

YEA Submission on the Proposed Variations to funding determinations for the Gateway Programme.

ABOUT YEA

YEA (Youth Employability Aotearoa) is a systems change organisation in Aotearoa New Zealand advocating for our youth to be given the skills and support to become work-ready. We represent over 500 individuals, organisations, businesses, associations, and elected members who are committed to ensuring the future workforce is equipped with the skills needed to create strong communities and a robust economy.

OBJECTION

YEA objects to the proposed conditions in section 23.a (i) which state;
The TEC must attach to funding a condition that a school that receives funding under this funding mechanism:

a. must not use funding provided under this funding mechanism to:
(i) fund driver's license training, except where a student is required to obtain a specific class of driver's license to complete the workplace learning programme.

A driver licence should be funded under this programme regardless of requirements for a specific class of driver licence for the reasons stated below, and we therefore argue that this condition should be removed.

EMPLOYMENT

70% of jobs require at least a restricted driver licence and 85% of entry level jobs require a driver licence, but only 24% of young job seekers aged 18-24 have a restricted or full licence.

The Driving Change Network's analysis of the Ministry of Social Development National Job Listing as at 31 July 2024 showed that 73% of advertised jobs required a minimum of a restricted licence with over half needing a minimum of full licence.

EDUCATION

A licence is a qualification with each stage of the Graduated Driver Licence system, qualifying for credits across all of the six vocational pathways. Through partnerships with community driver licence providers, schools are typically able to access driver licence training for their gateway students at the costs of the test fees only.

COMMUNITY

Unlicensed drivers are 11 x more likely to be involved in fatal or serious crashes, with road fatalities being the second largest cause in deaths of our young people under the age of 24.

20% of young people are introduced to the judicial system due to breach of licence conditions, giving them a criminal record that impacts their future employment opportunities and can lead to a spiral of debt.

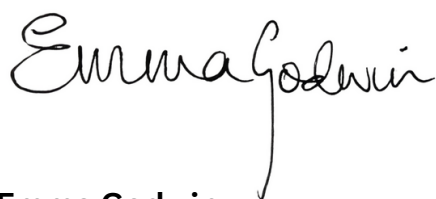
RECOMMENDATION

Having our young people train for and achieve their driver licence in school is a significant benefit for those students and has considerable social benefits for our country. For a programme that is designed to enable students to access structured workplace learning, it is nonsensical to limit the use of Gateway funding for driver licensing.

Until such time as the Government recognises the intrinsic value of driver licence training for all school students and funds the training accordingly, Gateway should be one pool of funding that schools can access to set their students up for success in the world of work.

We ask that the condition be removed to enable Gateway funding to support students to gain their driver licence.

Yours sincerely



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