

Ngā Kōrero e pā ana ki te Tūranga

Job Description

Senior Education Advisor, Youth Justice

Business Group	Te Mahau Education Services
Location	Regionally Based
Salary band	A7

Mahi i roto i te Ratonga Tūmatanui | Working in the Public Service

Ka mahitahi mātou o te ratonga tūmatanui kia hei painga mō ngā tāngata o Aotearoa i āiane, ā, hei ngā rā ki tua hoki. He kawenga tino whaitake tā mātou hei tautoko i te Karauna i runga i āna hononga ki a ngāi Māori i raro i te Tiriti o Waitangi. Ka tautoko mātou i te kāwanatanga manapori. Ka whakakotahingia mātou e te wairua whakarato ki ō mātou hapori, ā, e arahina ana mātou e ngā mātāpono me ngā tikanga matua o te ratonga tūmatanui i roto i ā mātou mahi.

In the public service we work collectively to make a meaningful difference for New Zealanders now and in the future. We have an important role in supporting the Crown in its relationships with Māori under the Treaty of Waitangi. We support democratic government. We are unified by a spirit of service to our communities and guided by the core principles and values of the public service in our work.

Mō ētahi atu kōrero hei whakamārama i tēnei kaupapa, haere ki | [You can find out more about what this means at Role and purpose - Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission.](#)

To Mātou Aronga | What we do for Aotearoa New Zealand

At Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga | Ministry of Education, delivering our purpose makes a real difference to all ākonga of Aotearoa:

*He mea tārai e mātou te mātauranga kia rangatira ai, kia mana taurite ai ōna huanga
We shape an education system that delivers excellent and equitable outcomes*

We fulfil our purpose by:

- delivering services and support nationally, regionally and locally to and through the education sector and in some cases directly to ākonga and whānau
- shaping the policies, settings and performance of the education system so that it is well placed to deliver equitable outcomes for ākonga and their whānau, from early learning through tertiary.

Tēnei Tūranga | About the role

This Senior Education Advisor, Youth Justice plays a critical role in strengthening education responses for rangatahi involved in serious or persistent offending. Sitting within the Integrated Services team, this position ensures education remains central to Youth Justice planning by providing high-quality education insights into Youth Court proceedings and cross-agency approaches, including Fast Track.

You will work at the intersection of education, justice, social services, and health, supporting rangatahi whose experiences require the system to work differently for them. This role contributes to improved engagement, attendance, and learning pathways by building trusted relationships, navigating complex situations, and advocating for equitable opportunities for tamariki and rangatahi.

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Ngā Haepapa | Accountabilities

As a Specialist within Te Tāhuhu o te Mātauranga | the Ministry of Education you will:

- Share specialist knowledge across the organisation and with stakeholders, working with others to inform operational level decision making.
- Contribute to an effective team with a positive approach to the work environment that encourages and supports high performance, collaboration and problem solving.
- Lead the resolution of issues, identifying risks and solutions to protect and enhance the integrity and reputation of the Ministry.
- Lead or contribute to the development and implementation of innovative and fit-for purpose solutions and frameworks for current and future challenges.
- Develop and use data and insights to make evidence-based decisions and recommendations on operational issues.
- Build capability in others through coaching, quality assurance, and proactively sharing knowledge and expertise.

As the Senior Education Advisor, Youth Justice you will:

Youth Court

- Represent the Ministry as the primary point of contact for education matters in the Youth Court.
- Prepare and present succinct, high-quality education insights to support judicial and cross-agency decision making.
- Provide education information including enrolment history, attendance patterns, engagement records, learning support involvement, and schooling pathways.
- Support the court and partner agencies to understand education needs, opportunities, risks, and transition planning.

Ōtautahi Interagency (Fast Track)

- Provide timely, accurate education information to support interagency action planning.
- Participate in monthly interagency forums to identify systemic issues, contribute to problem-solving, and influence cross-agency practice.
- Collaborate with Oranga Tamariki, Health, Police, iwi partners, schools, Learning Support teams, and community providers to support design of integrated responses for rangatahi.
- Support planning for re-engagement in education, training, or alternative learning environments, identifying suitable placements and supports.

Supporting wider Education Advisory work

- Support broader Education Advisory (EA) functions as required, including contributing to business-as-usual work such as assisting ākonga to re-engage in education following exclusion or other significant transitions.

System Improvement & Internal Capability

- Monitor trends, surface systemic barriers, and use insights to support practice.
- Strengthen data collection and reporting processes that inform Youth Justice and interagency activities.
- Build internal capability by improving colleagues understanding of Youth Court processes and information requirements.

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- Contribute to the implementation of systems that track educational outcomes for rangatahi and their whānau.

Ōtautahi Interagency (Fast Track) – Background

Fast Track is a multi-agency approach that brings together government agencies, iwi, kaupapa Māori providers, and community organisations to respond to tamariki and rangatahi who commit serious offending. Established in Ōtautahi in 2023, Fast Track uses shared protocols and cross-agency processes, including daily information gathering, joint planning meetings, and ongoing monitoring to support coordinated, holistic responses for rangatahi and their whānau.

The Senior Education Advisor, Youth Justice provides education insights into these processes and helps ensure education considerations are accurately reflected in multi-agency plans.

You will make decisions in accordance with the Ministry's policies and delegations' framework.

Ngā Tohu Mātauranga Waiwai | Essential Qualifications

- A full, clean New Zealand driver licence.

Wheako | Experience

To be successful in this role you will have the following experience:

- Experience in a complex organisation
- Experience in building relationships and partnerships to achieve shared outcomes.
- Strong knowledge of the schooling sector, including attendance, engagement, pastoral care, and learning support.
- Experience working within complex, multi-agency systems.
- Experience in Youth Justice, the Youth Court, or roles involving Oranga Tamariki, Police, Health, iwi or NGO social services (advantageous).
- Experience providing high-quality advice in sensitive or challenging situations.
- Experience leading and contributing to strategic initiatives, work programmes or projects that have organisational impact.
- Experience partnering with schools, kura, iwi, and community providers to design meaningful education pathways.
- Experience working with rangatahi and whānau experiencing significant challenges.
- Demonstrated ability to apply Te Tiriti o Waitangi and kaupapa Māori approaches in practice.
- Proven capability managing confidential information.
- Working co-operatively and flexibly with others to solve problems or complete tasks.

Ngā Āheinga | Capabilities

To be successful in this role you will have the following capabilities and competencies:

- A track record of bringing people together and leading, coaching and mentoring others to achieve outcomes.

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- A proven ability to use data and insights to identify trends, risks and opportunities, to influence and guide organisational and system-level decision making.
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills.
- A commitment to ongoing personal and professional development.
- Relationship-based leadership and the ability to influence without authority.
- Sound judgement and adaptability in complex, fast-moving environments.
- Strong communication skills, including the ability to synthesise information succinctly for a Court and cross-agency audience.
- Cultural competence and confidence engaging with Māori, whānau, iwi, and Māori-led services, with a strong commitment to equitable outcomes for Māori and to kaupapa Māori approaches.
- Practical understanding of trauma-informed, strengths-based, and whānau-centred approaches.
- Resilience, discretion, and professionalism under pressure.
- Ability to identify systemic issues and contribute to improvement efforts.
- Initiative and problem-solving skills in situations of high ambiguity.
- The ability and willingness to adhere to the Public Service Standards of Integrity and Conduct.
- Flexible to support a range of Integrated Services functions.

Tātai Pou | Our Cultural Competency

Tātai Pou is the Ministry’s Māori Crown Relations capability framework. Tātai Pou is designed to support our people and organisation to give effect to the articles of te Tiriti o Waitangi in our work. The work-based capabilities have four focus areas and describe four levels of competency (high, confident, developing and essential) that enable us to deliver our partnership approach so that Māori enjoy and achieve educational success as Māori.

Pou Hono Valuing Māori	Confident
Pou Mana Knowledge of Māori content	Confident
Pou Kipa Achieving equitable education outcomes for Māori	Confident
Pou Aroā Critical consciousness of racial equity for Māori	Confident

Leadership Success Profile - Te Kawa Mataaho | Public Service Commission

Leadership matters. Strong leadership at every level in the Public Service will transform the experiences of New Zealanders. The Leadership Success Profile establishes “what good looks like” for leadership at all levels. Information about how the Leadership Success Profile applies to this role is available on the Ministry’s intranet.

Ngā Whakaaetanga | Approvals

Date Reviewed and Approved	February 2026
Approved By	HR Advisory team