



35 Youth and youth workers gathered at the University of Canterbury for the GC2050 Youth Summit, these rangatahi and their Youth Development Leads and/or Deputy Principals came from:

Christchurch Youth Council, Waimakariri Youth Council, Environment Canterbury Youth Rōpū, Pacific Youth Leadership and Transformation, VOYCE Whakarongo Mai (Care experienced), Te Ora Hou Ōtautahi, Puawai (Leadership Lab), ARA, University of Canterbury, Christchurch Girls High School, St Andrew's College, Hornby High School, Ao Tawhiti Discovery School, Papanui High School and Rerenga Awa- the Canterbury Youth Workers' Collective.

Facilitated by Okirano Tilaia and Hannah Dunlop- the kaupapa consisted of:

- i) Understanding the youth participation journey in Ōtautahi.
- ii) Connecting to the GC2050 engagements pre-covid.
- iii) A presentation from Anna Elphick on the snapshot of data from the current survey and community engagements so far.
- iv) Time to kōrero and present back as groups.
- v) Dietrich Soakai- a well-known poet was invited to be an active listener and close the Summit with a performance poem summarising the young people's ideas from the day.

"When we feel safe – we are able to step out of our comfort zones, are supported to travel, feel independent, are open to opportunities and have a positive confidence for the future which leads to sufficient income. We need to make young people feel safe right now as well as plan for safety for the future"

"Young people need to be involved and kept in the Urban Growth conversation all the way through- we are optimistic, future-focused and benefit the most from the planning"

"Have you looked back to all of the Youth Voices like the Youth Action Plan, many documents and previous GC2050 planning and met those requests from the Earthquakes?"

"The city needs to invest in enhancing culture & identity and reducing the barriers to access that marginalised young people face- so we can actually get on the 'train of opportunities'."

"We are leaders of tomorrow and leaders of today!"

1. KEY THEMES FROM RANGATAHI

1. Safety

- **Define 'Safety'**- We need to define what 'SAFE' means for different people and focus on prevention.
- **Public Places and spaces**- If young people do not feel safe, they won't go to certain places. There is some fear around certain streets that feel unsafe. The Bus Exchange is an issue and security guards who are not approachable or make young people feel safe.
- **Female safety**: Getting cat-called makes us feel unsafe.
- **Racism**: marginalised communities don't necessarily feel a sense of belonging and safety.
- **Ram raids** - increasing vehicle free zones/ car ban areas could help reduce the risk.
- **School safety**- should be a safe space for everyone to express their identity, but it's not.
- **Alcohol bans**- we need these in particular areas.
- **Social media safety** - how to educate because of its negative influences on violence, aggression, addiction and distribution of illegal and harmful activities.

2. Bi-cultural and multicultural communities

- The Māori culture needs to be more visible - it's good to see some narratives, how are Mana Whenua leading these anchor projects?
- Māori and Pasifika cultures are embraced and seen around the city.
- Accessible city with transport, and culturally reflecting spaces that are fun and safe.

3. Clean, Green and Sustainable Environment - Climate Change

- Climate Justice / Change and issues related to this are a priority.
- The water quality of the Avon River.
- Green spaces are a must.
- Nitrate levels.
- Clean drinking water.

4. Education

- Supporting pathways for elite athletes- how do we provide opportunities for young people to either stay or come and give back to our communities?
- We need equitable access to higher education- because having more qualifications gives you more access to income security: we need more scholarships and diverse role models.
- Education, Training, Learning and Employment services- we need transport access to wrap around these services.



5. Housing - Where we live

- We need a range of housing options to cater to larger- inter-generational families. Cultural rituals like serving and connecting with the wider village necessitates medium and bigger housing options. There are many of us who still want a 'backyard' so our families can gather.
- We want to be able to afford buying in the future - and have a range of options available to suit the different needs as our lives change.
- There needs to be safe and secure options of transitional housing for youth and especially for care-experienced young people who may not necessarily have family.
- Create an urban and regional planning community of young people.
- Accessibility and affordability of homes is important.
- Have a youth -one-stop-shop in intensification areas.
- Please reduce predatory businesses and promote health and positive businesses.
- We need more affordable and accessible health and mental health care - education, health and housing are all connected.



6. Transport

- Safety of bus drivers & passengers is important.
- We need to feel like we can approach the Bus Exchange security guards and get help when needed.
- Full support of a light rail.
- MRT should be constant, affordable and accessible.
- Youth like to have everything within a close radius. High density housing and public transport should be 15 mins from the city.

2. YOUTH WORKER VOICE

1. Access

- There is no Equity of access for youth in the East.

2. Representation

- Cultural representation at urban planning levels is important.
- Youth members represented in committees is very important.

3. Mental health

- Mental health and wealth for our young people in the city - increased funding for this and planning for healthy cities for young people.

4. Environment / Climate Change

- Clean spaces are a must!
- Clear and concise information around climate change.

5. Roads

- Why are cycle lanes so expensive? We need more cycle lanes and footpaths.
- Driving can be scary for young people.
- Transport needs to be affordable and accessible.



3. YOUTH SUMMIT POEM

Summarised by Active Listener- Dietrich Soakai

How does a city grow?
Making way, allowing for waterways,
And more space, for everyone
These railways and tar and gravel veins,
Connecting a city- making Us- and a space for a 'new' Us
But, where's the voice of our Rangatahi?
They- are our future, Now!
So, what does our Future have to say, now?
Need to feel 'SAFE'
Especially on the Bus and at the Bus Exchange
Where the security guards actually
Stick around til the buses stop?
Where they look out for us, instead of looking 'at' us
Our city's veins need to grow, so it has more space for everyone
And the new ones (doubling the population)
Our spaces can't be- "One size fits all"
Can't always be faster and expanding out more
Small houses, tiny houses work for some of us looking for
a new step
Looking for new small beginnings
But for bigger whānau, density housing isn't welcoming
Isn't encompassing all of our village-
"How are you going to fit a village into 2 bedrooms?"
High density fractures communities
Villages need backyard spaciousness
To connect and express because an expression of us
Is intergenerational living and breathing
Financial pressures weigh heavily, and suffocate, limit & constrict
WE KNOW the climate is changing, but do YOU?
Green spaces- are an absolute must.
Awesome- you've asked our opinion one time,
But keep talking to us, all the way through
Lean in and hear us
Our diverse voices, eclectic, energetic and different.

Bridge, portal into the unknown, first step is risk, we want to
feel safe as we step into green, green opportunities that can
sustain us
You can't read, read change, see, see something happen
Protection of the planet is in everyone's hands
Incorporate more culture in our city's image - we want to be
seen in the city's whanau photo
The cost of living - we ain't feeling
We are the leaders of tomorrow and the leaders of today so
lean in and listen to us.