

## TYMS Service

TYMS is a West-Auckland based youth mentoring service which works with at-risk youth, supporting them to achieve their full potential either academically or through training and employment.

Our TYMS *vision* is of Pasifika and Maori youth who feel a sense of belonging and pride in our communities, and who achieve their full potential to secure their futures.

Our *mission* is to partner with young people to create quality life paths and ensure they have the support networks, tools, resources, and life skills to navigate and succeed in education, employment or training.

Our approach to improving young people's wellbeing is strengths-based, holistic (combining academic mentoring with family/student advocacy), and culturally appropriate, delivered by our Pasifika and Māori mentors and student/family advocates (all of whom are parents, certified youth workers with teaching experience and basketball backgrounds).

Our holistic approach to improving the young person's wellbeing targets the following:

- Their social wellbeing & executive function (*healthy relationship behaviours, goal setting, planning, self-control*);
- Their relationships with their family and significant others (*fostering meaningful connections, role in the family, family responsibilities*);
- Their cognitive function (*maths & literacy skills, positive classroom engagement*);
- Physical wellbeing (*healthy eating, active lifestyle, personal hygiene*);
- Cultural identity & spirituality (*sense of belonging, cultural values*);
- And the environment around the young person (*awareness of resources around them and how to use them, community engagement and connection*).

These are fostered in our specific Academic Mentoring activities below:

1. **Education:** Numeracy and literacy (in line with NZ curriculum) activities tailored to the needs of the young person.
2. **Community Engagement:** Connecting the young person with a local sports team, church or with local community services (e.g. leisure centres, youth hubs).
3. **Physical:** We have a gym on-site for the young person's use but we also vary our physical activities by taking them out to local parks and swimming pools. Healthy eating plans and personal hygiene are also a major focus.
4. **Cultural identity:** Our service itself is underpinned by the Pacific worldview of wellbeing and the Pacific values of *alofa* (love), *fa'aaloalo* (respect), *aiga* (family), and *loto fofa'i* (reciprocity). We will support the young person with their cultural identity needs through removal of the negative stereotypes around Pasifika and

Māori cultures, and providing the young person with positive experiences of being Pasifika and/or Māori whilst living in Aotearoa.

5. **Life skills:** We provide positive male role models and the importance of respect (for ourselves, others, our communities) underpins everything we work on. Other life skills include opening a bank account, assistance with obtaining a drivers licence, preparing a CV, and planning career paths.

What makes TYMS unique is the wrap-around service we provide through the support of our student advocacy and liaison team:

- Empowering the family to support the young person and providing the tools to do so;
- Identifying the supports the family may need such as budgeting, counselling, etc. and introducing/referring on to trusted external professionals that TYMS have existing relationships with;
- Supporting the young person and family throughout the school suspension/exclusion process and advocating on their behalf at disciplinary hearings (if required); and
- Working alongside mentors to establish connections with sports teams, churches, schools, training and employment providers for the young person.

We will usually provide the young person with a snack during their session and a share of fresh produce (which we receive from another Charity weekly) for their family.

The referrer will receive written monthly reports (daily session plans and reports are available on request) and a final exit report at the completion of our hours with the young person. We will include any contacts with our student advocate/social worker which involves work with the whanau around the young person.

The above is not an exhaustive list of what we do with our young people, but happy to discuss any other needs that might assist.

Kind regards,

**Dale Rasmussen**  
General Manager – Operations and Finance

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