

Youth Employment Training and Education Bill

Member's Bill

Explanatory note

General policy statement

This Bill proposes an employment option through the Ministry of Social Development in partnership with the New Zealand Defence Force. It introduces a fundamental change in the way the New Zealand Defence Force can participate in the teaching, development and educational/vocational training for our youth.

This Bill seeks to acknowledge the value and importance of learning but also recognises that this can be delivered through models celebrating wider than academic success. By doing so it seeks to address the needs of those youth who are disengaging from the formal education system.

Youth in the age bracket from 15 to 17 are at a vitally important developmental age. This Bill seeks to provide an alternative education/employment opportunity to this specific age group. There is a portion of youth in this age group who are disengaging with the formal education system. They have little or no direction. They struggle to establish goals or to develop positive and progressive career pathways. Within the formal education setting these young people often exhibit anti-social behaviours which can include truancy, disobedience, bullying and other anti-establishment traits. Often they do not see the relevance of the structured classroom lesson and lose the desire or drive to develop their potential through that style of educational provision. These students are highly represented in the school leavers without any "real-life" preparation for the workforce and with little practical skills, life skills or work experience. There is a need to address all of these issues which will add to youth unemployment and youth-cased social issues.

For this small group of young people there is a need for a positive, progressive yet disciplined option outside of the formal educational environment. This alternative pathway ensures they still gain a minimum level of literacy and numeracy but in an environment that also aims to increase their opportunities to enter employment or fur-

ther training by improving their self-discipline, self-confidence, motivation and initiative within a culture of respect, co-operation, teamwork and tolerance.

This programme includes financial incentives to employers who employ graduates of the programme for the first twelve months post course.

The Youth Employment Training and Education Bill amends the Defence Act 1990 and the Education Act 1989 to allow participants in the scheme to join the New Zealand Defence Force.

Clause by clause analysis

Clause 1 is the Title clause.

Clause 2 is the commencement clause. It provides that the provisions of the Bill are to come into force on the day after the date on which it receives the Royal assent.

Clause 3 states that *Part 1* of the Bill amends the Defence Act 1990.

Clause 4 inserts the definition of the Youth Employment Training and Education programme into section 2 of the Defence Act 1990.

Clause 5 amends section 33 of the Defence Act 1990 so as to allow participants in the Youth Employment Training and Education programme to join the New Zealand Defence Force.

Clause 6 inserts a new section 61B providing for the Youth Employment Training and Education programme.

Clause 7 states that *Part 2* of the Bill amends the Education Act 1989.

Clause 8 inserts the definition of the Youth Employment Training and Education programme into section 2 of the Defence Act 1990.

Clause 9 amends section 20 of the Education Act 1989 so as to exempt participants in the Youth Employment Training and Education programme from the requirement to be enrolled at a registered school until attaining the age of 16 years.

Darroch Ball

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The Parliament of New Zealand enacts as follows:

1 Title

This Act is the Youth Employment Training and Education Act **2017**.

2 Commencement

This Act comes into force on the day after the date on which it receives the Royal assent. 5

Part 1 Amendments to Defence Act 1990

3 Principal Act

This **Part** amends the Defence Act 1990 (the **principal Act**).

4 Section 2 amended (Interpretation) 5

In section 2(1), insert in its appropriate alphabetical order:

Youth Employment Training and Education programme means the programme, designed to meet the vocational needs of New Zealanders aged from 15 to 17 years, that is situated in the New Zealand Defence Force and linked with and monitored by the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Education, and the New Zealand Qualifications Authority 10

5 Section 33 amended (Appointment, enlistment, and engagement)

In section 33(1), after “Force”, insert “except as a participant in a Youth Employment Training and Education programme”.

6 New section 61B inserted 15

After section 61A, insert:

61B Youth Employment Training and Education Programme Participants

- (1) The Chief of Defence Force may authorise provision of a Youth Employment Training and Education Programme.
- (2) Participants in the Youth Employment Training and Education Programme work for the Defence force on a contract for service for the duration of the programme. 20
- (3) At the conclusion of the programme participants may be eligible for an offer of service as a member of the regular forces.
- (4) For the avoidance of doubt, participants in the Youth Employment Training and Education Programme are not regular forces or civil staff. 25
- (5) Participants who successfully complete the Youth Employment Training and Education Programme are eligible for employment and work readiness assistance in terms of clause 6 of the Employment and Work Readiness Assistance Programme, approved on 6 March 2014, despite any discretion or condition provided for in the Employment and Work Readiness Assistance Programme. 30

Part 2 Amendments to Education Act 1989

7 Principal Act

This **Part** amends the Education Act 1989 (the **principal Act**).

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8 Section 2 amended (Interpretation)

In section 2(1), insert in its appropriate alphabetical order:

Youth Employment Training and Education programme means the programme, designed to meet the vocational needs of New Zealanders aged from 15 to 17 years, that is situated in the New Zealand Defence Force and linked with and monitored by the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Education, and the New Zealand Qualifications Authority 5

9 Section 20 amended (New Zealand citizens and residents between 6 and 16 to go to school)

In section 20(1), after “student”, insert “or a participant in the Youth Employment Training and Education programme”. 10