

CHILDREN

COMMUNITY

RECREATION

IWI MAAORI VOICES

ECONOMY

EDUCATION

ENVIRONMENT

CULTURE & ARTS

HEALTH

YOUTH VOICES

THE WAIKATO STORY

The mighty Waikato region is a place of powerful possibilities.

Forged by a proud history and shared excitement about the future, we grow and celebrate world-changers, local innovators and inspiring champions. They embrace our guiding philosophy of mahia te mahi – to get the job done.

In a world hungry for new technology and pure produce, we hold prime position.

Our smart, fast-growing city and vibrant rural towns are connected in a diverse landscape that is fertile and ripe for discovery.

Waikato is our turangawaewae; the place where we stand. Here, family is nurtured. Friends are welcomed with open hearts, and life can be easily enjoyed to the full.

This is our place.

This is your place.

Welcome to Waikato, the beating heart of New Zealand.

Source: The Waikato Story, www.waikatostory.nz

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Vital Signs is an international programme led by local community foundations and coordinated by Community Foundations of Canada. It leverages local knowledge to measure the vitality of our communities and support action towards improving our collective quality of life. More than 65 communities around the world use Vital Signs each year to mobilise the power of community knowledge for greater local impact. The Vital Signs trademark is used with permission from Community Foundations of Canada. For more information visit www.vitalsignscanada.ca.

The information in this report generally refers to the Waikato Vital Signs 2016 pilot region. Depending on the availability of data for individual indicators, “Waikato” may refer to the Waikato Vital Signs pilot region, the entire Waikato Vital Signs region, the Waikato Region as defined by census boundaries, the Waikato DHB area or the Waikato Police District. For more information see www.momentumwaikato.nz.

Disclaimer

While all reasonable care has been taken to ensure that information contained in this document is true and accurate at the time of publication/release, changed circumstances after publication may impact on the accuracy of that information. Momentum Waikato and the Waikato Vital Signs partners shall not be liable for any loss suffered through the use, directly or indirectly, of any information contained in this report.

INTRODUCTION

He tangata, he tangata, he tangata

Community is much more than just a physical place. It is the spirit of the people who live, learn, work, play and care alongside us. Our community shapes us, cares for us and provides us with opportunities to learn, grow and participate in a vibrant and rewarding life.

Understanding our community together – our values and history, our strengths and challenges, and our dreams for the future – is vital on our journey towards making the Waikato a better place for everyone, forever.

This report is a snapshot of our community. It tells a story about our people, right here, right now. There are high points and low points, but most of all there is hope; because we are all connected, and we value the power of that connectedness above all else.

As you read this report, consider your place in our story. Think about the things you love, and the things you want to change. Above all else remember, when we work together, anything is possible.



Leonard Gardner

Leonard Gardner
Chair



Cheryl

Cheryl Reynolds
Chief Executive

Build on our values and history, capitalise on our resources, empowering youth and whaanau, to address our key challenges in a spirit of hope and partnership.

Closing summary from the Ngaruawahia Vital Signs community engagement, May 2016.

YOUR REPORT



WHAT IS WAIKATO VITAL SIGNS?

Waikato Vital Signs is a tool that can mobilise the power of community knowledge for greater local impact. It comes from the internationally recognised Vital Signs programme and measures social, environmental, cultural and economic trends in the Waikato, and our attitudes towards those trends. Drawing together information about the Waikato, and community feedback gathered at a series of eight community engagement workshops, this report is made up of the following 10 themes:



CHILDREN



COMMUNITY



CULTURE & ARTS



IWI MAAORI VOICES



ECONOMY



EDUCATION



ENVIRONMENT



HEALTH



RECREATION



YOUTH VOICES

HOW TO USE WAIKATO VITAL SIGNS

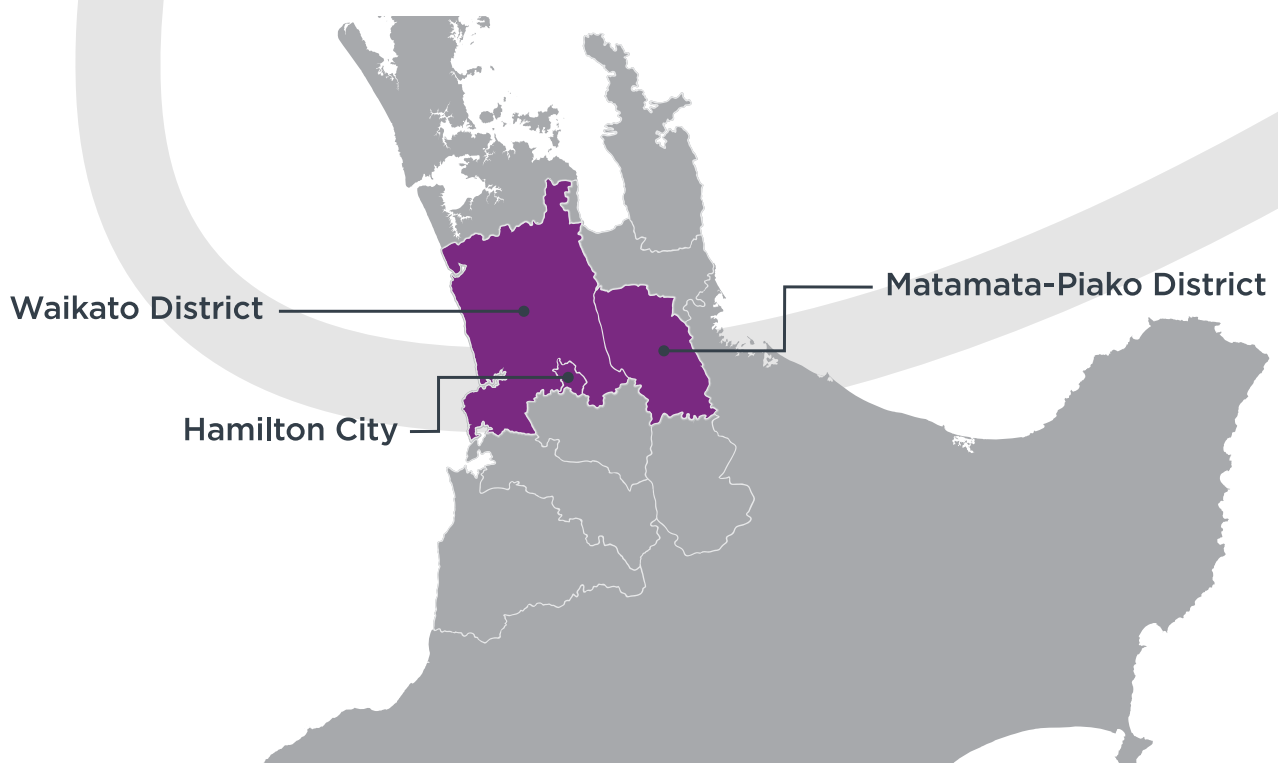
ENGAGE: Take the time to engage with this report and reflect on the information it provides - what does it mean for our people, our organisations and our community?

CONNECT: Powerful social change starts with a spark. Share this report with anyone and everyone. Use it as a conversation starter within your organisation, with elected officials, with your employers, and with family and friends. Knowledge is power - the more we talk about and share this information, the more potential it has to generate change.

TAKE ACTION: Collaborate, motivate and take action using the information that means something to you. There are hundreds of organisations and groups in the Waikato who do amazing things, and they could benefit from your support and generosity.

WAIKATO VITAL SIGNS PILOT REGION

The Waikato region is the fourth largest region in the country, covering most of the central North Island of Aotearoa, New Zealand. It is home to approximately 10% of the country's total population, with around 440,000 people calling the Waikato their home. Three territorial authority areas - Hamilton City, Matamata-Piako District and Waikato District - make up the pilot region of the Waikato Vital Signs 2016 report, which represents about a third of the wider Waikato region. The pilot region was chosen as a representative sample, and it has approximately 260,000 people, or 5.7% of New Zealand's total population, living within its boundaries. Most of us live in our major city, Hamilton, and around 40% live in or near one of our rural centres.

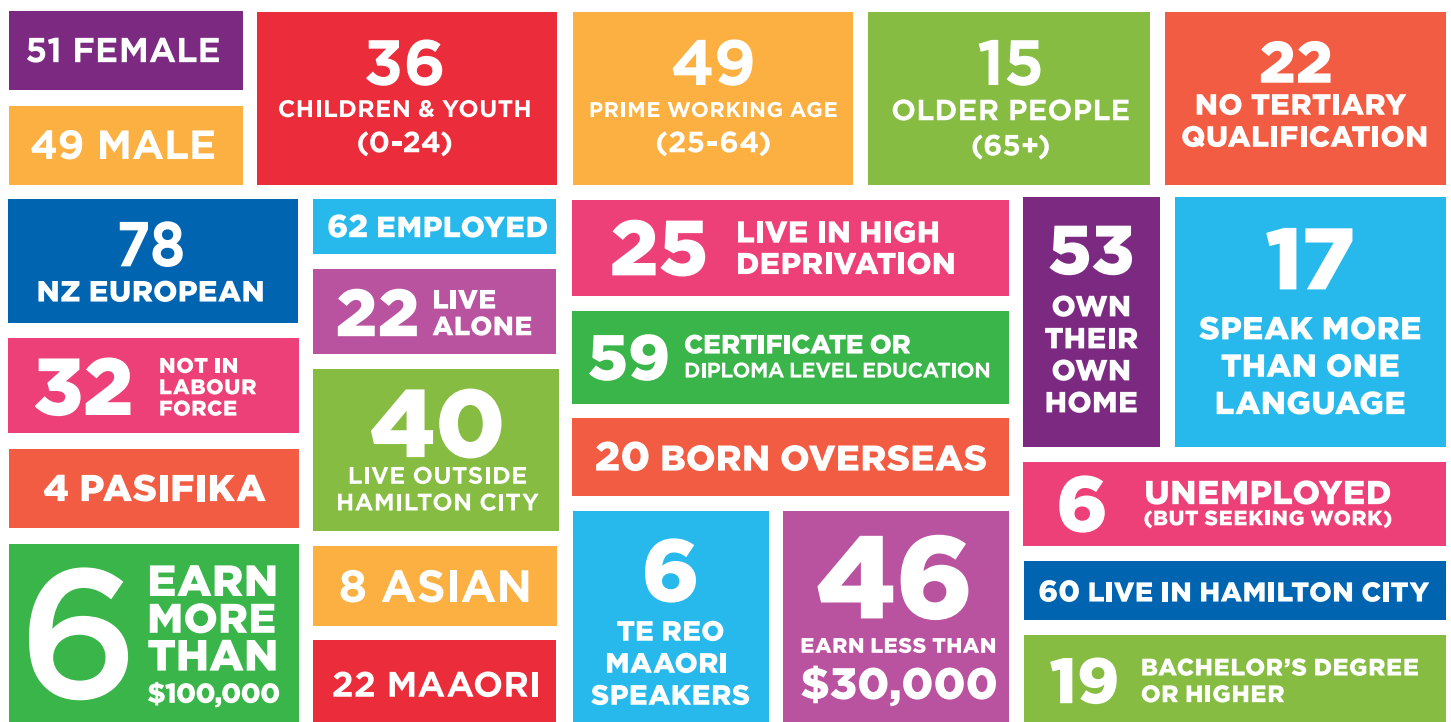


OUR WAIKATO

Our Waikato is a place of powerful possibilities, surrounded by breath-taking natural beauty. We are proud of our place and love to call the Waikato our home, but 'our place' means very different things, depending on who and where we are. Many of us are healthy, employed, and live in safe, comfortable homes. Our quality of life is good. At the same time, some of us are living in very difficult circumstances and are struggling to meet our basic needs. We find strength in our diverse but connected communities, working together to grow our economy, educate our young people and create positive futures for our children. It's an exciting place to be, with many passionate, creative and caring individuals, whaanau and organisations.

It's our place, our potential and our opportunity.

IF WE WERE 100 PEOPLE, WE WOULD BE...



TOP 10 THINGS WE LOVE ABOUT OUR PLACE



- 1 Our diversity
- 2 Our connectedness
- 3 Our community vibrancy
- 4 Our community safety
- 5 Our community spirit
- 6 Our Kiingitanga heritage
- 7 Our environment
- 8 Our community friendliness
- 9 Our location
- 10 Our volunteers

TOP 10 COMMUNITY PRIORITIES FOR ACTION



- 1 Working together to improve community connectedness
- 2 Developing better education and development pathways for our youth
- 3 Solving problems with affordability, availability and quality of housing
- 4 Growing our economy and reducing income inequality
- 5 Increasing the number and range of jobs available
- 6 Delivering quality education
- 7 Improving access to health services
- 8 Taking care of our natural environment
- 9 Improving transport options in and between our towns and city
- 10 Caring for our ageing population

AGEING

Projected growth in the proportion of our resident population aged 65+:

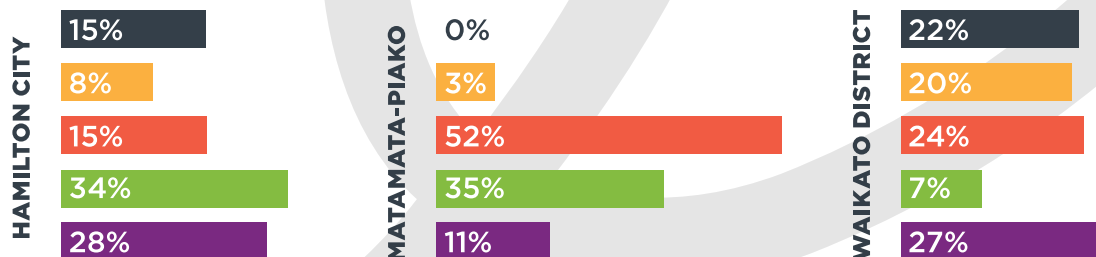
	2015	2023	2033
HAMILTON CITY	12%	14%	17%
MATAMATA-PIAKO DISTRICT	18%	22%	28%
WAIKATO DISTRICT	13%	16%	21%

DEPRIVATION

This indicator combines New Zealand census data relating to income, home ownership, employment, qualifications, family structure, housing, access to transport and communications. Level 1 and 2 refer to low socio-economic deprivation and Level 9 and 10 refer to high socio-economic deprivation.

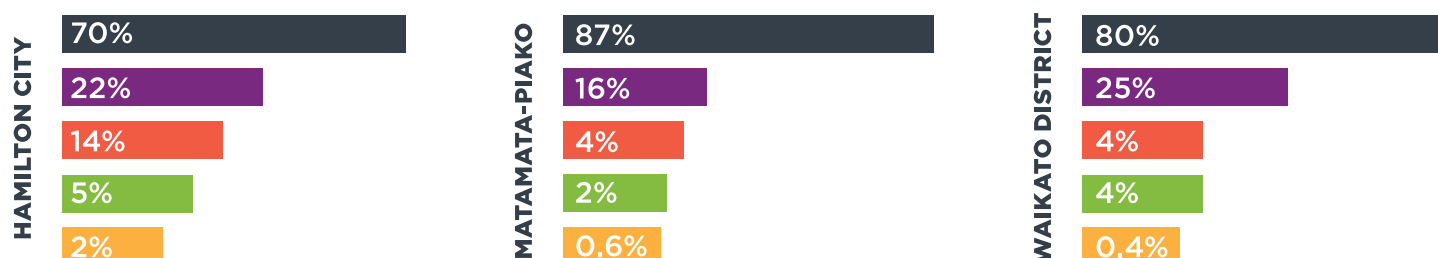
- 1 & 2
- 3 & 4
- 5 & 6
- 7 & 8
- 9 & 10

Source: Census, 2013



ETHNICITY

- European/Other*
- Maaori
- Asian
- Pacific Peoples
- MELAA**



*Incl. New Zealander

**Middle Eastern/Latin American/African

Source: Census, 2013



CHILDREN

Our community is our village: it takes all of us together to provide for the children living in it. To thrive, children need healthy and safe homes, a good education, and to belong to the world around them. Risk areas for 0-14 year olds in our region include increased numbers living in high deprivation, lower rates of early childhood education participation and more reported and substantiated child abuse cases than the national average.

CHILDREN MAKE UP ABOUT 1/5 OF OUR POPULATION

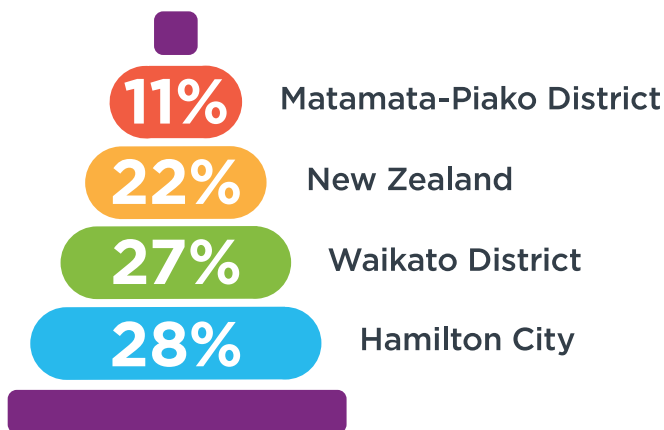


By focusing our attention on children and youth, we can create change in our community. What we teach young people now will impact our community's future.

Lisa Gardiner, CEO, Ngati Haua Iwi Trust, Morrinsville community engagement participant.

PEOPLE LIVING IN AREAS OF HIGH SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEPRIVATION*

*NZDEP 9 & 10 are the highest socio-economic deprivation levels as defined by the NZ Index of Deprivation.



Areas of **high socio-economic deprivation** have **proportionally more children** living in them.

PARTICIPATION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (ECE)*

* Three and four year olds enrolled in ECE in 2014.



DID YOU KNOW - Participation in quality ECE benefits everyone with higher levels of achievement and better social outcomes for children later in life, empowerment and education for parents, and community connections for families and whaanau.

CASES OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

in our region are decreasing, but they are still higher than the national average.

Change is happening, but we need to make it happen faster.



CHILDREN PER 10,000*
New Zealand average



CHILDREN PER 10,000*
Waikato Vital Signs region

*Reported and substantiated cases of child abuse (0-16 years old) 2011-2015.

COMMUNITY VOICES - WE WANT TO:

Value children
as our future.

Make **children's lives better**, so two generations later we're not still delivering meals to schools.

Change the apathy towards **family violence** and poverty.
It's not OK.

WEAVING THE SAFETY NET

Education, support, inspiration and commitment are needed to ensure the adults in each child's life can help protect them.

Paula Money Penny, a counsellor at Hamilton's Rototuna Junior High School, knows how important the right tools and knowledge are to her work. "The welfare, wellbeing and safety of children is at the heart of my counselling," she says.

Recently, Paula completed a child protection training programme through Child Matters, a Hamilton-based New Zealand charity, focused on education to prevent child abuse. The course ensures people in the community have the knowledge and confidence to take positive action to protect children, covering basic awareness, what to do, and how to get help.

"The training gave me the tools to recognise signs of abuse and understand the right steps to follow when reporting it," says Paula.

The child protection net in her community will be cast even wider, with training now planned for all staff at the school. For Child Matters Chief Executive, Anthea Simcock, that's exactly what they want to see.

"We all dream of making New Zealand a genuine safe haven for children," says Anthea.

"To achieve this, all adults must be equipped to protect children and be able to take personal responsibility for identifying, reporting and ultimately stopping all forms of child abuse."

By building communities of people who look out for children and know what to do to keep them safe, we are creating a place where all children can flourish in an environment free from abuse.



Children playing - Putaruru Blue Springs

What would happen if we all looked out for our children and knew what to do to keep them safe?



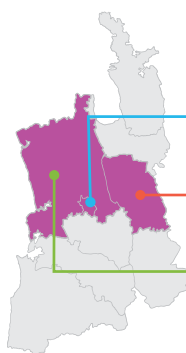
COMMUNITIES

Part A

Our manaakitanga, or caring, speaks to the strength and health of our communities. There are more of us involved in unpaid volunteering and caring work in our region than nationally, providing essential support and connections between people. As our population is ageing, these networks are increasingly important. Acknowledging and developing our volunteers and carers is a priority.

FAST FORWARD TO 2033

Our ageing population
IS SOARING



POPULATION AGED 65+ BY 2033



We have a very caring community. People will go further than needed to help others out, not just financially but with time, energy and caring.

Matamata Vital Signs community engagement participant.

LABOUR FORCE ENTRY TO EXIT RATIO IN 2033



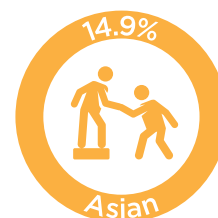
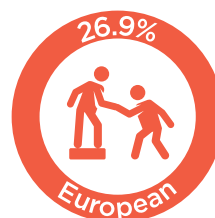
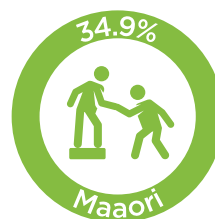
By 2033, there will be more people leaving the labour force than there are people entering it outside of Hamilton City.

Waikato District	84	100
Matamata-Piako District	88	100
Hamilton City	171*	100

* Hamilton City has a higher number of youth and less of a drop in its ratio due to its significant tertiary student population.

UNPAID CARING AND VOLUNTEER WORK*

is important to our community spirit, our people and our economy. **Maaori volunteer the most**, with over one-third involved in unpaid caring and volunteering.



*Source: Census, 2013.

In 2015, Volunteering Waikato* registered
3,037 VOLUNTEERS



*Source: Volunteering Waikato, 2016.

DID YOU KNOW - New Zealand is the third most generous country in terms of donating money, helping a stranger, and volunteering time. Burma (Myanmar) ranks first, followed by the United States of America.

Source: Charities Aid Foundation World Giving Index, 2015.

COMMUNITY VOICES - WE WANT TO:

Encourage more people to **volunteer time** and energy to our communities, making volunteering opportunities more accessible.

Value and **connect** with our ageing population.

Increase links between different community groups, to work together on our challenges.

FOOD FOR ALL

Every night at 6pm at the old David's Emporium building on Hood St in Hamilton, the doors open, welcoming anyone in need of a hot meal and a bit of company.

Behind the doors are an ever-growing team of local volunteers, people who supply and prepare food from their own pantries and kitchens to make dinner for people living on low-income or no-income, or who just need a place to connect.

Coordinated by the Hamilton Homeless Trust, the group offers a free meal every night of the week - and in the past two years they haven't missed a night yet.

Camilla Carty-Mellis, coordinator and trustee, says despite the name of the group, they're not focused solely on rough sleepers or homeless people. "It's unconditional," she says. "We serve families who are going through a rough patch, those between jobs, students, and people new to the area."

Most nights between 50-60 people show up for a meal, sometimes up to 120. It's a balancing act, but they don't waste any food and everyone gets something to eat. People of all ages and backgrounds cook and provide the food - mothers with small babies in tow, older people, and many different ethnicities and nationalities all cook and serve together.

Local businesses, schools and community groups also pitch in, like the local restaurant who regularly prepares food to send down for serving. The Trust has also joined forces with food rescue service, Kaivolution, using rescued food to prepare meals each week supplemented by food from the volunteers.

Together they are providing unconditional support, filling bellies and hearts in our community.



Camilla Carty-Mellis - Hamilton Homeless Trust

How can we acknowledge, support, and celebrate our volunteers, to build a vibrant community?



COMMUNITIES

Part B

Togetherness. Kotahitanga. Unity. These are at the heart of our community vision. We want to connect with others and work together to affect real change in our communities. Community spirit, connection, vibrancy and safety are important to us. Voter turnout is low and crime rates are higher than the national average, yet almost all of us know someone we can rely on in a time of need.

APPROXIMATELY

99% OF NEW ZEALANDERS

believe they **know someone they can rely on in a time of need** - much higher than the OECD average of 88%.



Source: OECD Better Life Index 2015.

DID YOU KNOW - New Zealand has one of the lowest crime rates in the world. When people feel safe they are more likely to talk to their neighbours, trust others living in the area, use public transport and amenities, and generally participate in their community.

VOTER TURNOUT

is a measure of civic engagement.

It shows how connected and invested we are in the issues facing our community.



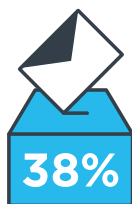
Increasing overall for Hamilton City Council, Matamata-Piako District Council and Waikato Regional Council.



Decreasing overall for Waikato District Council.



Waikato District Council



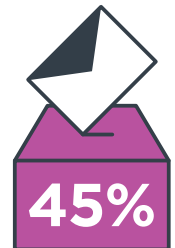
Hamilton City Council



Waikato Regional Council



New Zealand



Matamata-Piako District Council

Voter turnout of enrolled electors in the 2013 local body elections.



WAIKATO POLICE DISTRICT: 908 REPORTED OFFENCES per 100,000 population over one year during 2013/14.

NEW ZEALAND: 788 REPORTED OFFENCES per 100,000 population over one year during 2013/14.



WE FEEL SAFE. The Waikato Region scored **66%** in the perception of safeness index in 2013.

There are a lot of people willing to work together to address the issues.
Hamilton Vital Signs community engagement participant.

COMMUNITY VOICES - WE WANT TO:

Identify how we can **work in partnership** across the public, business and community sectors.

Address **isolation** for families, youth and older people.

Address **issues with transport** to make better links within and between rural and urban areas.

CONNECTEDNESS AND COMMUNITY

The Western Community Centre in Nawton, Hamilton, brings people together. It is the front door to a diverse community, a place where people can connect with their neighbours and contribute to a feeling of togetherness and safety.

The centre is owned by the community, bringing together more than 250 volunteers and 10 staff members. Last year the centre had over 60,000 visits with more than 70 local schools, community groups, clubs, organisations and churches making use of the facilities. It is a hub for connecting people, and it is helping to build a thriving, healthy, vibrant and self-reliant community.

Neil Tolan, Manager of the Western Community Centre, says it's about working at things on a micro level. "Small actions make a big difference. If our neighbourhoods are working well, we know each other and can talk to one another. That goes a long way to creating a positive place to live."

People need a place to come together, and Neil says the community centre provides just that. Initiatives like the \$10 vege co-op bring in families from far and wide to access affordable,

healthy kai each week. The parcels are packed by volunteers, who are in turn provided with morning tea by another local community group for people with head injuries. It's a circle of connection and community belonging - the small things that make a big difference.

It's that kind of place: a place where people make things happen, where community means connection and support. Our kind of place.



Neil Tolan - Western Community Centre

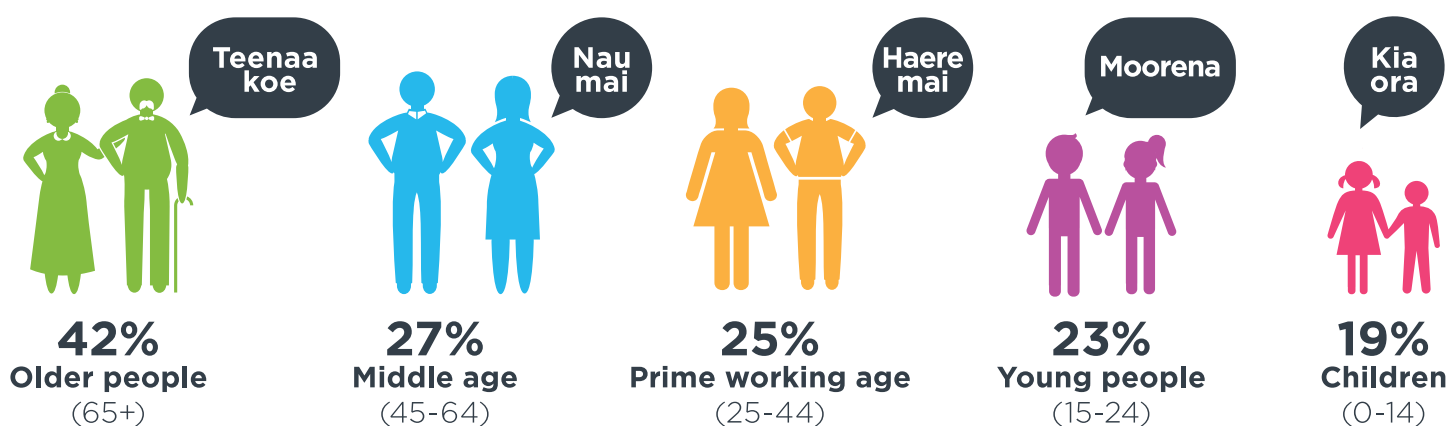
How different would our communities be if everyone knew their neighbours?



CULTURE & ARTS

A creative community is important to us. Our diversity and vibrancy are the top two things we love most about our region. Culture forms a large part of our creativity, allowing us to celebrate and develop the uniqueness of our community and region. We want inclusive, accessible, collaborative initiatives and events that reflect our cultural heritage and support our increasingly multi-cultural population.

TE REO MAAORI SPEAKERS IN THE MAAORI POPULATION



6% of all people living in the Waikato region can hold a conversation in Te Reo Maaori - which is higher than the national average of 4%.

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census Data, 2013.

DIVERSITY IN OUR COMMUNITY

- Over half of **Maaori** are under 25 years old
- More **Asian** people live in Hamilton City than other parts of the region
- Our **Pasifika** population is set to double by 2033
- **All other ethnic groups*** will grow between now and 2033, but the **European/other** population will stay about the same or decrease



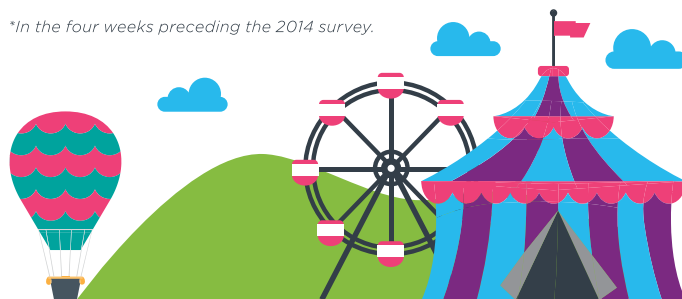
**Multiple ethnicity counting means people can identify with more than one ethnic group.*

ARTS IN THE WAIKATO REGION

83% of people ATTENDED AN ARTS EVENT* slightly lower than the NZ average of 85%.

45% of people PARTICIPATED IN THE ARTS* lower than the NZ average of 58%.

**In the four weeks preceding the 2014 survey.*



DID YOU KNOW - Kapa Haka is one of the most popular forms of Maaori arts in the Waikato, positively impacting the community. Around 6,000 people attended the Tainui Waka Kapa Haka Regionals in 2014.

Source: Tainui Waka Cultural Trust, 2016.

We have a rich history that needs to be nurtured and taught to younger generations.

Ngaruawahia Vital Signs community engagement participant.

COMMUNITY VOICES - WE WANT TO:

Increase **funding and promotion** to improve culture and arts experiences available in the region.

Foster partnership between cultures, **valuing the strengths** our diverse community brings to the table.

Improve national **perceptions** of culture and arts in our rural town centres.

SHOWCASING A VIBRANT, CREATIVE WAIKATO

Each year the Hamilton Gardens Arts Festival brings 90,000 people to the spectacular Hamilton Gardens, to experience and participate in a feast of creative arts.

Festival Director, Becks Chambers, says the Hamilton event is unique in New Zealand, not only for its location, but because of the significant amount of local content in the programme, alongside national and international acts.

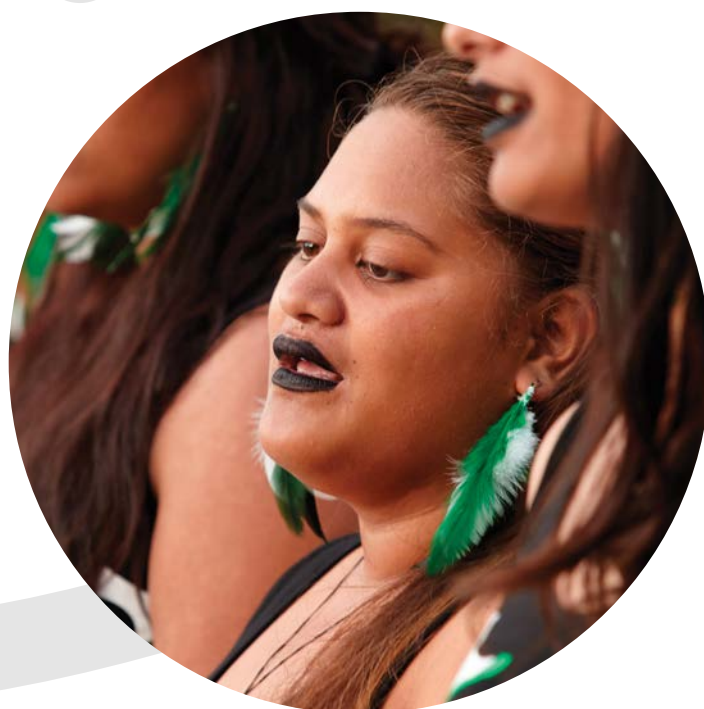
"I think the Waikato has one of the widest arts networks in the country," says Becks. "I am always blown away by the huge amount of work and passion for the arts the people in our region have."

The festival gives local groups and talent a platform to get involved, come together and show their work. Whether it's theatre, music, art, dance, culture, writing, sculpture, print-making or street performance, Becks says locals are often the first to submit their applications and ideas for the coming year. "We're never short of high quality artists and performers."

Within the diverse and vibrant programme, cultural performances are a highlight. Organisers work in partnership with local cultural groups to bring many of the themed gardens to life,

including Indian music and dance, Italian plays, and Maaori stone carving and workshops.

The trust is now focusing on building up the event's wider audience, with a national marketing campaign planned for the coming year. As Becks says, "We want to keep putting Hamilton on the map as a creative, vibrant and exciting place to be."



*Kapa Haka performance -
Hamilton Gardens Arts Festival (Mark Hamilton Photography)*

What new opportunities will our increasing cultural diversity bring to our community in the future?



IWI MAAORI VOICES

KARANGA RESPONDING TO THE CALL

We have come together as mana whenua¹ to participate in and contribute to the wellbeing of our community. We speak as equal decision-making partners, with an active voice in the future of the Waikato. We share a common lived experience, both past and present. From a long history of seeking redress for the devastating effects of colonisation and Raupatu², to now - reviving Te Reo, co-managing Waikato Te Awa and building on our economic assets. Many of us have settled with the Crown, while others have yet to walk that path; together we will strengthen our future cultural, social and economic wellbeing.

MOEMOEAA (VISION)

Holistic, connected and intergenerational change, starting at a community level with **whaanau, marae and hapuu**. We embrace our **Kiingitanga heritage**, working always towards **kotahitanga**, for all people.

Kotahi ano te koohao o te ngira. E kuhuna ai te miro ma, te miro pango, te miro whero.

There is but one eye of the needle through which the white, black and red threads must pass.

WE SEE THE WHOLE AND NOT THE SEPARATE

Strong, resilient whaanau, marae, hapuu and iwi Maaori come from holistic, connected, interrelated transformation using our culture, identity and values. **Kiingitanga, kotahitanga, rangatiratanga, manaakitanga, kaitiakitanga, whaanaungatanga.**

HONONGA (CONNECTION)



“Our strength is our connection to the whenua, our whakapapa, rich history, Kiingitanga, our Te Reo, our tikanga and our culture.”

Iwi Maaori Vital Signs community engagement participant.

OUR KAUPAPA A PLACE TO START

Transforming communities takes place at the whaanau, marae and hapuu level.

This is where we dive deeper than the statistics, see the connectedness in our community and find ways to make meaningful and enduring change.

“Past and present, the weaving together of our culture, identity and values is essential to transforming stronger, more resilient whaanau, marae and hapuu.”

Iwi Maaori Vital Signs community engagement participant.

TOP FIVE IWI MAAORI PRIORITIES

We have our stories, they sit across all the Waikato Vital Signs themes, and all the themes are connected to our wellbeing.

- ▲ **Rangatahi:** addressing leadership, identity and security for youth. Growing their potential to contribute to their community.
- ▲ **Social connectedness:** securing connections within whaanau, marae, hapuu and iwi; across our community and region; with all services and decision-makers.
- ▲ **Economy:** growing the Maaori economy, contributing to the economic growth of the whole Waikato region, across all layers and at different levels.
- ▲ **Housing:** providing secure, warm, affordable and safe places for whaanau to thrive.
- ▲ **Employment:** providing training opportunities for future employment, finding jobs and preparing for future challenges.

¹ Territorial rights, power from the land, authority over land or territory, jurisdiction over land or territory - power associated with possession and occupation of tribal land.

² Maaori land confiscation.

Through our enduring connection to the whenua we identify to this region. We are part of this community and we will always belong to the Waikato.



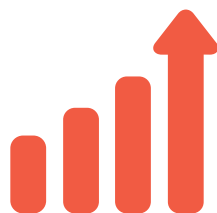
ECONOMY

The Waikato is the fourth largest regional economy in New Zealand, providing wealth and opportunity for many, but not for all. Our community's biggest economic concern is housing: its affordability, availability and most importantly its quality. Coming together with whaanau and friends in a safe and healthy place we can call home is something we all believe everyone should be able to do.



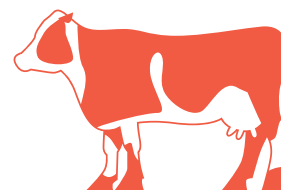
8% GDP

The Waikato generates **\$19.6 billion GDP per year**, or 8% of New Zealand's GDP (2015).



20% GROWTH

The Waikato economy grew 20% in real terms between 2010-2015 with an average contribution of **\$45,160 per capita**.



DAIRY REGION

The Waikato is New Zealand's **most important dairy region**.

Source: Statistics New Zealand, 2015; Waikato Means Business, 2014.

DID YOU KNOW - Income inequality compares high and low incomes, and is a measure of the fairness of the society we live in. Inequality in the Waikato region stayed about the same from 2001-2013. However, income inequality in New Zealand got worse overall from 1982-2014, and it became worse faster than anywhere else in the developed world.



WHO* OWNS THEIR OWN HOME?

56% European
33% Asian
26% Maaori
20% Pasifika
19% Middle Eastern/Latin American/African



*Population aged 15+ in 2013.

DECREASING HOME OWNERSHIP LEVELS*



Matamata-Piako District
a 5% decrease since 2001



Waikato District
a 7% decrease since 2001



New Zealand
a 9% decrease since 2001



Hamilton City
a 12% decrease since 2001

*Population aged 15+ 2011-2013.

UNEMPLOYMENT

2015 6%
2008 4%
1992 11%



This follows a similar trend to the rest of New Zealand.

What are we going to do about housing prices? How can we build affordably?

Ngaruawahia Vital Signs community engagement participant.

COMMUNITY VOICES - WE WANT TO:

Address issues around **housing**: affordability, availability and quality.

Reduce unemployment and increase job opportunities.

Increase funding for **community projects**.

WARM HEARTS CREATE WARM HOMES

A community response is helping address the needs of a growing number of low income homeowners in unliveable houses.

Habitat for Humanity Central North Island General Manager, Nic Greene, says home ownership isn't always an indication that there's an absence of poverty, and over the last year the charity has seen a sharp increase in applications for Habitat's critical home repair programme for low income homeowners.

"We see people living in uninsulated garages and even garden sheds because they're warmer and more liveable than the house. When there's no power, there's no hot water either, so you can imagine how difficult it is to take care of the household tasks most of us take for granted."

So much can be done at low or no cost. "Fixing problems with people's homes can help to completely change their outlook on life. A decent home gives a family the space to grow and look towards the future with hope."

The houses Habitat sees may lack electricity or plumbing, have rotten or missing linings, unsanitary bathrooms, leaking roofs, no heating – or all of the above. In these situations, poor health is almost always present, and as a result the charity often first meets homeowners through Waikato DHB's Whare Ora programme.

Habitat works in partnership with homeowners to carry out urgent repairs and offers low or

no-interest repayments to cover costs. At the same time, they mobilise volunteers in the community to donate time and materials to get the job done. A social justice programme with Waikato Diocesan School for Girls has seen 100+ students from the school working in shifts to repaint local family homes.

For the people involved, the work completed by their community is life-changing, providing an opportunity to lift themselves and future generations out of poverty.



Nic Greene – Habitat for Humanity

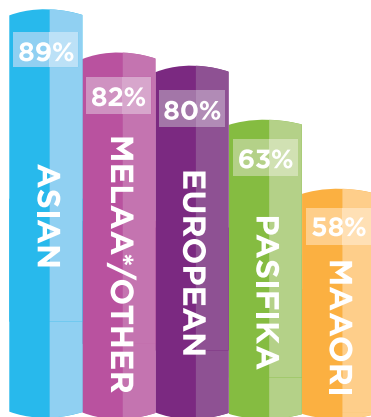
How can we reduce the gap between our strong economic performance and our people who are most in need?



EDUCATION

We have a vibrant student city at the heart of our region, with a range of educational opportunities available, but access to education can be a challenge for people in rural areas. Our educational outcomes are improving, but are slightly worse than the national average. Our community wants more varied educational pathways, recognising that skills and knowledge come from both formal education and training, as well as practical and life experience.

On average, **three in four** people LEAVE SCHOOL WITH NCEA LEVEL 2 OR 3

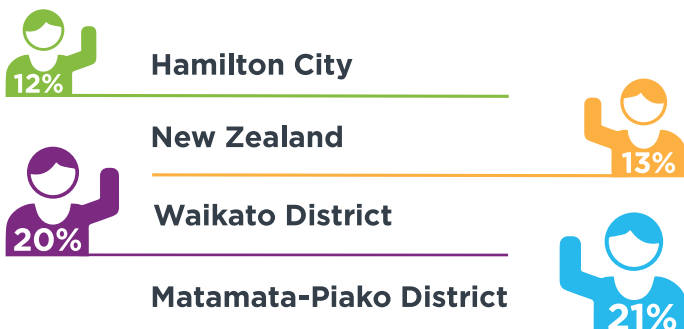


Our Asian students are our highest achievers.

*Middle Eastern/Latin American/African

DID YOU KNOW - NCEA Level 2 is considered the minimum level for future education and job prospects.

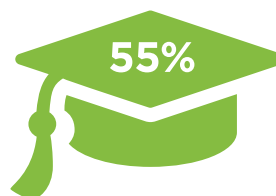
NO FORMAL QUALIFICATIONS*



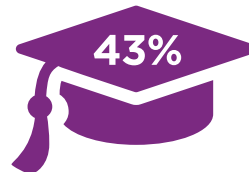
Numbers have **improved** since 2006 in Hamilton City and Waikato District, but have **worsened** in Matamata-Piako District.

Source: Census 2006 and 2013, Statistics New Zealand.
*25-34 year olds

NZQA LEVEL 4 OR HIGHER QUALIFICATION*



Hamilton City



Waikato District



Matamata-Piako District

The government target for New Zealand is 55% by 2017.

Source: Census 2006 and 2013, Statistics New Zealand.
*25-34 year olds

Give options other than the mainstream in education to build a vibrant community.

Morrinsville Vital Signs community engagement participant.



15% OF 15-24 YEAR OLDS
in the Waikato region are **not in employment, education or training** (NEET).

COMMUNITY VOICES - WE WANT TO:

Keep **young people in school** to achieve more NCEA and life skills.

Create better **opportunities** for youth transitioning out of high school.

Encourage young people to **remain in the region** after finishing tertiary education.

REAL LIFE LEARNING

Making the connection between high school and what comes next isn't always easy for young people. "Why do I need to learn that?" is an age-old question from students who can't see how their education relates to the real world.

The transition between high school and employment is exactly what Smart Waikato is aiming to improve with its Secondary School Employer Partnerships (SSEP) pilot project.

"Understanding what they're learning and being able to relate it to real world jobs can make something click for young people," says Smart Waikato Chief Executive, Mary Jensen. "It opens their eyes to a whole new world of education and employment possibilities."

The SSEP pilot brings five secondary schools, 800-plus students and more than 50 local employers together to contextualise the curriculum through classroom lessons, group projects and workplace field trips.

At Hamilton's Fairfield College, 10 local employers are working with Year 9 students to help them make sense of how maths is used in the real world. Recently the Gallagher Group had 40 students tour its research and development division and factories to look at how maths is used every day. Students will go on to design their own security fence, calculating the costs and materials required.

Mary says, "Seeing what happens beyond school and having the chance to think about what roles might suit them can help students make better choices and show them different career options." The goal is to empower Waikato youth to be well-informed and ready for relevant work and study, through the support of a strong network of educators and employers.

The SSEP pilot is walking the talk of authentic learning, improving student retention and outcomes.



Keith Gallagher, Brandon Edwards and Hannah Birch - Gallagher Group

How can we connect our young people with great learning opportunities?



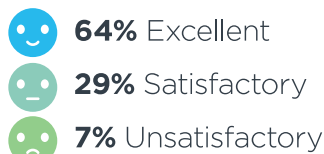
ENVIRONMENT

What we do right now, our kaitiakitanga or guardianship of our land, air and waters, will determine the future world we leave for our children and their children. We have a shared love for the Waikato, Waipa and Piako rivers. We want to swim in clean waters, enjoy a healthy environment, and see native plants and animals in abundance.



WAIKATO RIVER WATER QUALITY

Upper Waikato River



Lower Waikato River



WATER QUALITY IS POORER IN THE LOWER WAIKATO where land use is more intensive.

Source: Ecological Water Quality 2011-2015, Waikato Regional Council.

Our contribution to global warming needs to be measured.

Hamilton Vital Signs community engagement participant.

PRESERVING OUR UNIQUE NATIVE PLANTS

is an important part of taking care of the environment and providing a home for our native animals.



59% of native vegetation in the Waikato Region is in **protected areas***.

85% of protected areas in Matamata-Piako District are **acutely threatened****.

About **one-third** of protected areas in Hamilton City and Waikato District are **acutely threatened****.

*Protected areas means legally protected for conservation purposes.
**Acutely threatened means less than 10% of native vegetation remains.

DID YOU KNOW - Water quality might get worse before it gets better. It can take 30-50 years for some contaminants to reach the river from the land. What we do now to improve river water quality is for the benefit of future generations.



RECYCLING*

In 2015, the Raglan community diverted **73%** of waste from landfill.

*Includes paper, cardboard, glass, plastic, metal, wood, oil, tyres, reusable materials, green waste, clean fill, e-waste, and food waste.
Source: Xtreme Zero Waste, 2016.

COMMUNITY VOICES - WE WANT TO:

Take care of
our place.

Improve the water
quality of the **Waikato
River** and other rivers
and streams.

Increase
**environmental
tourism.**

INTERGENERATIONAL CHANGE

Waikato taniwharau

He piko he taniwha, he piko he taniwha

**Waikato of a hundred chiefs, on every bend
a chief.**

The Waikato River is of immense spiritual and cultural significance to tangata whenua who have lived alongside it for many centuries. The river has long played a central role in the economic and social wellbeing of the wider community.

Our mighty river has internationally significant ecological habitats, as well as a series of hydro-electric power stations, dams and reservoirs. Balancing the often conflicting uses of the river is complex, and industrial waste, sewage and farming run-off have all taken their toll on its wellbeing. There have been improvements in recent years, but there is still much to be done to ensure a cleaner Waikato River for the future.

The Waikato River Authority is focused on intergenerational change. The authority is a Crown/Iwi co-governance organisation, established in 2010 by special legislation as the custodian of Te Ture Whaimana o Te Awa o Waikato (the Vision and Strategy for the Waikato River), to restore and protect the wellbeing of the Waikato River. Its initiatives have seen more than a million native trees and

shrubs planted, clean-up projects undertaken, local streams revitalised and strong relationships forged within the community.

A range of planning and monitoring projects are now in place to ensure funding and clean-up projects are targeted to where they can make the most difference. Ultimately, the clean-up of the Waikato River is an intergenerational undertaking which will require ongoing commitment to effect lasting change.



Waikato Te Awa | The Waikato River

**How can we improve the quality of our rivers for our children
and grandchildren to enjoy?**



HEALTH

For the 100,000 people, or nearly 40% of us who live outside Hamilton, access to healthcare can be a significant barrier. People want to see more local services available in rural centres, reducing isolation and strengthening their local communities. Providing everyone equal access to healthcare services, addressing rising obesity and meeting the needs of our ageing population are top of mind in our community.

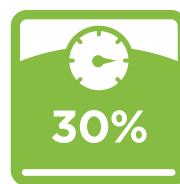
35% OF WAIKATO PEOPLE* ARE OBESE**

and this number is increasing.

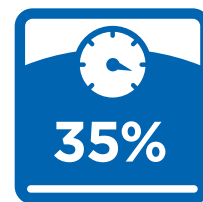
Obesity is most common for people who are **MIDDLE AGED AND MAAORI.**

* Waikato people aged 15+ in the Waikato DHB area.

** Obesity is defined as having a body mass index of over 32 for Maaori and Pacific peoples, and over 30 for European and other ethnicities.



New Zealand

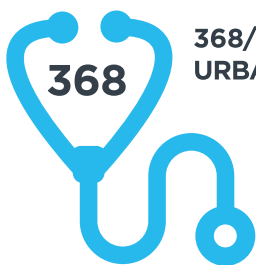


Waikato DHB area

THERE ARE FEWER DOCTORS PER HEAD OF POPULATION IN NEW ZEALAND'S RURAL AREAS



**139/100,000
RURAL AREAS**



**368/100,000
URBAN AREAS**



Source: Rural General Practice in 2015, The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners.

DID YOU KNOW - 40% of rural GPs are aged 55+, and they are retiring soon. There are not enough new health practitioners to replace them.

Source: 2015 Workforce Survey, The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners.

The way forward for rural communities is through a groundswell of multi-agency community action. Community strength and resilience is fundamental to the future health of rural New Zealand.

Dr Fiona Bolden, West Coast Health GP and lead at Pinnacle Midlands Health Network.

AVERAGE LIFE EXPECTANCY

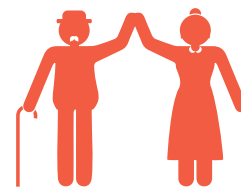
in the Waikato region has been improving over time, but is lower for Maaori.

Men: 79 years

Women: 83 years

Maaori men: 72 years

Maaori women: 77 years



GOOD MENTAL HEALTH

is fundamental to the wellbeing of people, their families and our community as a whole, for a society where all people can flourish.

6% of us* have experienced high or very high levels of psychological distress.

Source: 2011-14 NZ Health Survey.

* Population aged 15+ in the Waikato DHB area.



COMMUNITY VOICES - WE WANT TO:

Address alcohol concerns especially among **youth**.

Provide better networks between **health facilities** and the **wider public sector**.

Equip health services to cope with increased demand from our **ageing population**.

A COMMUNITY RESPONSE

It's amazing the difference a community can make to people's health and wellbeing by coming together with a purpose.

That's what happened in Raglan, starting in 2012 when The Raglan House became the hub for a community response to a sharp increase in local suicide deaths in the previous 12 months.

Concerned about what it meant for mental health in their community, a group of first responders and interested people from around the area formed the Raglan Suicide Prevention Group - a multi-agency, community-wide response.

"We realised the need to increase community knowledge around recognising good mental health, as well as what it looks like when things aren't so good, and how and where to get help," says Chrissy Hodkinson, Public Relations Manager for The Raglan House. "When everyone is able to talk about it and take action to help each other, that's when change happens."

In Raglan, change happened quickly and continues to benefit the community today. Wallet cards and emergency contact pamphlets were created to provide information about local agencies to contact for support. Now they are everywhere, from the local pub to the community house, health services, sports clubs and local marae.

The group also started offering training in suicide prevention to people in the community.

To date, about 60 people have attended Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) run by Lifeline Aotearoa. Another 50 or so have attended Mental Health 101 workshops provided by the Ministry of Health.

The result is a depth of knowledge in the community that has helped dramatically reduce the number of suicide deaths in the area since 2012, and provides ongoing support for good mental health.



*Chrissy Hodkinson and Mike Rarere -
The Raglan House*

How can we connect people in our communities with the health services they need?



RECREATION

Our sports grounds and recreation centres are community hubs, providing resources for people of all ages and abilities to get active on a regular basis, improving our health, social wellbeing and community life. We have a wide range of recreation opportunities, including community sports facilities, nature walks, the Waikato, Waipa and Piako rivers, and numerous lakes, harbours and coastline for waka ama and water sports.

TOP 10 SPORT AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES



Source: Sport and Active Recreation Regional Profile: Waikato Region - Findings from the 2013/14 Active New Zealand Survey, Sport New Zealand.

DID YOU KNOW - Each year almost 76,000 adults volunteer in sport and recreation. Traditional Maaori games have gained momentum across the region, and the Iwi Games are now the highest attended event on the tribal calendar.

Source: Insights to Moving Waikato 2020, Sport Waikato, 2015.

ACTIVE PARTICIPATION

Participation levels are dropping. Only **45%** of us* do at least 30 minutes of moderate physical activity on five or more days of the week, lower than the New Zealand average of **52%**.



* People aged 15+ in the Waikato DHB area.

You'll see the best of Ngaruawahia on the sports field.

Ngaruawahia Vital Signs community engagement participant.

UNIQUELY WAIKATO



The tower at the top of **Ngaruawahia's Hakarimata Summit Track** is 374m above sea level and provides panoramic views over the Waikato Basin. Overwhelmingly popular as a recreation and exercise destination, the summit attracted over 100,000 visitors in 2014.

Source: Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai; Stuff, 2015.

COMMUNITY VOICES - WE WANT TO:

Increase **recreation** opportunities for **rangatahi/youth**.

Continue developing **public recreation facilities**, including making use of our **natural resources**.

Make **better use** of our **beautiful river** - it's a valuable community asset.

TE AWA: THE GREAT NZ RIVER RIDE

An ambitious project has been gaining momentum along the Waikato River since 2010, with the goal of linking community, culture and ecology through recreation.

Once complete, Te Awa: The Great New Zealand River Ride will provide 70km of wide, smooth and accessible paths, stretching from Ngaruawahia in the north, past Lake Karapiro, all the way to Horahora in the south. Already 35km of the route is open. Te Awa General Manager, Jennifer Palmer, says over 350,000 people use the current cycleway for walking, running and cycling each year, a number set to grow as new sections are completed.

“Te Awa gets people on their bikes, enjoying a beautifully scenic cycleway,” says Jennifer. “But there are wider benefits too.”

The easy riverside route is attractive to locals and tourists who can hire bikes, providing an economic boost to the region through tourism. Closer to home, the cycleway is set to become a key route for commuters in the Waikato who can cycle to school or work, integrating exercise into their daily lives while easing congestion and pollution.

Connection with the river, an important taonga for our region, promotes environmental and cultural understanding. “Bringing people to the river through recreation is an opportunity to grow community awareness about the river’s health, its past and its future,” says Jennifer.

The project is possible because of a strong partnership between Te Awa River Ride Charitable Trust, key stakeholders, sponsors and the community. The completed cycleway will be a true regional asset, gifted to the community for management by the region’s councils.

More than just a cycle track, Te Awa is an inspiring example of what can be achieved when we make the best of what the mighty Waikato has to offer.



Te Awa: The Great New Zealand River Ride

How can we create more opportunities to get active and improve our health?



YOUTH VOICES

YOUTH CAN SEE THE POTENTIAL IN OUR COMMUNITIES - THEY HAVE THE PASSION TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD.



OUR COMMUNITIES CAN SEE THE ENORMOUS POTENTIAL IN OUR YOUTH.

* IT'S HOW WE CONNECT BOTH OF THESE *
VISIONS THAT WILL MAKE THE DIFFERENCE.

OUR VISION

EDUCATION

We want to learn, have a good education, and we want older people to pass down their knowledge to us.

Our development is so important. We want more opportunities.

EMPLOYMENT

We want jobs, but work experience is hard to get. Encourage, motivate and inspire us to do well.

How can you offer us more work experience so we can get jobs?

WE WANT CONNECTION WITH OUR FRIENDS, WHAANAU AND COMMUNITY, AND TO DEVELOP PATHWAYS FOR OUR FUTURE.

ENVIRONMENT

We want to live in a beautiful place and to reduce pollution in our Awa (river) so we can use it more.

The environment really matters.

COMMUNITY

We want safe, inspiring spaces and events with no gangs or abuse, that help people chill, kick back and feel all good.

Our community has so much potential but we need 'doers' not 'sayers'.

33% OF THE POPULATION WILL BE
AGED UNDER **25** YEARS BY **2033!**



IF YOU NURTURE THE KIDS, YOU GET THAT FEELING OF 'KIA ORA'
— NGARUAWAHIA COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PARTICIPANT

FINDING A PATH

Danial Hilson and Kieran Stephens share a bond they developed over the past year at Zeal, an urban youth centre in Hamilton. It's their second home, an extended family, a place to belong.

Kieran came to Zeal in search of connection. He was frustrated with the school system, unable to find a pathway to his future, and felt disconnected with no purpose or direction. When he walked in to Zeal, that all changed. Now, he has a safe space where he's found lasting friendships and a passion for photography.

"I have a heart for photography. It's something I want to do, to become a photojournalist and travel the world," says Kieran. Education is back on the table at Wintec, and Kieran is also giving back by helping other youth to develop their own pathways.

Zeal's vision stretches beyond the city. Senior Youth Worker, Danial, says they know a big gap exists for young people in rural areas. A recently purchased large truck, equipped to provide youth events in our rural communities, is now on the road. "There are also other groups like Te Ahurei a Rangatahi who can better provide for youth needing to connect with their heritage and culture."

Danial believes the best approach is collaboration. "When everyone recognises their strengths in different areas, we can

work in partnership to provide for youth. Youth development is holistic. We need to provide friendship, family, and a pathway to master skills in a way that works for each person. Then they can go out in to the world to use them."



Danial Hilson and Kieran Stephens - Zeal

**HOW CAN WE CREATE BETTER PATHWAYS
FOR YOUTH TO IMPROVE THEIR FUTURES?**

HOW THIS REPORT WAS MADE

Seven philanthropic partners came together to create the inaugural Waikato Vital Signs 2016 report: D.V. Bryant Trust; Momentum Waikato Community Foundation; NAR Foundation; Ngati Haua Iwi Trust; Trust Waikato; Waikato Tainui and WEL Energy Trust.

The partners engaged NIDEA, University of Waikato, to collate and analyse existing data across 34 indicators representing eight themes. Following the publication of NIDEA's consultancy report in March 2016, over 400 Waikato residents came together for four public events during May 2016 to discuss their most important community priorities and the things they love most about living in Hamilton City, Waikato District and Matamata-Piako District. Effective engagement with Iwi Maaori is an important aspect of Waikato Vital Signs, and an Iwi Maaori engagement session was held to provide a space for expression and discussion. The partners also recognise that young people typically engage with information and with each other differently, so three youth engagement sessions were held to clearly capture youth views, as well as to reflect their ways of working together.

Engaging with communities helps to create meaning, telling narratives of a place, and capturing the communities' views on its own strengths and challenges. This report is a snapshot of our community right now and is a starting point in our journey together to build a flourishing, thriving Waikato community. Vital Signs is used by communities around the world to start conversations, assisting communities to act on local priorities and opportunities, and consequently direct resources to create the most significant impact in their region. Vital Signs reports also enable community foundations to act as knowledge brokers, informing donors on how they can create the most significant impact with their gifts.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Momentum Waikato Community Foundation and our philanthropic partners wish to graciously thank the individuals, community organisations, educational institutions, businesses, local and regional councils and community leaders from the following organisations that so generously contributed their time and resources to Waikato Vital Signs 2016:

**Child Matters, Citizens Advice Te Aroha, Community Foundations of Canada,
Community Waikato, Creative Waikato, Department of Internal Affairs,
Gallagher Group, Hamilton City Council, Hamilton Gardens Arts Festival,
Hamilton Homeless Trust, HMC Communications, Habitat for Humanity,
Institute of Directors Waikato Branch, Matamata Piako District Council, Nga Miro Health,
Ngaruawahia Community House, Ngati Haua Mahi Trust, Participatory Techniques Ltd,
Pinnacle Midlands Health Network, PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Rototuna Junior High School,
Smart Waikato, Sport Waikato, Te Ahurei Rangatahi Trust, Te Awa River Ride,
Te Hauora o Ngati Haua, Te Kahui Kaumatua o Haua, Te Runanga o Kirikiriroa Trust,
Te Whakakitenga o Waikato Inc., The Raglan House, Twin Rivers Community Art Centre,
University of Waikato, Volunteering Waikato, Waikato Chamber of Commerce,
Waikato District Council, Waikato River Authority, Waikato Regional Council,
West Coast Health, Western Community Centre, Whai Manawa Limited, WINTEC,
Xtreme Zero Waste and Zeal.**

MOMENTUM WAIKATO WISHES TO OFFER SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING:

- Our philanthropic partners: D.V. Bryant Trust, NAR Foundation, Ngati Haua Iwi Trust, Trust Waikato, Waikato Tainui and WEL Energy Trust for their partnership and support
- The individual members of the philanthropic partners working group: Dave Cowley, Lindsay Cumberpatch, Dr. Bev Gatenby, Michelle Nathan, Lisa Gardiner, Raewyn Jones, Blake Richardson, Tarita Templeton and Dennis Turton
- Dr. John Ryks, Shefali Pawar and Dr. Alison Day at the National Institute of Demographic and Economic Analysis, University of Waikato, for producing the robust Waikato Vital Signs Consultancy Report 2016
- Facilitators Dr. Helen Ritchie and Wayne Tainui for leading the community engagement sessions
- Anaru Thompson, Kaiwhakawaahi Kiingi, Mokoro Gillett, Chairperson Ngaati Hauaa Iwi Trust and Ngaati Hauaa kaumaatua; Matua Beau Haereroa, Te Ruunanga o Kirikiriroa kaumaatua
- Inkdrop Design Co., Print House, Wordage, Mark Hamilton Photography and Ruth Gilmour Photography for generously supporting the production of Waikato Vital Signs 2016
- The many volunteers from Volunteering Waikato who so generously gave their time to help and support the community engagement sessions
- Our production team: Hannah Beames, Sarah Bedford, Amber Bremner, Loryn Engelsman, David Gaylard, Rachael Goddard, Beat Huser, Cindy Lindsay, Jesse Major, Mitchell McNae, Maree McNulty, Deanna Morse, Shona Pinny, Renee Renata, Lee Rose, Glenda Ruamati, Te Pora Thompson-Evans and Ree Varcoe
- And an extra special thank you to Momentum Waikato's hardworking team: Raewyn Kirkman, Barbara Moke, Lisa Ryan and Gemma Slack

HOW CAN I BECOME A PHILANTHROPIST?

Waikato philanthropists, John and Bunny Mortimer, say "You don't need to have a huge amount of money to be a philanthropist". Momentum Waikato provides avenues for everyone to meaningfully contribute to important local projects. We can help you direct your generosity to where it will have the most impact. Becoming a philanthropist means you can make a lasting contribution to our region, and where your gift goes is up to you. Momentum Waikato will use the Waikato Vital Signs report to ensure your generosity has the maximum impact - we're talking transformational, intergenerational change.

It doesn't matter how big or small your gift is, every dollar has the capacity to make a positive impact in our communities.

To become a philanthropist, contact us on 07 834 0404 or info@momentumwaikato.nz



This report has been generously written by **Wordage**, designed by **Inkdrops** and printed by **Print House Ltd.**



Momentum Waikato Community Foundation | PO Box 9283 Hamilton 3240 | 07 834 0404

Most data relates to Waikato Vital Signs pilot region, but may refer to other definitions of Waikato. See www.momentumwaikato.nz for details.