

# Youth Employment Opportunities – Open Letter from Ashburton District Mayor, Rangitata M.P. and Community & Business Leaders

We all know it is more difficult to find jobs but for young people aged 16-24 it is 3 times as hard. They need our help.

## **Why should we help?**

Aside from the fact that they need our help they are our children, nephews, grand children, neighbours children and friend's children.

Productive employment gives young people a sense of community belonging and encourages them to set goals and develop aspirations for themselves and their community.

Youth Employment is, and should be, a key focus of our community. At the end of the day the future of our community is in the hands of our youth.

## **How can you help in the current economic environment?**

Even if a business cannot currently afford to employ extra staff there may be assistance available that could make the difference for a young person.

The Government has recently announced a Youth Opportunities Package to create new work, education and training opportunities for unemployed young. These initiatives include direct financial assistance.

Programmes include:

- A \$5,000 subsidy to the employer for a 6 month job placement – ***Job Ops***
- Subsidies to provide jobs for young people for up to 6 months in community programmes – ***Community Max***
- Assistance to provide jobs for young people on national cycleway projects – ***National Cycleway***
- Summer research scholarships for university students – ***Summer Scholarships***
- A range of educational support packages

These programmes are in addition to existing employment support schemes such as ***Skills Investment Subsidy*** which is a payment to cover an employee's training and/or wages. The aim is to provide them with permanent work in your business.

**What should you do next?**

If you would like further information you can speak to Russell Woods, Work Broker at Ashburton Community Link:

**Phone:** 03 908 0450.

**Email:** [russell.woods006@msd.govt.nz](mailto:russell.woods006@msd.govt.nz)

Or phone the Work and Income Employer Line: 0800 778 008

Information is available on the Work and Income website  
[www.workandincome.govt.nz](http://www.workandincome.govt.nz) - keyword Youth Opportunities Package.

Links to further information are also available on Grow Mid Canterbury's website  
[www.growmc.co.nz](http://www.growmc.co.nz) and you can discuss the initiative with Rachel Prendergast, Youth Broker at Grow Mid Canterbury (formerly Enterprise Ashburton):

**Phone** Rachel on 308 0290 or **email** [rachel@growmc.co.nz](mailto:rachel@growmc.co.nz).

We strongly encourage you to act quickly. There is a good opportunity to access financial assistance now but we are competing with other parts of the country.

ENDS