

EXPLORING THE YOUTH ECONOMY

*Phase 1 - Discovery
Insights Report*

INTRODUCTION

Exploring what we mean by the 'Youth Economy'

Today young people are experiencing a deepening economic crisis that is risking baking long term inequality in to their futures.

The Southern Initiative (TSI) has been working to create economic opportunities for young people in South and West Auckland through its shared prosperity agenda and Youth Connections work.

Its newly formed Youth Economy Team is seeking to consolidate existing practice and explore more broadly what is meant by the youth economy.

This is to help it understand how it might inform the team's future strategy and support wider system change.

This is the first report of a discovery phase which presents a high level exploration of the concept of the youth economy.

Its intent is to surface insights that broaden perspectives and identify threads that might warrant further consideration.

What has emerged through this work is a series of threads that suggest that the term 'youth economy' is consistently used to narrowly focus on youth employment, skills and enterprise.

However, less is understood about how young people move through the different realms of the economy and the multiplicity of roles they play.

Further it is recognised that young people are demanding a greater voice in the political economy and shaping the systems that affect their lives.

As such we need a new conversation about what it means

to be a young person *in the* economy, their role as proactive economic actors, and how it relates to their development into adulthood.

PURPOSE OF THIS REPORT

This report has taken a broadbased approach to exploring the concept of the youth economy.

However it is recognised that further work is needed to understand from the perspectives of young people how they interpret and experience the 'youth economy' and what it means to them.

The discovery phase will continue with a period of engagement with rangatahi. The insights from which will be reported later in the year.

This report:

- Outlines the discovery phase approach, scope and qualifiers underpinning this work.
- Sumarises what we have read, heard and seen during the research.
- Sets out the key themes and insights.
- Identifies different roles of young people in the economy.
- Shares some emergent practice as 'ones to watch' and connect with for ongoing further exploration.



APPROACH

This describes the approach we have taken to the discovery work, its scope, key activities and limitations.

Research Question

Much of the TSI's work to date has been focused on creating opportunities for young people in employment, education and skills and supporting them through this journey. Less is understood about what the youth economy is, its role, and what it looks like?

Thus the foundational question of this discovery phase has been to explore 'what do we mean by the youth economy?'

A deliberate and intentional decision has been made not to focus on employability and skills so as not to constrain thinking, and to surface potential new perspectives that might inform TSI's work.

The work has been approached therefore with a high degree of openness and curiosity.

Approach

Phase one of the discovery has taken a wide ranging approach to the research. This has involved sourcing materials from policy publications, academic research, digital media, pod-casts and through a series of workshops with the Youth Economy Team.

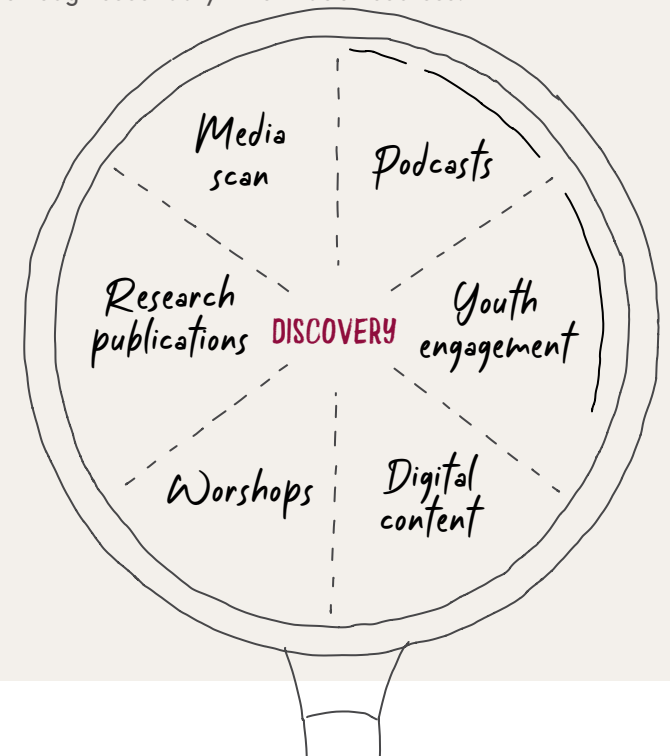
Phase two of the discovery will move towards engaging young people to explore what they understand to be the youth economy. This will aim to give voice to young people's experiences and identify how this informs thinking about the youth economy.

This is in keeping with TSI's practice to blend evidence based information with lived-experience and stories so patterns and insights can be identified.

Qualifiers

In reading this report the following should be understood:

- It is not an academically designed research project.
- It focuses on many examples drawn from overseas and some domestically. More work is needed to explore the experience of young people in a Aotearoa context and specifically from a Te Ao Māori and Pasifika world view.
- It does not evaluate or assess the impact of specific initiatives or programmes.
- Desktop research has been carried using a range of sources.
- No young people have been engaged in this first stage of discovery work. Young people's voices have been captured through secondary information sources.



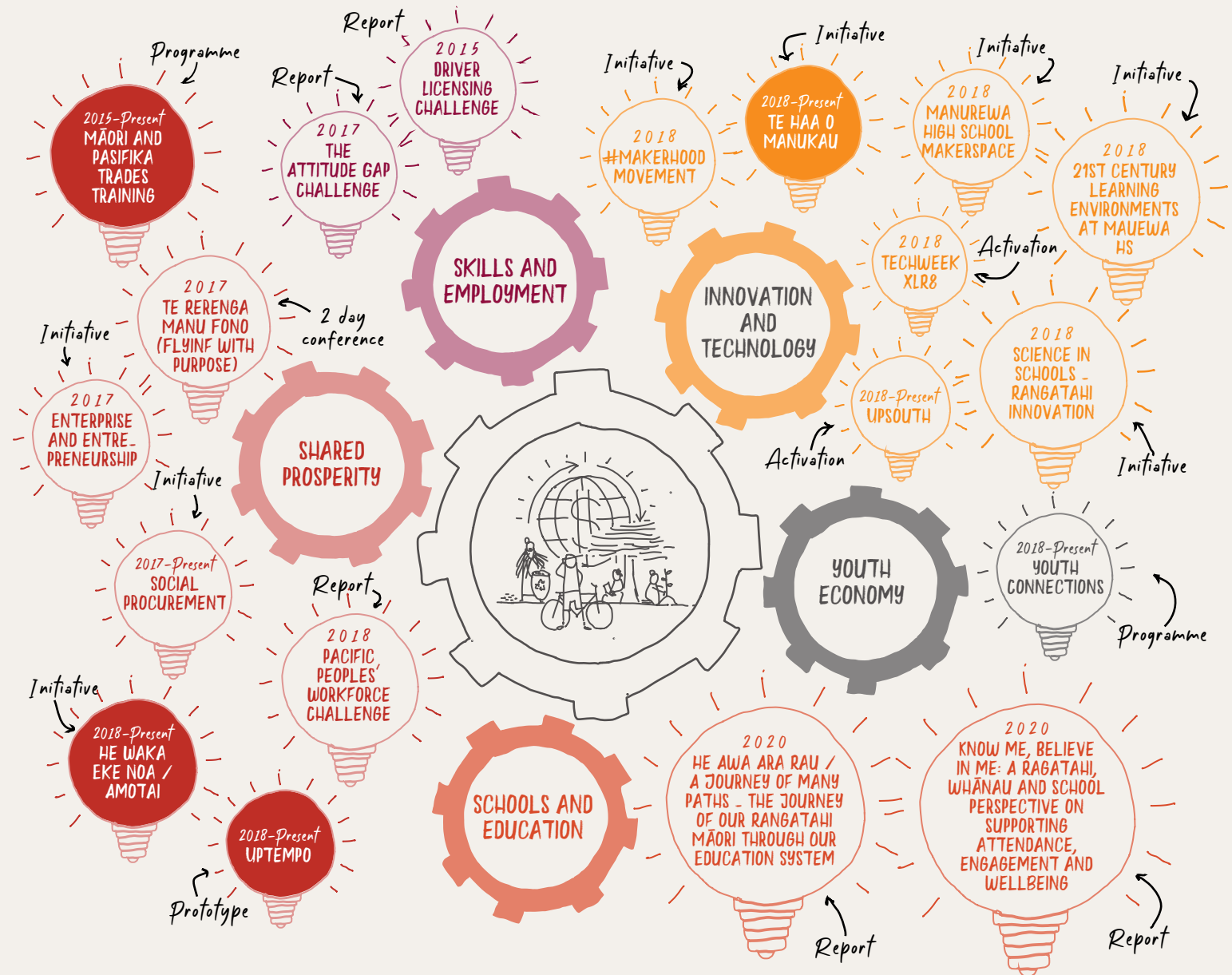
LOOKING BACK TO LOOK FORWARD

TSI's work provides a richness of experience and insight that can inform thinking about the 'youth economy'.

Here we represent the work of the TSI, around the strategic themes of the 'New Economy', 'Shared Prosperity' and 'Innovation and Technology' these also include a focus on schools, education and work readiness.

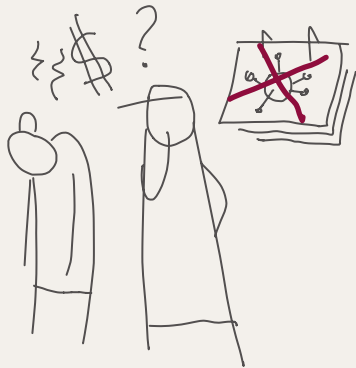
FUTURE QUESTIONS

1. What patterns can be identified?
2. Which elements connect to the insights in this report?
3. What does this tell us about where the Youth Economy team might focus?
4. How important is the balance between evidence-based practice and practice-based evidence for the team?



THE INSIGHTS

YOUNG PEOPLE IN CRISIS



Young people are facing a crisis on multiple fronts

Unemployment and NEET

Prior to Covid-19, the UN estimated that 600m new jobs would need to be created to address the youth unemployment gap.¹

In 2020, global youth employment fell 8.7% compared with 3.7% for adults. In high income economies, employment levels amongst young people fell by more than 5 times as much as they did for their adult counter parts.²

In Aotearoa, data showed that the number of young people claiming Job Seeker Work Ready allowance increased 86% in the year from August 2019 for 20-24 year olds. By comparison the increase was 46% for 40-44 year olds.³

The national youth unemployment rate currently sits 12.46%, compared with a current national rate of 4.7%.⁴

Labour market outcomes for Māori declined over the year to December 2020 with more Māori experiencing unemployment (9%). The biggest increases were for Māori aged 15-24 and 34-54 years.

In December 2020, 19.7% of Māori young people were recorded as NEET, as such they have a higher NEET rate than other ethnic groups.⁵

Longitudinal data shows that Aotearoa's youth unemployment rates for a 20 year period (1999-2020) have remained consistently above 10% peaking at a high of 21.2% in 1991, rising again post GFC (18% in 2012) and Covid-19. Dropping only below 9% for the period 2003-2007.⁶

Housing and Cost of Living

Young people are faced with increased rents, poor quality housing and are locked out of the housing market as housing affordability sky rockets.

The recent Housing in Aotearoa Report reported that homeownership rates have fallen for young people. Māori and Pasifika were less likely to own their own home.

House prices were rising faster than wages and the median sales price for Auckland was 11.5 times median household income.

As a result, many young people were taking longer to leave the parental home and set up on their own.⁷

This is against a back drop of rising inflation and living costs.

For Māori households, quarterly inflation increased 1% in the June 2021 quarter,

primarily due to rising transport prices (up 3%), housing and household utilities (up 0.9%), and food (up 1.3%).⁸

Mental health and Well-being

The crisis facing young people is having a profound impact on their mental health and well-being. A recent survey in the UK reported how young people are concerned about how their mental health will affect their employment prospects and ability to stay in work.⁹

In Aotearoa, surveys have shown how young people are increasingly concerned about money worries and burn out. A silent pandemic of mental morbidity is occurring amongst the youth population, which is worsening and persistently inequitable. The impacts of Covid-19 are likely to be enduring.

“For youth belonging to disadvantaged populations and marginalised communities, the risks of mental illness, addictions and suicide are much higher. Continued failure will...result in significant harms to the overall well-being and economic prosperity of many nations, including Aotearoa”¹⁰

THE INSIGHTS

YOUNG PEOPLE IN CRISIS



The crisis is structural and entrenched

Key points

- The pandemic has accelerated and intensified the existing crisis facing young people.
- Longitudinal data shows that these crises have been decades in the making.
- This suggests that the factors causing youth unemployment are driven by long term inequalities and the economic insecurities they are facing extend beyond the labour market including housing, transport and living costs.
- The indicators of unemployment and NEET tell only a partial story. Young people are experiencing underemployment and an erosion of decent working conditions.
- The crisis is fundamentally tied with their well-being (physical, mental, social and spiritual).
- Much of the attention in addressing the crises is focused on employability and skills however there are serious questions about the impact of such policies.
- Decades of investment has failed to shift the dial and create inclusive and equitable opportunities for young people. There is a disconnect between impact and investment.
- It suggests structural systemic issues relating to the dynamics of wealth and power which have had significant negative consequences for young people and raises questions about focus and impact of initiatives designed to address the issues of youth unemployment, particularly when taking a longitudinal view.
- To address these inequalities requires a total system response and understanding of the conditions necessary for young people to thrive both in economic terms but also socially and culturally.

As long as structural barriers remain in place, implementing employment-based interventions targeting young people may just fuel greater frustration. What is needed are comprehensive approaches and strategies that enhance the economic, social and political inclusion of youth and that recognize young people as catalysts for positive social change and sustainable development (UN)¹¹

FUTURE QUESTIONS

1. What has been the impact of employability programmes in NZ comparative to investment?
2. What conditions are necessary to enable employment programmes to be successful?
3. What are the structural barriers which prevent young people from gaining, sustaining and progressing in employment?
4. How do we build resilience in young people to help them cope in times of uncertainty?

THE INSIGHTS

YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE ECONOMY

What has emerged through this discovery phase is a challenge to the dominant understanding of, and policy response to, young people in the economy.



Shifting from a youth economy approach to youth in the economy and economic security.

Key points

- There is limited evidence or research to suggest there is a specifically defined youth economy.
- It appears that the term is synonymous with youth employment, education, skills and increasingly youth enterprise.
- Much of the policy response and literature focuses on these domains.
- However there is a disconnect within the media and digital platforms and narratives shared which presents a much richer and varied picture of how young people navigate the economy.
- The narrow focus on these domains has reduced the experiences and role of young people to one of an 'economic asset' for the labour market and productive capabilities.
- It does not reflect the varied roles they play in the economy nor does it consider how the different dimensions of the economy shape the lives of young people e.g. regulations, tax policy, capital flows, trade.
- Even these dimensions are representative of the dominant economic system which has failed young people for so long.
- New progressive economic models are emerging to consider the other realms of the economy e.g. household, commons, state, and their relationship between society and the environment (Raeworth, RSA).
- The RSA is reframing the debate about one of economic security for young people rather than one of unemployment. It views this as fundamental to maintaining a decent quality of life, now and in the future.
- Equally, these new models do not adequately consider the indigenous economy and the role of culture and identity in the economy.

“Youth concerns are often linked to education, portraying young people as pupils or students, while often neglecting that there are many other social, economic and political dimensions which determine their well-being” (OECD)¹²

“Our economic security is shaped by – and shapes – a complex web of factors in our lives: the jobs we do, the homes we live in, our opportunities for education and training, and our access to support from welfare, family and community” (RSA)¹³

FUTURE QUESTIONS

1. How are young people positioned in the mainstream economy and how are they impacted by it?
2. How does this position differ for Māori and Pasifika rangatahi?
3. How do Māori and Pasifika rangatahi in South and West Auckland experience economic security?
4. What are the conditioning factors that support economic security for rangatahi?

THE INSIGHTS

YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE ECONOMY



Here we share examples of how young people are involved in and impacted by dimensions of the economic system.

EXAMPLES

Secure, safe and meaningful work for young people

The Foundation for Young Australians, Tomorrow Movement and Young Workers Centre submission to the Australian Government's Education and Employment Legislation Committee Inquiry into the Fair Work Amendment Bill 2020. Collectively they advocate that the Bill would weaken young people's position within the labour market and create new barriers to secure, safe and meaningful work. It noted that there has been no real engagement with young people in hearing their testimony in developing the provisions within the proposed legislative amendments.¹⁶

ECONOMIC DIMENSION: LEGISLATIVE

A community of growing Gen Z Venture Capitalists

Young people are looking to create channels to build wealth via investment. In less than 12 months a slack channel community called Gen Z VC has grown

to more than 7000 members. Founded by a 24yo female analyst from NYC as a way of sharing ideas, build support and challenge the traditional closed VC network. Collectively they are using this platform to make investing accessible and are increasingly viewed as important influencers for investment firms looking to focus on emergent Gen Z founders and brands.¹⁷ Other examples of new platforms are developing locally such as Shareises and Hatch which are making it easier for people to invest.

ECONOMIC DIMENSION: TRADE AND MARKETS

We can all East

This podcast conversation series explores the experiences of young people, Māori and Pasifika and their relationship with money and the community. Each episode hosts a new community member who talks openly about how their relationship with money has changed over time and what it has meant in their lives. It

covers things from setting up a home, spending and saving, and balancing needs and wants. But importantly reveals deep cultural practices around money and supporting family and forming models of shared ownership and building collective support systems to manage money.

ECONOMIC DIMENSION: MONEY AND FINANCIAL LITERACY

THE INSIGHTS

YOUTH AS A SOCIAL PROCESS

The discovery process has challenged what we mean by 'youth'.



The transition from adolescence to adulthood

Key points

- Current policy responses define youth according to age. This homogeneity undermines the uniqueness of individuals and their experiences.
- Reframing youth as a social process helps us understand the transition from adolescence to adulthood.
- This process is mediated by family, social, economic and political dynamics. These are embedded in structures of power, wealth and poverty.
- Which when intersected with culture, race, gender, class and colonial trauma create structural inequalities, which shape how young people actively navigate the economy and its institutions.
- By rethinking youth as a relational concept we are able to consider how young people contest and collude in these social processes and by extension economic processes.
- In doing so we come to understand that young people are not passive and we gain insights into their motivations, attachments and decision making.
- As such there is a need to see the 'whole person' when considering the relationship between young people and the economy and what building blocks are necessary to enable young people to thrive.
- This creates a strong advocacy for the role of youth development in support young people during this transition (Wyn and White, EC Expert Panel).
- There is a risk that policy and programmes that focus too narrowly on employment and education are not contextualised in young people's wider development as they transition to adulthood.
- Critically it raises the importance of young people's rights as citizens and their agency over the issues and decisions that affect them. It raises questions about who decides what role they have and to what extent.

"Young people are more than just a potential workforce and should not be perceived only in the context of their situation in the labour market" (EC, Expert Group)¹⁸

"How young men and young women negotiate their futures varies, depending on cultural and national context. Similarly, 'race' and ethnic relations shape youth experience in ways which reflect historical differences in racism, colonialism and immigration. The position and opportunities of young people in society are ultimately shaped by relations of wealth and poverty." (Wyn and White)¹⁹

FUTURE QUESTIONS

How much do we understand about the dynamics and power structures that shape young people?

What are the barriers and opportunities created through these dynamics?

How are young people involved in these processes?

What are the building blocks that young people need to thrive?

THE INSIGHTS

PLURALITY OF ECONOMIC ROLES

The lived experiences of young people reveal that they adopt many different economic roles and positions.

We have read, watched and heard stories about young people as activists, influencers, consumers, hustlers and 'breadwinner'.



Young people have more than one economic role.

Key points

- The media scan points to a diversity of economic roles for young people. However policy appears to centre on their role as 'workers' or 'students'.
- These roles are shaped by circumstances; system structures which create opportunities and barriers; and societal expectations.
- They are negotiated, contested and colluded on a daily basis.
- Young people make trade offs between roles as they navigate these dynamics. Balancing these with responsibilities within the family and their personal wants, needs and desires in shaping their identity.
- Māori and Pasifika young people often have additional responsibilities in the 'household' economy. We heard that for some they may be required to leave school early to earn money for the collective family budget as one example.
- The role of 'breadwinner' was in part driven by necessity. It was viewed as negative and detrimental to young people by the mainstream. But it ignores cultural norms and the importance of kinship and the sharing of resources.
- Evidence in Australia compares the experience of indigenous Australian young people to their non-indigenous counterparts and found they played a greater role in 'unpaid' labour such as childcare, carer, and domestic duties. Such contributions were not recognised or valued as economic activity (First Nations Foundation).
- This create tension points for young Māori and Pasifika as they learn to traverse the indigenous economy and the mainstream economy and their roles within two parallel systems.
- Young people are not necessarily catered for in mainstream economic systems and are creating their own platforms and roles to challenge the status quo, learn and develop.
- Through these roles young people learn many valuable skills, knowledge, creativity and innovation. Such non-formal learning skills have many benefits for employers, the social development of young people, and are a basis for future entrepreneurship. (EC, Expert Group)
- By working to understand these roles

we are able to consider how policy responses can be developed which recognise their value and contribution and how they can be supported.

FUTURE QUESTIONS

1. What are the roles that young South and West Auckland rangatahi play in the economy?
2. What skills do young people learn through these roles?
3. How can these skills be transferred and valued?
4. How might these roles be codified and valued in a way which honours the cultural integrity of young Māori and Pasifika?
5. How are these shaped?

THE INSIGHTS

PLURALITY OF ECONOMIC ROLES

Here are some of the words we have heard to describe the many different economic positions and role of young people



Note: The word 'breadwinner' has been used to describe the contribution that young people sometimes make to the family budget. It is recognised that this may not accurately describe the cultural practice which occurs and further work is needed to redefine these roles in a Te Ao Māori and Pasifika frame.

THE INSIGHTS

PLURALITY OF ECONOMIC ROLES

Here we share examples of these roles. This illustrates the complexity of young people's lives when engaging with the economy.

EXAMPLES

Could young people reshape labour unions?

Covid-19 has accelerated a new trend of increased organisation of young people to demand better pay and working conditions. Young people affected by the instability of the labour market and the rise of the gig economy with limited protections, erosion of working conditions and pay are joining unions or forming new labour collectives to champion for change, collective bargaining, develop support systems and gain information during this time of uncertainty.²⁰

ROLE: ORGANISER

How TikTok is helping young people learn about finances

Dubbed FinTok, young people are increasingly creating and sharing content about finances, money and investment. Content tagged #stocktok has been viewed \$1.4bn times and #personalfinance 4.4bn times and is



reaching young people who might have otherwise been uninterested in personal finance. Research from Hargreaves Lansdown showed 46% of 18-34 are interested in investing in the last 6 months and 1 in 5 attributed this to TikTok. This demonstrates how young people are increasingly focused on their personal finances and seeking ways to improve their own literacy but also become investment savvy to build their wealth and economic security.²¹

ROLE: INVESTOR/SAVER

The consumer laws Gen Z don't know about

New research from MBIE reveals that young people are less likely to know their consumer rights. Only 43% had heard about the Consumer Guarantees Act and 28% did not know that a web address ending in .co.nz did not mean a business was based in Aotearoa. 32% did not understand Fair Trading Act. Despite being consumers. Young people "have a lot less experience

engaging in the market, so they have less of that institutional knowledge. That can make them less confident"²² Here we see young people as consumers but also how they are less confident about understanding their role and rights when purchasing goods. Whilst information does not appear to be accessible to young people.

ROLE: CONSUMER

Pasifika teens sacrifice for survival

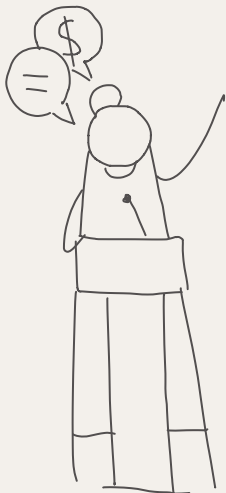
This article profiles young Pasifika as they face choices between school and work because of the need to financially support their family. It points to system inequities that underpin these stark decisions in what is a 'common coming of age for Pasifika children'. It is critical of the common narrative that somehow young people have failed to fulfill their potential by leaving school or that being stuck in a low skilled job is as a result of a deficit in young people themselves.²³

ROLE: 'BREADWINNER'

THE INSIGHTS

YOUNG PEOPLE AND PARTICIPATION

There are growing calls for greater youth voice and participation as essential ingredients for deepening young people's attachment to the economy and society.



Engaging young people meaningfully

Key points

- The World Economic Forum has highlighted youth disillusionment and disengagement as one of the biggest neglected global risks for countries in 2021.
- Highlighting that the impact is potentially catastrophic at a personal level with young people facing greater risks of exploitation, violence and abuse but also with significant implications for the stability of social, economic and labour market systems.
- It calls for a greater focus on enabling the participation of young people at all levels in economic policy shaping and decision making.
- This is seen as important for empowering young people in public and economic life (OCED).
- This echoes earlier work by the International Labour Organisation (ILO). In it is call for action on Youth Unemployment, the ILO proposes five key pillars as essential for addressing the issues of young people in the labour market which includes a greater focus on youth rights and youth voice.
- Indeed there is an emergent shift that recognises that greater youth engagement in public life and discourse has benefits both in term of skills development but also in terms of creating deeper connectivity to society and social cohesion (OCED, EC Expert Group).
- What we see from the different positions that young people take within the economy is that they are participating, but this is perhaps less in through mainstream and expected channels but in informal and digital spaces through activism and organisation.
- Examples of participation of young people range from activism, leveraging their economic muscle to align their position as consumers to their values and ethics to demand change; organising and unionism to champion for decent workers' rights; and advocating for policy and decision making changes.

“Young people are not only demanders of government services, but also right holders and as such should be able to hold their representatives accountable

to safeguard access to social, economic, political and cultural opportunities” (OECD)²⁴

“Greater participation of young people in employers’ and workers’ organizations and in social dialogue, as well as increased awareness about young workers’ rights are key instruments to raise young people’s voices and concerns and to improve the quality of jobs available to them.” (ILO)²⁵

FUTURE QUESTIONS

1. How might young people be engaged in economic development and policy making?
2. What does a youth led approach look like?
3. How might young people develop skills through participation which can be harnessed to support labour market transition?

THE INSIGHTS

YOUNG PEOPLE AND PARTICIPATION



Here we share examples of how young people are participating through organisation and activism

EXAMPLES

Participatory Budgeting, Boston, USA

The City of Boston is perhaps one of the best examples at scale of an integrated youth led approach which combines youth employment, career education and skill development with civic engagement, youth advocacy and promoting youth voice and leadership.

It recognises the multiplicity of roles that young people play and the deep connection between economic participation, skills development and civic engagement.

Its aim is to envision a future where Boston young people are educated, equipped and empowered to successfully move into adulthood.

Youth Lead the Change (YLC) gives young people power over one million dollars of the city's capital budget. The process is youth led by Boston teens. The YLC process is informed by the city's Participatory Budgeting Project. Its philosophy is simple. Youth Power and Youth Voice and Youth Vote equals community change.

A steering group of community members from 'underserved' areas works to develop an approach and puts a call for ideas, working with community groups to surface proposals. Volunteers called Change Agents develop project proposal ideas with young people and city departments. These are put to community members aged 12-22 to vote on the three projects they would like to fund.

In 2018 over 2600 young people participated in the YLC scheme alone.

Mayors Youth Council is a model of youth inclusion. The Council is made up of 85 school aged representatives from every district in the City and advises the Council's committees helping to shape policy objectives and determine projects and intervention initiatives that focus on young people.

An example of an impact project from the Workforce and Employment Committee is a new initiative that has identified the role that young people play in helping parents whose first language is not English to

access benefits and resources. A new webinar will help families build their understanding and access resources.²⁶

Advocacy Academy, London, UK

The Advocacy Academy is a transformational Social Justice Organising Movement for young people in South London. Its work has included a successful campaign resulting in Lambeth Council divesting of fossil-fuels; securing affordable homes for local families; and it has lobbied parliament and sparked a debate on black representation in the media.

It provides a range of programmes and activities in which young people are supported to build networks, develop campaigns and learn skills such as critical thinking, communication and team work.

The Advocacy Academy creates a platform for young people to participate in public life about the issues which matter to them.²⁷

THE INSIGHTS

YOUNG PEOPLE AND PARTICIPATION



Here we share examples of how young people are participating through organisation and activism

EXAMPLES

Tomorrow Movement, Australia

The Tomorrow Movement is a youth led activism group of 'unstoppable' young people who are fighting for a society with good jobs, great public services and a safe climate for all.

They are mobilising and connecting young people to lobby for change within government, business and communities.

Current campaigns include a transformative vision for the Climate Jobs Guarantee. They are advocating for the Government to create unionised public jobs that help build communities for a sustainable future.

The Tomorrow Movement has partnered with organisations like the Foundation for Young Australians to develop policy positions and submissions to Government to address changes to economic policy and labour market regulations.²⁸

YLab, Australia

Launched by the Foundation for Young Australians, YLab is a certified social enterprise which places young people at the centre of designing approaches to complex problems. It acts as a youth led social consultancy service providing services such as research and insights, strategy development, youth led and focused content creation, co-design and facilitation.

It has trained and employed over 150 Associates aged between 18-30 across Australia to work with partners to explore challenges that require a fresh youth led perspective. Young people receive meaningful and legitimate employment, income and skill development through coaching and capability building whilst having the opportunity to shape and design strategies and services.

Recently its work has focused on working with young First Nation Australians who have developed a self-determined platform in partnership with the Wollotuka Institute at the University of Newcastle.²⁹

ONE TO WATCH

Young People's Future Health Inquiry

The Young People's Future Health Inquiry was first launched to explore young people's ability to access the core building blocks of health: a place to call home, secure and rewarding work, and supportive relationships with their friends, family, and community.

These building blocks help young people to secure the foundation for a healthy life. Young people need the opportunities which help them build these foundations, and the systems around them need to create these opportunities.

The approach is unique in that it fundamentally recognises the interconnectedness of healthy, well-being, relationships and economic security. In doing so it seeks to identify the connection points across the system and look for complementary policy shifts that can better support young people.

The first of its kind project to build a the policy, research and place-based agenda to improve the future health of today's young people in the UK. It has explored the influences affecting future health of young people and what needs to change to secure a healthy society. This has included a focus on the the economic security and participation of young people.

The first phase of their research explored whether young people currently had the building blocks for healthy futures and what support and opportunities they needed to secure these building blocks.

The first report concluded in 2019 and the programmes has now launched its action phase of the inquiry which aims to build the policy response. Between 2020 and 2023 it will focus on five policy posts across a range of organisations to build the policy agenda and amplify the voices of young people. Each post will explore one of the areas that emerged during the listening phase of the inquiry.

These include:

- Understanding inequalities faced by young people from different groups.
- Securing high-quality work for young people.
- The types of work undertaken by young peoples.
- The long-term health effects of economic insecurity.
- Making the case for better transport for young people.

The policy posts will work with partners

from a range of organisations including the RSA to develop and test policy ideas, along with working with stakeholders in their sector. The Health Foundation will also be supporting the groups to work with each other, sharing their ideas and what they have learnt to strengthen the policy agenda further.

Find out more <https://www.health.org.uk/what-we-do/a-healthier-uk-population/young-peoples-future-health-inquiry>



ONE TO WATCH

Decent Jobs for Youth

Across the world, many groups and organizations are working to ensure that young people have access to decent work. Decent Jobs for Youth is the global initiative that brings these groups together as partners to achieve this common goal. Working as an alliance, it aims to unify fragmented efforts and scale up impact to create sustainable positive change for young people everywhere.

Decent Jobs for Youth is the catalyst for globally harmonized action on youth employment, in line and at scale with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is a platform for promoting evidence-based strategies and interventions, a space for highlighting progress and sharing knowledge, and a hub for cooperation and collaboration.

Decent Jobs for Youth is an alliance of multiple partners both within and beyond the United Nations. Its partners include several agencies, funds and programmes of the UN system, and a growing number of governments, social partners, businesses, youth organizations, foundations, academic institutions, media outlets and more.

It seeks to identify and promote effective, innovative and evidence-based strategies and interventions to tackle the youth employment challenge. It

advocates for high-level commitments from stakeholders all over the world. By leveraging knowledge, partnerships and resources, its goal is to maximize the value of youth employment investments, scale up action and increase impact at local, national and regional level.

In early 2021 it launched the Youth Foresight platform as a digital space to collect practice and share learnings.

<https://www.youthforesight.org/>

The logo for YouthForesight, featuring the word "YouthForesight" in white text on a dark blue background. The letter "Y" is stylized with a yellow circle around its top left corner. A yellow horizontal bar is positioned below the text.

CONCLUSION

This work was started on the basis of exploring what is meant by the youth economy. It became clear through the journey of discovery that this is a messy and complex area.

There is no defined youth economy but rather a complex interplay of systems which shape and impact the development of young people. How young people move through the economy is defined by many factors.

Currently approaches focus on employability and skills and not perhaps the other aspects of the economic system which impact young people. Further we are also seeing a shift in progressive economic theories which are considering the plurality of economies (e.g. household, commons, state, market, indigenous).

What we see from examples is that young people are active in these spaces but this is less well-understood. The work of the RSA, Health Foundation and others is beginning to explore this from the lens of economic security and the well-being of young people. This is an emerging area of practice and the report has highlight some future 'ones to watch'.

WHERE TO FROM HERE?

This report has been a first phase of discovery. It has surfaced a number of threads which have provided some different perspectives and posed some possible future questions for consideration.

Here are some proposed possible next steps which the Youth Economy Team may wish to consider as it continues on its discovery journey:

- Retrospective of TSI's work to date to identify insight patterns and capture other learns with the specific lens of 'youth in the economy'.
- Engagement with rangatahi to understand their experiences and perceptions of the youth economy.
- Reviewing the possible future questions and determining which areas might warrant further exploration.
- Identifying new questions which are surfaced through the work and areas for divergence and converge with the experiences of the team.
- Development of an appropriate cultural frame for considering the diversity of economic roles of young people in the economy.
- Identifying the realms of the economy in a Aotearoa context that impact young people in order to understand how they move through these realms, their experiences and barriers.

END NOTES

- 1 UN World Youth Report: Youth Social Entrepreneurship and the 2030 Agenda (July 2020)
- 2 ILO An update on the youth labour market impact of the COVID-19 crisis (June 2021) https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_emp/documents/briefingnote/wcms_795479.pdf
- 3 <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/education/new-figures-show-young-job-seekers-hit-hardest-by-covid-19/2NDO6XP7O74JP5ROXL3QECWB5I/>
- 4 <https://tradingeconomics.com/new-zealand/youth-unemployment-rate>
- 5 <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/13559-Māori-in-the-labour-market-december-2020-quarter-unadjusted>
- 6 https://mbienz.shinyapps.io/labour-market-dashboard_prod/
- 7 Stats NZ (2020). Housing in Aotearoa: 2020. Retrieved from www.stats.govt.nz.
- 8 <https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/money/2021/07/quarterly-inflation-rising-steadily-in-new-zealand-across-the-board-stats-nz.html>
- 9 Resolution Foundation Out of the Woods (July 2021) <https://www.resolutionfoundation.org/publications/out-of-the-woods/>
- 10 Menzies, R; Gluckman P; Poulton, R: Youth mental health in Aotearoa Aotearoa: Greater Urgency Required. (Sept 2020), Auckland University (p2)
- 11 RSA Economic security and a better future for young people (March 2021)
- 12 UN World Youth Report: Youth Social Entrepreneurship and the 2030 Agenda (July 2020) (p54)
- 12 OCED Youth Stocking Report (2020) (p15)
- 13 RSA Economic security and a better future for young people (March 2021) <https://www.thersa.org/blog/2021/03/economic-security-and-a-better-future-for-young-people>
- 16 Foundation for Young Australians: Secure, safe and meaningful work for young people (February 2021) (<https://www.fya.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/2021-Senate-Inquiry-into-the-Fair-Work-Amendment-FYA-YWC-TM-Joint-Submission.pdf>)
- 17 <https://www.washingtonpost.com/technology/2021/04/23/gen-z-venture-capital>
- 18 EC Expert Group Report: Developing the creative and innovative potential of young people through non-formal learning in ways that are relevant to employability. European Commission (Jun 2014) (p2)
- 19 J Wyn and R White: Rethinking Youth (1997, republished 2020) (p77)
- 20 <https://www.bbc.com/worklife/article/20201203-could-young-workers-reshape-labour-unions>
- 21 <https://www.theguardian.com/money/2021/jul/10/fintok-how-tiktok-is-helping-young-people-use-cash-wisely21>
- 22 <https://www.stuff.co.nz/business/125875852/the-consumer-laws-gen-zs-dont-know-abou>
- 23 <https://www.renews.co.nz/pasifika-teens-sacrificing-education-for-survival-is-not-new/>
- 24 OCED Youth Stocking Report (2020) (p15)
- 25 ILO Mobilising Support for the Call for Action on Youth Employment Crisis (2012) (p11)
- 26 <https://www.boston.gov/departments/youth-engagement-and-employment>.
- 27 <https://www.theadvocacyacademy.com>
- 28 <https://tomorrowmovement.com>

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Buheji M, Ahmed D: Investigating the Importance of 'Youth Economy' International Journal of Current Advanced Research (Vol 6, Issue 3 March 2017, P2405-2410)
- Chang, H J Economics a User's Guide (2014)
- Croft, J, Guervo, H, Wyn J, Smith G, Woodman D: Life Patterns Ten Years Following Generation Y (2015)
- Centre for Class and Labour Studies: Work in 2021: A Tale of Two Economies (May 2021)
- EC Expert Group Report: Developing the creative and innovative potential of young people through non-formal learning in ways that are relevant to employability. European Commission (Jun 2014)
- Economic Policy Institute: Young Workers Hit Hard by the Covid-19 Economy (October 2020)
- First Nations Foundation The Financial Economy and Indigenous Young People in Australia (2016)
- Foundation for Young Australians: The New Work Standard: How Young People Are Engaging with Flexible Work (2020)
- International Youth Foundation <https://iyfglobal.org/youth-agency>
- J Wyn and R White: Rethinking Youth (1997, republished 2020)
- ILO An update on the youth labour market impact of the COVID-19 crisis (June 2021)
- ILO Mobilising Support for the Call for Action on Youth Employment Crisis (2012)
- Menzies, R; Gluckman P; Poulton, R: Youth mental health in Aotearoa Aotearoa: Greater Urgency Required. (Sept 2020)
- OECD Youth Stocking Report (2020)
- OECD Empowering Youth Across the OECD (2020)
- OECD Engaging Young People in Government a Guide (2019)
- Pew Research Centre: Chapter 3: How Today's Economy is Affecting Young Adults (February 2012)
- Raeworth K, Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st Century Economist (2017)
- Resolution Foundation: Uneven Steps: Changes in youth unemployment and study since the onset of Covid-19 (April 2021)
- RSA Inclusive Growth in Action Snapshot of a New Economy (2019)
- UN World Youth Report: Youth Social Entrepreneurship and the 2030 Agenda (July 2020)
- We can all East podcast: <https://wecanalleast.com>
- World Economic Forum: Pandemics: Youth in an Age of Lost Opportunity (Global Risk Report 2021)
- Young workers are more burnt out: <https://www.renews.co.nz/young-workers-are-more-burnt-out-than-any-other-group-but-why/>
- Young kiwis worry about money: <https://newshub.co.nz/home/money/2021/06/over-three-quarters-of-young-kiwis-worry-about-money-survey-shows/html>