



## Defence Review 2009 – What did young people say?

Thank you to all the young people who completed the Defence Review. We had an amazing turn out with 148 completed submissions. The Ministry of Defence received 236 submissions from their public consultation process, so 148 from young people is a great response!

The Associate Minister of Defence Hon Heather Roy has taken a keen interest in the youth consultation part of the Defence Review and will soon receive a copy of the report that summed up what young people said about defence issues. Your submissions and input from the youth consultation focus groups will be considered when preparing the summary document that will inform the final Defence Assessment and be presented to Government in early 2010.

Here is a summary of what young people said for the four Defence Review questions:

### 1. What should the Defence Force's (Army, Navy and Air Force) role be in "keeping New Zealand secure"?

Many young people weren't clear about the role of the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF). Slightly more young people thought the NZDF's role should focus on responding to natural disasters than on stopping threats to New Zealand's security.



Some groups of young people found it difficult to imagine any threat to New Zealand, or any reason for the NZDF to be active outside of New Zealand.

The places and activities most likely to be mentioned by young people were the Pacific for political stability and Africa to help poor people, a couple of young people mentioned that NZDF could help South East Asia with clearing mines.

### 2. Rank the most important things the New Zealand Defence Force needs to be successful?

Young people felt that the most important thing for the NZDF was to have trained people. This was more important than equipment, modern technology, or the ability to deploy overseas and work with allies.



### 3. What other tasks should the New Zealand Defence Force be doing?



The two common suggestions were that the NZDF should do more international work and community work. Other suggestions were search and rescue, protecting New Zealand, supporting young people in to work, law enforcement, emergency disaster relief and more training.

### 4. What would attract young people to a career in the New Zealand Defence Force?

The biggest draw was the opportunity of gaining useful qualifications while being paid. There was a range of qualifications suggested, with some wanting scholarships for university, and other young people being more interested in obtaining employment skills

such as a Heavy Vehicle Licence.

Other major attractions for a military career included pay, benefits, job security, and the ability to get a 'taste' of life with the armed forces through schools or community displays.



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YOUTH DEVELOPMENT**

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