



PAGE'S STORY

When Page first joined the KNG programme she was struggling with challenging family circumstances as well as severe social anxiety—something she thought would never subside. But the inclusive environment and infectious positive nature of the team helped her build the confidence she needed to learn.

Page always felt a lack of belonging and voluntarily left school in year 6 after attending four different primary schools. She credits KNG for the fact that for the first time she feels she is worth something and feels a connection with others," says her mentor Abby.

"PAGE HAS FOUND HER CONFIDENCE AND SELF-BELIEF."

Page's extreme shyness meant she wouldn't push herself out of her comfort zone when she first began with E&E, but thanks to KNG she has learnt to be more social and has developed confidence to try new things.

As a mentor, Abby was able to support Page with gentle encouragement. She was available to listen to any issue which arose, find solutions and offer further support if needed. Page is now the happiest she has been in over 11 years and believes it is due to the support and atmosphere provided through the KNG programme and a feeling of belonging.

Through KNG Page has found her confidence and self-belief; the tipping point in her life and has successfully achieved her credits and qualifications needed to continue her studies at Otago Polytechnic.

MADISON'S STORY

"Before starting at KNG Madison had been in trouble with the law, expelled from school, was living independent of her parents and had poor physical health," says her mentor, Abby. "She stayed in bed all day and lacked the drive and motivation to do anything."

Through KNG, Abby has helped Madison with GP visits, blood tests, food parcels and purchased a supplement powder to help with Madison's health. She also helped Madison set up a bank account and ensured appropriate welfare support was being received.

"EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT THE EASIEST KID TO DEAL WITH, I'M TREATED WITH RESPECT AND KINDNESS—AND IT'S APPRECIATED."

Madison's biggest barriers have been her anxiety and her anger. Recognising that these stopped her from achieving her goals Madison has learnt to deal with these issues so she can communicate her frustrations in a manner acceptable to both students and tutors.

Having a consistent daily routine and people to engage with her at KNG has helped Madison's mental state. She is much happier, feels less anxious, is accepted for who she is and knows she has a safe person to talk to if she needs support with anything. "Even though I'm not the easiest kid to deal with, I'm treated with respect and kindness—and it's appreciated," Madison says.

Madison is still studying and has gained credits that will ultimately help with her goal of further study at the Otago Polytechnic in Level 3 Animal Care.



KiwiNEXT GENERATION

NO ONE SHOULD BE LEFT BEHIND



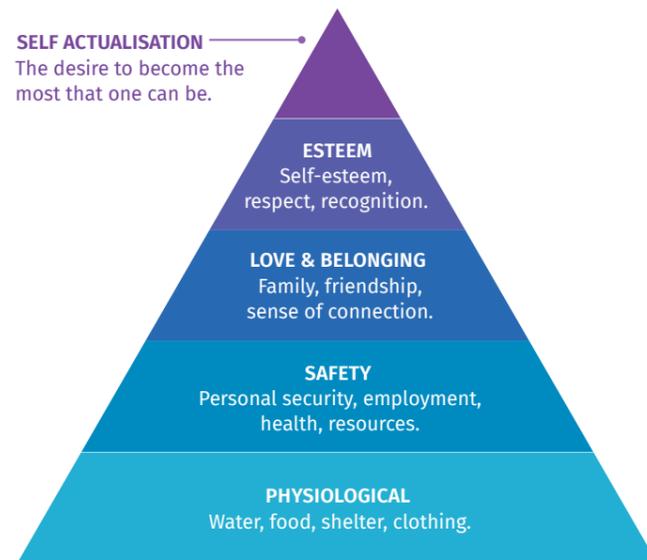
WHY KIWI NEXT GENERATION?

Kiwi Next Generation is an innovative programme delivered by The Salvation Army and Variety—the Children’s Charity to improve the educational and wellbeing outcomes for young people aged 16–19 who are at risk of falling out of education, employment and training.

For these young people challenging family and personal circumstances create significant barriers to classroom learning with the result that too many leave mainstream education without confidence, goals, or qualifications. For many this can be the start point for a cycle of failure, rejection, and hopelessness.

Kiwi Next Generation’s project methodology was designed to reflect Maslow’s ‘Hierarchy of Needs’ Model (shown in the diagram here) which states that physiological safety, belonging, and esteem have to be in place before a young person can identify and deliver on their personal goals. By offering a unique combination of holistic and practical support to address these needs, the project sought to support some of New Zealand’s most vulnerable young people to stay on track.

MASLOW’S HIERARCHY OF NEEDS MODEL



Thanks to generous funding received from The Warehouse Group’s supporters, suppliers, and communities, Kiwi Next Generation was able to go beyond existing education programmes by providing dedicated mentoring and practical assistance tailored to the young person’s needs alongside their education.

In a first for New Zealand, the programme was designed to test the hypothesis that when daily obstacles and challenges are removed and confidence and hope instilled, young people who have fallen out of traditional education will be motivated to re-engage, learn and succeed.

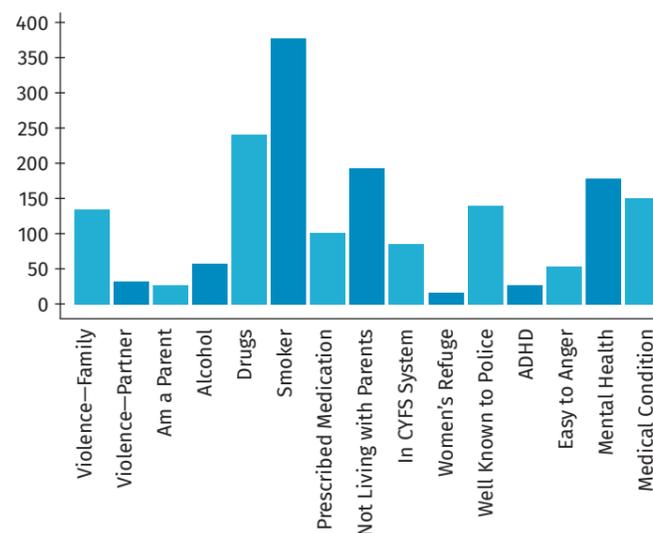


HOW WAS KIWI NEXT GENERATION DELIVERED?

Delivered through The Salvation Army’s Education and Employment (E&E) centres over two years from May 2016 to July 2018, the programme provided 680 young people with one-on-one mentoring and support with course work, alongside the provision of personal care packs, shared meals, group activities, and where needed, referral to health providers. Additional clothing, grooming and training and work tools incentives recognised and rewarded success for those completing qualifications and progressing to further education, employment or training.

The complexity and significance of issues facing today’s young people was powerfully highlighted through Kiwi Next Generation. By surveying the students at the start of the programme, Kiwi Next Generation identified the barriers which can get in the way of learning. These are shown in the figure below. Most of the students reported multiple issues.

LEARNER ISSUES: START OF ENROLMENT



In addition to widespread use of alcohol, drugs and tobacco, 20% have been subject to family violence, 28% are not living with their parents, 12% were in the care of Oranga Tamariki and 20% were already known to the Police. More than 26% reported a mental health issue and 5% were already parents. Individually the issues are challenging enough, but collectively they can become insurmountable.

When the issues are understood it is easy to see why these young people may not succeed in schooling without additional support. And that’s where Kiwi Next Generation was able to help. With the additional project funding brought through Kiwi Next Generation, the students benefitted from practical assistance as well as a mentor who was committed to journeying with them as they identified and addressed their needs.

More than 59% of the programme funds were spent on mentoring. Over the two year programme, 23,500 mentoring hours were provided for the 680 students enrolled, either through one-on-one support or through group activities.

For the mentors and tutors involved, the initiative delivered extraordinary outcomes. When mentors removed individual learning barriers associated with mental and physical health and wellbeing, tutors were able to focus on teaching, while students were supported and motivated to learn, increasing the overall qualification rate by 76%.

Kiwi Next Generation didn’t only support the lift of qualification rates. Just as important was the personal growth of hundreds of young people who were equipped with hope, confidence, determination and skills needed to identify and pursue their education or employment goals.

So many young New Zealanders’ lives have been transformed for the better by Kiwi Next Generation. As you’ll see from the stories of Cole, Madison and Page shared here, this change wouldn’t have been possible without the extraordinary personal and professional dedication, compassion and commitment of our Kiwi Next Generation mentors who played a significant role in the impressive outcomes of the programme.

The generosity of The Warehouse Group and its supporters have enabled this initiative. On behalf of the hundreds of young Kiwis whose lives have been so profoundly transformed—thank you—your support has made an extraordinary difference in the lives of hundreds of young New Zealanders.



COLE’S STORY

“I will never open up to you.” These were the first words Cole spoke to his Kiwi Next Generation (KNG) mentor Jasen, who happily took this on as a challenge. From the beginning of his KNG journey to the end, Cole underwent a mammoth transformation, from being defensive and reluctant to attend, to finding his passion and ultimately, his dream job.

“THANKS TO HIS MENTOR’S UNDIVIDED ATTENTION, IT WASN’T LONG BEFORE HIS TRUE PASSION WAS UNCOVERED.”

While Cole achieved his credits and qualifications through the KNG programme in the set timeframe, he remained cynical and distant with his classmates, but thanks to his mentor’s undivided attention, it wasn’t long before his true passion was uncovered. While Cole was preparing group meals with other students Jasen observed his interest and focus. By encouraging Cole to take the lead on planning and preparing class meals, Jasen’s intuition paid off, with the duo then working to enrol Cole into the Level 4 Culinary Arts programme at Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology.

KNG supported Cole’s education journey through the provision of chef knives, text books and clothing. And in an additional boost Cole also secured a Warehouse Stationery Scholarship providing help with his fees and part time employment in a local store.

Completing the certificate wasn’t smooth sailing for Cole. A few months in and finding the level 4 coursework a challenge, Cole decided to quit but with his mentor’s continued and persistent support they made a plan to tackle his missed assignments and coursework. Over a few months, with courage, focus and hard work Cole graduated at the end of 2017 with his proud mentor, father and aunty seated in the audience.

Now happily employed as a talented full-time chef at Rain Bar & Restaurant in Papamoa, Cole is grateful for KNG and Jasen, and excited about the bright future that lies ahead.