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When the rubber meets the road: Linking research, policy and practice in youth development

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The Ministry of Youth Development is developing a strategic direction designed to strengthen the utilisation of research and evaluation in the on-going decision making and policy advice of the Ministry. A large part of this work is to progress as a learning organization that encourages enquiry, supports learning from both successes and failures, and seeks to be adaptive, innovative and continually improve our work.

The Ministry's mandate is to fund certain youth services and to provide policy advice to ministers and other public sector organizations regarding young people 12-24 years old. As such, the Ministry does not hold authority to mandate other organizations to utilize the advice or services that MYD offers. Rather, MYD builds collaborative relationships across the whole of government to influence policy and practice affecting youth.

Tools for making current national and international research and evaluation readily accessible to staff within the Ministry are being developed and implemented. Many of these resources will also be made available to the broader youth sector via the MYD website.

This session will cover:

- The Ministry's work across sectors and the whole of government
- The Ministry's organizational culture shift to support linking research, policy and practice
- Highlights from an internal survey of staff regarding current information gathering techniques and methods of linking research, policy and practice
- Human, electronic and printed resources needed to strengthen those practices
- Ideas for making resources available to the New Zealand youth development sector