

# Certificate in Community Youth Work (CertCYW)\*



Level 5, 120 credits

## Programme Summary

The Certificate in Community Youth Work (CertCYW) equips and empowers youth workers to walk alongside young people in a wide range of settings. Grounded in a Te Tiriti-led framework, the programme integrates ethical youth work practice, personal formation, and Christian theology.

Designed to deepen both practical skills and theoretical understanding, this programme prepares students for immediate frontline youth work or as a pathway to further study. Learners will engage with youth development approaches that are bicultural, relational, and reflective - supporting safe, transformative practice with taiohi from diverse backgrounds.

## Flexible Study Options

The CertCYW is a 120 credit, Level 5 programme delivered over one year full-time, with part-time pathways available. It blends in-person learning with flexible options. Students take part in weekly classroom sessions, block courses, noho marae, and complete 300 hours of hands-on practicum in a youth work setting.

For those living rurally or needing study to fit around life, distance learning options are available. Laidlaw's smaller class sizes, supportive tutors, and whānau-like student culture create an encouraging space for learning - ideal for those returning to study, building confidence, or wanting a second chance at education.

## 2027 Fees

2027 fees will be confirmed in October 2026.

*NOTE: annual fee may vary.*

\*This programme leads to the New Zealand Certificate in Youth Work (Level 5).

# Courses

## 115.515 Y READING THE BIBLE (15 CREDITS)

This course introduces students to the Bible through the lens of biblical theology, exploring its grand narrative as a unified story that culminates in Jesus Christ. Students will examine a key biblical theme and its relationship to youth work and theology. This course equips youth workers to articulate and evaluate their own beliefs, values and attitudes in light of Scripture, and to apply the Bible's story to contemporary issues and systemic worlds affecting young people. In doing so, students will develop a biblically grounded foundation for Christian youth work practice that supports both their professional development and the hauora of taiohi.

## 401.515 Y FORMATION (15 CREDITS)

This course invites students to reflect on their personal and communal spiritual formation as youth workers. Through engagement with Scripture, theological understandings, and a variety of Christian spiritual traditions, students will deepen their understanding of self-care, personal formation, and holistic wellbeing to strengthen their youth work practice.

## 740.515 Y TE AO TAIOHI: CONTEXT OF YOUNG PEOPLE (15 CREDITS)

This course explores Te Ao Taiohi - the world of young people - as a dynamic context shaped by generational, digital, cultural and social realities. Students will begin by analysing the impacts of digital worlds on youth identity and hauora, before broadening their lens to evaluate wider cultural and contextual factors that shape young people's wellbeing.

Building on this understanding, students will develop ethically grounded and theologically informed responses to support taiohi. Drawing on youth development theory and ethical practice, students will be equipped to strengthen youth hauora and build authentic, mana-enhancing relationships within the young person's world.

## 741.530 Y YOUTH WORK FUNDAMENTALS: PRACTICUM A (30 CREDITS)

This course introduces students to the foundational knowledge and supervised practical experience required for effective youth work practice in Aotearoa. Students will complete 150 hours in a youth work setting, including a minimum of 3 hours of professional supervision. The course supports the integration of Mana Taiohi, youth development principles, ethical frameworks, and relevant legislation into practice. Students will engage with diverse community partners, contribute to the goals of a youth work organisation, and develop critical reflection skills to navigate the complexities of youth work with integrity, cultural responsiveness, and care.

## 742.530 Y YOUTH WORK APPLIED FUNDAMENTALS: PRACTICUM B (30 CREDITS)

This course builds on foundational practicum experience and equips students to deepen their applied youth work practice. Students will complete 150 hours of supervised youth work, including at least 3 hours of professional supervision.

Through the design, delivery, and evaluation of a focused youth development initiative, students will integrate theoretical knowledge with practical application. The course emphasises human and brain development, reflective practice, and the application of Mana Taiohi and ethical principles. Students will enhance their professional competencies by working with diverse young people, evaluating outcomes using appropriate tools, and constructing a detailed case study based on lived youth work experience.

## 907.515 Y BICULTURAL RELATIONSHIPS: TIKANGA KAWENATA (15 CREDITS)

This course introduces Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Tikanga Māori, Te Reo Māori, and Te Ao Māori as foundational to understanding people in their diverse cultural contexts. The course equips students to engage respectfully and relationally with tangata whenua, by exploring the meanings, histories, and contemporary relevance of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the impacts of colonisation. It integrates theological, historical, and theoretical reflection to support culturally responsive and justice-oriented youth work practice in Aotearoa.

UPDATED 16 JUNE 2026

**READY TO APPLY? ANY QUESTIONS?**

**0800 999 777**

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# Graduate Profile

Graduates will be able to:

- 1. Apply knowledge of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, Mana Taihoi, Code of Ethics for Youth Work, brain development and human development frameworks and legislative requirements to support taiohi from diverse groups.**
- 2. Oversee a focused aspect of a youth work project and apply evaluation tools to develop a qualitative report.**
- 3. Engage in professional development to analyse and evaluate own culture, values, attitudes, beliefs and self-care practices to strengthen youth work practice.**
- 4. Engage with a diverse range of community partners, including tangata whenua, to meet the objectives of a youth work organisation.**
- 5. Analyse the impacts of the digital, social, and systematic worlds of taiohi, including the impacts of colonisation, to support youth hauora.**

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