

The EMA supports the “Youth Employability Programme: Licence to Work”

The Youth Employability Programme: Licence to Work is designed to respond to business and industry concerns that young people may not be developing the employability skills - also called ‘soft skills’, needed to succeed in the workplace.

YEP: Licence to Work provides learning activities to build these seven competencies - positive attitude, communication, teamwork, self-management, willingness to learn, resilience, and thinking skills (problem solving and decision making), plus a process to assess and record them in authentic volunteer and workplace environments.

So far in 2019, 30 schools, wharekura and training providers around the country have signed up for YEP, including eight in Auckland.

On completion, YEP participants have:

- evidence of their employability skills and work readiness from assessments;
- participated in 18 interactive employability teaching and learning sessions;
- done at least 20 hours of community service work with a recognised organization;
- taken part in at least 80 hours of work experience in local companies; and
- a Licence to Work Certificate and portfolio to show prospective employers.

YEP is based on seven core employability skills - positive attitude, communication, teamwork, self-management, willingness to learn, resilience, and thinking skills (problem solving and decision making).

These have been developed in consultation with government, education, employers, and industry groups and are also the core skills in the national Employability Skills Framework.

The EMA’s involvement

The EMA participates in the Youth Employability Programme steering group, providing a link to the business community.

The EMA has provided practical assistance in the form of personal protective equipment for students undertaking work experience and has provided a logistics coordinator to ensure students attended their work experience.

The Graduation Certificates for students completing the Programme are jointly signed by EMA and COMET Auckland that set up the Programme. The Certificates give employers the confidence that the students are work-ready.



The Programme is important to EMA members as our annual Employers Survey continues to highlight employers' concern that many students coming out of secondary education were not work-ready.

For more information, please contact the EMA's senior policy analyst Michael Burgess at email Michael.burgess@ema.co.nz, phone 09-367 0936.