Youth Declaration offers solutions

The 2019 Aotearoa Youth Declaration was a platform for discussion on how our young people want to tackle some of the country’s most pressing challenges.

The event in April brought together more than 350 rangatahi from across the country to discuss and debate the relevant issues facing Aotearoa today. Over the course of four days, the students’ developed solutions to these issues and documented them in the [Youth Declaration](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1x_EctZ_ovqE79NEiGCDLHOySTiiN1Ifu/view). Through this document the students and organizers created a platform for the younger generation to make their voices heard.

Victoria Rhodes-Carlin, the 2019 Youth Declaration Coordinator, says: “The Youth Declaration document identifies the most pressing concerns and challenges young people see in Aotearoa. It is designed for decision-makers and community leaders to understand the issues and things of importance to young people, and most importantly see what solutions are offered by young people.”

Alongside the written Youth Declaration, the conference included a multitude of workshops aimed at educating students and helping them make informed decisions for the Declaration. One such example is the Intersectionality and Identity Workshop which discussed intersectionality and its impact on society, as well as the Active Citizenship workshop with a series of guest speakers.

Carlin says future goals for the Youth Declaration include making the programme more representative saying.

“This will be done by engaging with more rangatahi both at the conference and by growing our regional hui programme.” An additional goal is to make the programme run year-round.

The Youth Declaration aims to increase environmental and social awareness among students and adults. Other such programs include the multitude of leadership programs provided by the Blake Trust, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals Summit being hosted by the University of Auckland and Auckland University of Technology this September.

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1x_EctZ_ovqE79NEiGCDLHOySTiiN1Ifu/view>