

Media Release

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Good News for Unemployed Porirua Youth

“The government’s new focus on youth employment will be well received in Porirua,” said Michelle Robinson of Partners Porirua. The organisation is a lead agency for the Youth Transition Service which assists young school leavers to move into employment or training.

“The plan to offer employers a \$5000 grant towards the employment of a young person will be a great motivator for employers and will provide an incentive to “test out” a young person’s attributes without a permanent commitment” she said.

Currently Partners Porirua has xx young people registered for assistance, a growth of xx % on this time last year. Nationally 18- to 24-year-olds are the fastest growing age group on the Unemployment Benefit. They represent about a third of all those who receive it. The number who want to work but can’t get a job has more than quadrupled in the past year from 4000 to 17,000.

Although the organisation is still able to successfully place young people into work, the number of job opportunities has reduced. “Employers have been more risk averse in recent times” said Michelle.

Until this scheme was announced Partners Porirua has been focused on asking employers to “road test” a young person by offering simple work experience or short term placements. “Now we can promote a financial incentive to employers, without them having to commit to a long term investment. We know that once we place someone within an organisation, chances are high that they can demonstrate added value.”

Partners is also working with local training providers and industry sectors like health to identify whether there are free training opportunities for young people. In the health sector Partners is already working with Whitirea Polytechnic, Capital and Coast District Health and xxx to train health support workers. XX students graduated last year. “With 600 additional job training placements to be created, we hope that some of these will be allocated to Porirua,” said Michelle.

"Currently 2400 of 6000 Industry Partnership places are ring-fenced for unemployed 16-24 year olds. The Government is looking to boost that number to 3000. This will create up to 600 new opportunities for our young people," says Minister Paula Bennett.

"This will give young people a real shot of on-the-job training which they might not otherwise have had.

"By reprioritising Industry Partnerships, we're looking past the recession and into growth. We want to help get these young people ready for when the economy improves by giving them a break now." Paula Bennett said.

Partners Porirua is able to match young people with potential employers or into training programmes. Employers seeking to take advantage of the new incentives can call Partners Porirua to be matched with a suitable young job seeker.

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For further contact

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