

Workforce Matters!

Together growing the workforce and good local jobs

Get in touch with us!

- If you're an **employer** who wants to advertise a vacancy or learn more about the support we can provide through programmes like Mayors Taskforce for Jobs.
- If you're a **jobseeker** looking for a new role, support or training opportunities.
- If you're a **social service provider** who wants to know more about these initiatives.

Email: workforce@odc.govt.nz
Visit: odc.govt.nz/workforcematters

Look how far we've come!

It's good to look back now and then and see what we have achieved.

It's been nearly ten years since Whakatōhea and Council started bringing local employers, employment services, the College and training organisations together to talk about creating more "pathways to work" locally.

Back then, we were still seeking funding for our harbour and the new industries and jobs that would flow from that. At the time, the local economy was very flat but everyone around that table was determined to turn things around and we created our mission: "together grow good jobs and the local workforce".

- Whakatōhea established the Workforce Development Centre
- Whakaatu Whanaunga Trust deepened their focus to work with Rangatahi
- Ōpōtiki College created new student engagement programmes with a focus on pathways into local industries
- Eastbay REAP started specialising in Class 1 licencing
- Council coordinated and supported this mahi with a focus on delivering the Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs programme, coordinating industry-specific training, and subsidies to support local businesses.



Local employers at the heart of change

Local employers are at the heart of this change – they create and enable good jobs!

And Ōpōtiki has many of them, including local people who've returned home recently as opportunities have increased, and established new businesses using skills and experience they gained while away.

More than 200 businesses are connected with Mahi Ora Ōpōtiki in some way, and Ōpōtiki's becoming known for its many apprenticeships and on-the-job training opportunities.

Tipping point

Funding for Whakatōhea Mussels Ōpōtiki Ltd, Te Ara Moana a Toi (the Ōpōtiki Harbour Development), and various Covid-19 recovery projects has spurred new local infrastructure and community facilities and more residential housing. The boom in construction and trades jobs has in turn driven growth in service industries including hospitality and administration.

Council focus has been on improving local wellbeing through these projects. With longer term funding available from central government, Council's making Workforce Development a permanent part of our team and services.

Photo top left: Troy, Kurt, and Kauri posing with their MTfJ certificates - Bridge St Automotive. Top right: Mayor Moore and building contractor Ned Fitzgerald. Bottom left: Christina Lloyd and Mayor Moore (Whakaatu Whanaunga Trust). Bottom right: Codlin Electrical team (Te Wera, Kym, Eric, Lachlan)

Our results to date

Helped **over 250** people find sustainable employment

Provided **111** Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs subsidies

Supported **52** local apprenticeships

Helped **315** people successfully complete training courses for their job

Supported **394** people get their Class 1 Learners, Restricted, Full, or Defensive Driving Course

Join the team

Barbara has coordinated the establishment of Council's workforce functions over recent years and is stepping back from her role shortly. Barbara said that she was "feeling proud of what Ōpōtiki has worked together to achieve so far."



Barbara MacLennan and Madeline Kaa

In addition, Madeline who has been part of the team for more than two years is also taking on a new opportunity at Council. Madeline said: "It's been a gift to have mahi that is so meaningful and gives back to my hometown and community. Not only does it fill my cup, but it's also been incredible and exciting to see the positive change and opportunities in Ōpōtiki. It has opened doors for me here at council with new skills and new insight. Now it is time for someone else to also take this opportunity in the Workforce Development team."

So if you are someone who's passionate in workforce development or you're keen to grow your skills through a job that really makes a difference in people's lives visit the Council website to find out more.

