



19 July 2011

## NEW RELEASE

### ***'More ladders, fewer snakes: Two proposals to reduce youth disadvantage'***

Today the New Zealand Institute releases its first discussion paper focused on social well-being.

The paper is intended to contribute to resolving one of New Zealand's [Top 10 Issues](#): "Can New Zealand reduce the disadvantages suffered by young people in a way that contributes to New Zealand becoming a successful multicultural society?"



The main messages from the paper are:

New Zealand has very high rates of 15 to 19 year old unemployment compared with other OECD countries. High unemployment leads to high rates of other social issues. New Zealand youth have high rates of criminal offences, teenage births, suicide, obesity, cannabis use and hazardous drinking. Disadvantage is strongly concentrated in Māori and Pacific ethnic groups.

New Zealand has one of the highest proportions of disengaged 14 to 18 year old students, and the lowest median age of leaving initial education compared to other OECD countries. Improving engagement in schools and the school to work transition will reduce youth unemployment.

E-learning delivers engagement, better learning and lower unemployment:

- All students attend school so can be reached;
- More engaged students stay at school longer and get better qualifications; and
- Better qualified youth compete more successfully for jobs reducing youth unemployment.

Improving the school-to-work transition will help youth into jobs:

- Build pipelines to work instead of operating schools, tertiary and employment as silos;
- Match supply of youth skills to future workforce needs;
- Increase employer involvement in education and training; and
- Establish individual education and training plans for all students informed by interests, aptitude and opportunities.

Improving outcomes will provide three important benefits:

- Lower harm and costs while the youth are young;
- Establishing the youth on better trajectories for the remainder of their lives; and
- A better start in life for their children.

[Click here](#) to read the executive summary or download the full report.

We heard your feedback so the .pdf files are available for download in printer friendly versions to reduce the use of your ink.

Please forward this newsletter to others who may be interested in the conclusions and proposals.

## **Environment project**

The New Zealand Institute has commenced research for a project on environment. The project will profile the world's environmental status and trends then identify the important implications for New Zealand. One purpose of the project is to ensure that our influencers and opinion leaders have a good understanding of the emerging risks and opportunities resulting from the economy growing large relative to the size of the environment.

Our project will be broader than other current projects focused on environment, which aim to identify and promote green growth opportunities.

## **Innovation, economy and internationalisation**

The innovation/economy project is now established in the advocacy phase. The project has contributed a lot to the understanding of the need to grow high value differentiated exports and of the importance of commercialisation and internationalisation of innovations.

A steady stream of invitations to speak on innovation and the economy demonstrates that there is a lot of interest in our message. There is traction on some of the specific proposals but earthquakes, reorganisations, the budget and the election are limiting progress.

Later in the year we will conduct a systematic review of the status of our specific proposals and identify steps to further encourage adoption.

## **Recent releases**

Since the last newsletter we have produced several papers you may be interested in:

[Education and Skills - Prepared for COMET Annual Report 09/10](#)

[Time to demand long term policies](#)

[What Government can learn about silos](#)

[Economic Strategy](#)

[Auckland's future shape](#)

## **New members**

Since the last newsletter the New Zealand Institute has welcomed 5 new members:

Charles Anderson, Sovereign

Gary Dick, Heidrick & Struggles

Jennifer Moxon, IBM New Zealand

Mike Bennetts, Z Energy

Murray Jordan, Foodstuffs (Auckland) Ltd

You can find out [more about joining here](#) or if you would prefer to simply make a donation to support our work [click here](#).

## Feedback

I hope you find the discussion paper valuable. Please send any comments on our work or this newsletter to [info@nzinstitute.org](mailto:info@nzinstitute.org)

Thank you for your interest in the New Zealand Institute.

Rick Boven

Director

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