having a realistic plan helps"*
- *"Understanding our views about how we want to return to the community"*
- *"Way too easy to end up back in YJ – e.g. breach of curfew or disorderly behaviour – which can be something really small like yelling"*
- *"More support for finding jobs when you're in YJ"*
- *"It needs to be easier on our parents - It's hard for them to provide everything"*
- *"I feel like a dick cos I can't contribute at home"*
- *"I'm just trying to do the right thing, but I'm going the wrong way about it"*

## Appendix A:

### Questions for face to face consultation:

*Facilitators to use prompts for all questions to include Age, Gender and Ethnicity*

#### Prevention - Discussion Questions

"Prevention is about the things that families, schools, and communities can do to help young people stay out of trouble"

1. Are there any activities in your community that help keep young people out of trouble? What is good about them, or what would help to make them better?
2. Who are the right people in the community to help young people stay out of trouble?
3. What sorts of things can help support young people's connection with their community, family, school and peer groups?
4. What kinds of things make it easier for young people to access health services (such as the doctor, nurse, or drug and alcohol support services)?
5. What kinds of things make it easier for young people to access education services (such as school, training, university or future employment)?

#### Diversion - Discussion Questions

"Diversion and Alternative Action are the actions Police can take when a young person gets in trouble"

1. What are some of the things that Police do well? What do you think they could do better?
2. Do you think that the Police treat all young people the same?
3. Do you think that families and communities should be more involved when Police use Diversion or Alternative Action? If so, how could this happen?

#### Family Group Conferences - Discussion Questions

"Youth Justice Family Group Conferences or YJ FGCs are meetings run by Child, Youth and Family after young people have got into trouble with the Police"

1. Have you ever had a Youth Justice Family Group Conference?
2. Do you think it was helpful? Why or why not?
3. If you didn't think it was helpful what would have made it better?

#### Youth Court - Discussion Questions

"If a young person's offending is serious they might go to a special court for young people called the Youth Court"

1. Have you been to Youth Court? If so what did you think about it?
2. Have you been to a Youth Court on a marae? If so, what did you think of it?
3. How could we best help young people at the end of their Youth Court Order?

#### Youth Justice Residences – Discussion Questions

1. Do you think that young people end up in residence too easily?
2. What things would help young people return to the community following time spent in residence?

"I'm trying to do the right thing – just going about it the wrong way"

### **Questions for survey monkey:**

On 28 June 2012 the Minister for Courts, Chester Borrows, announced a review of the 2002 Youth Offending Strategy. They are calling the new plan the **Youth Crime Action Plan**.

The Office of the Children's Commissioner and JustSpeak are organisations that care about children and stand up for their rights.

Together they are working on a project to find out what young people think New Zealand should be doing to help young people stay out of the youth justice system or to make things better for them once they are in it.

This survey asks you about your views on New Zealand's Youth Justice System. Your views will be collated along with those of others and presented to the Minister for him to consider. Nothing you say will be linked to your name in any way – it's all anonymous. And you don't need to answer all of the questions – some of them might not apply to you.

You need to be aged between 14 and 24 to answer this survey.

***What is the first thing you think about when someone says "youth justice"?***

#### **Prevention - Discussion Questions**

"Prevention is about the things that families, schools, and communities can do to help young people stay out of trouble"

***Can you name any activities in your community that help keep young people out of trouble? What is good about them, or what would help to make them better?***

#### **Diversion - Discussion Questions**

"Diversion and Alternative Action are the actions Police can take when a young person gets in trouble"

***What are some of the things that Police do well? What do you think they could do better?***

#### **Family Group Conferences - Discussion Questions**

"Youth Justice Family Group Conferences or YJ FGCs are meetings run by Child, Youth and Family after young people have got into trouble with the Police"

***Have you ever had a Family Group Conference? Do you think it was helpful? Why or why not?***

#### **Youth Court - Discussion Questions**

"If a young person's offending is serious they might go to a special court for young people called the Youth Court"

***Have you been to Youth Court? If so what did you think about it?***

***Is there anything else you want to share?***

***A few questions about you:***

***Are you male or female?***

***What is your age?***

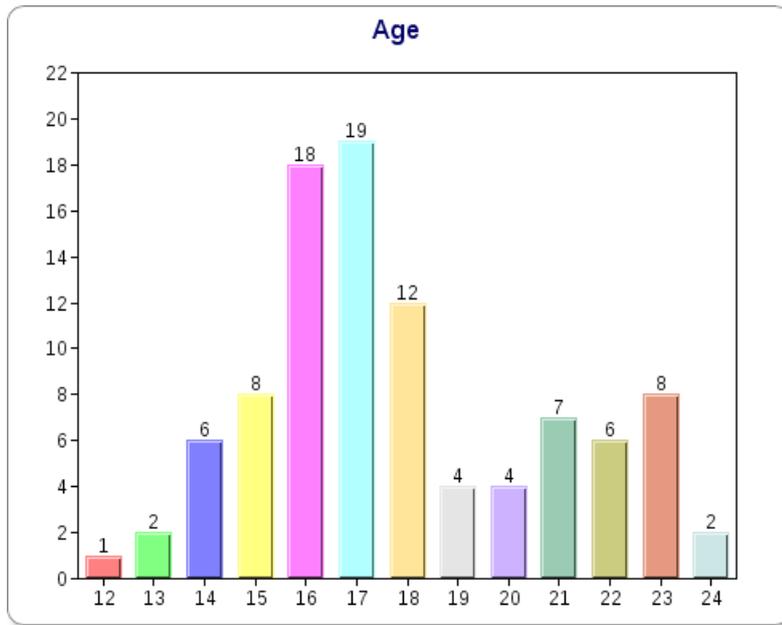
***How would you describe your ethnicity?***

If you need to talk to anyone about any issues raised in this questionnaire you could:

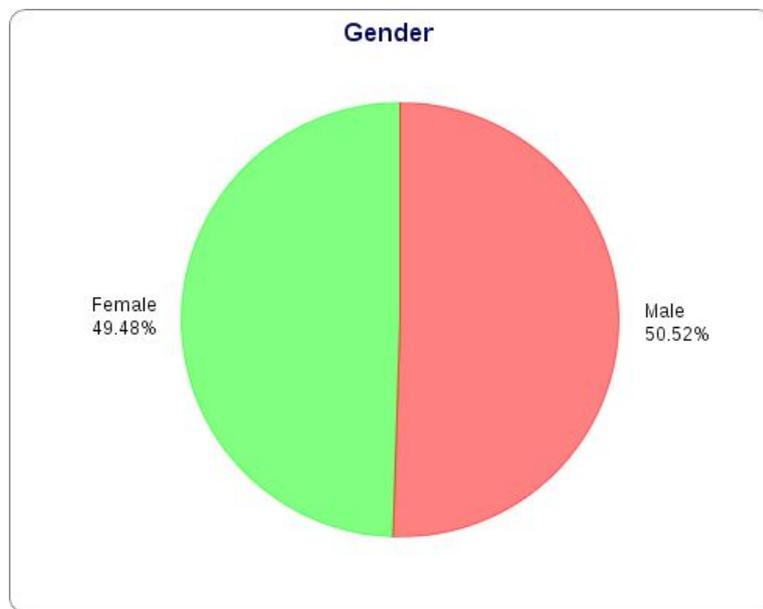
Ring 0800 Whatsup 0800 942 8787 or visit [www.whatsup.co.nz](http://www.whatsup.co.nz) or [www.beahero.co.nz](http://www.beahero.co.nz)

Ring YouthLine on 0800 37 66 33 or send them a free text to 234 or email them at [talk@youthline.co.nz](mailto:talk@youthline.co.nz)

## Appendix B:

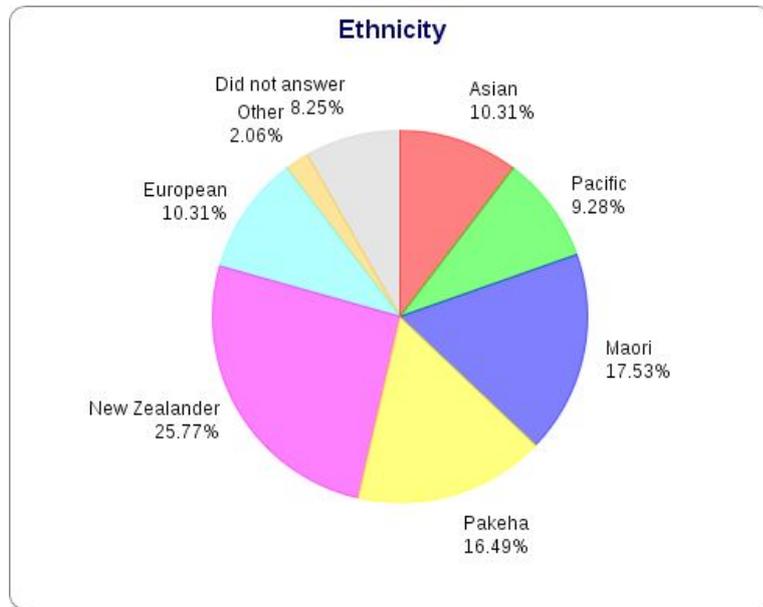


This question was answered by all young people. 68 percent of the people we spoke with were aged 18 years or under. We did have a number of people aged 25 years or older. For the purposes of this consultation their views have been excluded. However this data is available on request from the Office.



This question was answered by all young people. Half of the respondents were male and half female.

"I'm trying to do the right thing – just going about it the wrong way"



*This graph shows the ethnicity of the participants. Young people were asked, 'how do you describe your ethnicity', so there is some variation in how people responded to this question. Please note where a person nominated more than one ethnicity grouping, their first choice has been used for this analysis. Further breakdown of this information is available on request from the Office.*