

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

Workforce matters, especially to our local employers! We work really closely with many local businesses, offering practical support to help them and our local economy grow.

Supporting businesses and local apprenticeships

A few years ago, there weren't many local businesses that were in a position to take on apprentices. But with recent growth in our economy and changes in how businesses see apprenticeships, that has turned around. An industry trainer who works across the region recently told us "Ōpōtiki's the rock star for apprenticeships at the moment!"

Our construction, engineering, automotive, plumbing and drainlaying businesses especially are supporting lots of new apprenticeship opportunities. The flow on from that is that there is need for more trainees in service industries like hospitality as well.

We're here to help with our Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs subsidies and industry training programmes. So far, we've supported 28 local apprentices.

Ōpōtiki College and Whakatōhea's Ringa Raupa pre-apprenticeship construction programme

Ōpōtiki's also been creating new pathways into apprenticeships through Level 3 construction training both for college students and for rangatahi who have been unemployed. We're here to help where we can, particularly with things like driver licencing and industry training.



Ringa Raupa cohort of construction pre-apprentices in front of the whare they built together in 2022. Left to right: Willie (Kaiako), Tyneal, Tyrin, Sovrin, Paul (Mentor), and Te Harawira.

Hitting the books

Apprentices have to do a lot of online study to gain their qualifications. It can be easy to focus on the hands-on side of training, but the book work is important too!

We want to encourage and support our local taura with their studies so we are working alongside Whakatōhea to establish a study hub to provide extra coaching and guidance for construction apprentices. We're also supporting MITO (the organisation that looks after automotive apprentices) to trial a study-support session each month. They've been meeting down at Te Tāhuhu o te Rangi.



Apprentices Chad and Pūkenga, with their manager, Dylan, from Coastbound Construction. Coastbound Construction were one of the first businesses to join the Mayors' Taskforce for Jobs Programme back in 2020.

Our team



Barbara MacLennan and Madeline Kaa

Ōpōtiki District Council has a dedicated workforce development team to help support and coordinate this mahi. We work with local iwi, employers, community, central government and other agencies.



Apprenticeships aren't just for the trades and outdoors people! This is baker apprentice Jade from the Hot Bread Shop tying her apron as she prepares for mahi.



Construction apprentice Lily and her boss Paul of PJ Brown Building.



C Hayes Engineering apprentices Leroy (left) and Isaia (right). They were some of the very first people who joined the MTFJ programme back in 2020.

