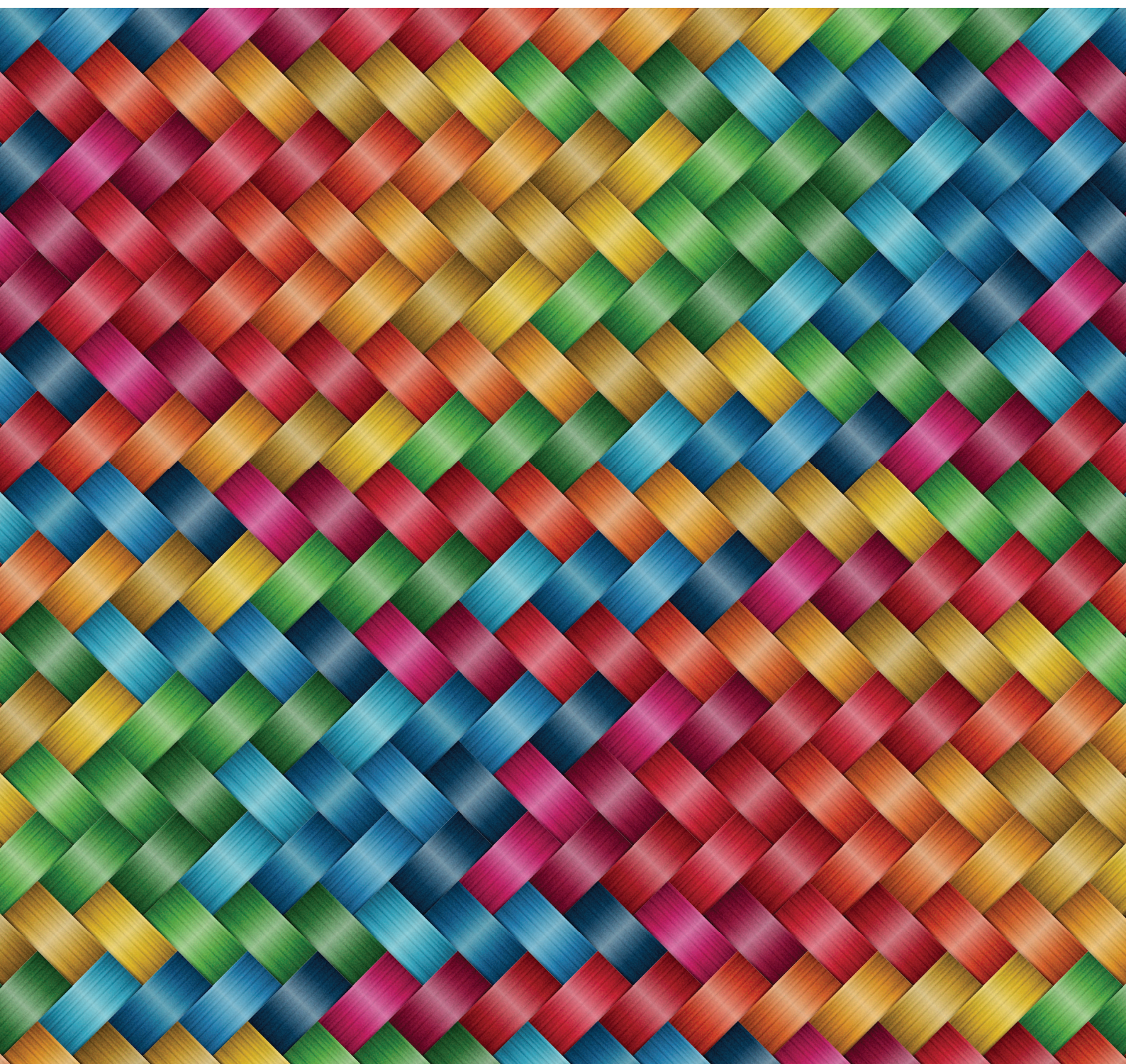




The People's Report on the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals

An alternate report for New Zealand (2019)
Final Draft



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Foreword

This project came about following a series of hui about the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the community sector in Wellington and more widely, and meetings with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade about a desire for wider engagement in the government's first Voluntary National Review (VNR) process.

After wider consultation, Hui E! Community Aotearoa brought together a steering group, representing diverse experiences and a range of organisations. Under the Terms of Reference the group had responsibility for overall oversight and strategic decision making for developing an independent report on the progress of the SDGs in New Zealand and the processes this involved. A consultation group was also approached to provide expert advice and input.

It was also intended to involve two co-writers in order to work within a Te Tiriti o Waitangi partnership model.

The many people who have contributed to the People's Report in various ways hope that it, and the government's VNR report, will provide a benchmark and a basis for moving forward together – in greater partnership to implement a vision and framework that clearly link Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the SDGs and the Living Standards Framework.

It also aims to encourage the formation of an ongoing SDG group with existing and new members who can work together across the country, engage regularly with government on the issues of our time and monitor progress towards a more just, equal and sustainable future.

To achieve this we need to ensure 'No one is left behind'. We can do this by seeking opportunities to learn about what is not known, to understand other people's struggles and to act accordingly and appropriately.

The Steering Group for this project does not take responsibility for the views expressed but is pleased to be able to provide a variety of views to provoke thought, discussion, partnership and action.

**The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs:
For the SDG easy read go to:**

<https://bit.ly/2YctPjK>



**Kotahi te hoe,
ka ū te waka ki uta**

**When we paddle
in unison, we will reach
the shore together...**

Executive Summary

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

In 2000 member states of the United Nations committed to the Millennium Development Goals, a plan to alleviate the worst poverty in the least developed countries. The results were uneven, for example only two Pacific countries achieved the Goals but there was considerable progress in some sectors, for example health. By 2014, the UN and its member states could also see that when countries worked together in partnership, for a specific purpose, using a common framework, they could collectively and individually achieve a better, more equal world.

Accordingly, in September 2015, knowing that the world was clearly threatened by climate change, massive migration, conflict and inequality, UN member states decided on an even more ambitious global agenda – *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, to end poverty, promote peace, share wealth, and protect the planet by 2030. Based on 17 goals, the 2030 Agenda calls for universal, joined up action from both poorer and richer countries. In particular, actions should benefit the most marginalised and address the impact of climate change, which could prevent achievement of all or any of the goals. This time higher income

countries were expected to address issues of vulnerability and disadvantage through partnership at home, as well as internationally.

“It is a roadmap to ending global poverty, building a life of dignity for all and leaving no one behind... to ensure peace and heal our planet for the benefit of this and future generations,” said former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

This was followed by the landmark Paris Climate Agreement.

In 2016 countries began to translate the goals into plans and frameworks.

Former New Zealand Prime Minister, Helen Clark, as head of the UN Development Programme, was key in leading the United Nations in its efforts to encourage all sectors to be actively engaged: “Leadership is required at every level: global, regional, national, local and individual... the public and private sectors, NGOs and civil society. The role of government must be complemented by those of local governments and other stakeholders.”¹ Through an unprecedented degree of consultation millions of people and their communities were given the chance to prioritise

¹ Helen Clark (2018), *Women, Equality, Power: Selected speeches*. p 384, published in Allan & Unwin

16 goals through the global survey about “the world we want”. The top four – though not always in the same order – were health, education, jobs and good governance.

The high-level political forum (HLPF) is the main UN mechanism for monitoring global and country progress against the Agenda, and most countries have provided voluntary national reviews (VNR) on their progress, some twice. This year, the New Zealand government is reporting for the first time.

Civil Society, including tangata whenua (indigenous Māori people of Aotearoa New Zealand), community groups, non-government organisations, educational institutes, unions and the private sector, must partner with government to shape New Zealand’s response to a more equal and sustainable society. Progress begins at home and starts with acknowledging the place of indigenous knowledge, culture and contributions to solutions. The People’s Report is part of this progress.

This report includes newly released data; links to reports and reviews; case studies; interviews; recommendations and high level results from a survey of organisations that was distributed across multiple sectors in June 2019. A total of 188 responses was received.

17 goal-specific reports were written by more than 20 New Zealanders from different organisations. They share a commitment to a more just, equal and sustainable world but have individual or organisational perspectives on

particular goals, targets or issues. The reports vary in style and thinking, demonstrating the rich diversity of the sector, and, specific organisations’ focus and experience in implementing programmes. Some reports were written by several people with knowledge about particular targets. Writers were invited to make recommendations but not all have done so. Where they have made specific recommendations, these are included in more detail with their reports.

Writers were invited to write up to 750-1000 words but some reports are longer, and again to recognise and demonstrate the diversity and knowledge of the sector, and the importance of the subject, the editing has still been minimal.

A list of recommendations includes a summary of those that were provided by report writers, as well as those coming from the survey and consultations with the sector.

This is not intended to be an exhaustive account. There is, of course, much more to say, and we hope that we will be able to build on these initial responses with further articles from readers on the new SDG website, alongside this report, and to continue the conversations and build a basis for working in partnership.

Findings

It is clear from the survey that some organisations are already using the SDGs as a specific framework for their work,

but more are involved in areas such as health, education and climate action more generally to address strategic, national or local needs, without incorporating the SDGs formally as a framework. Some are also working to meet specific deliverables agreed with funders. Within this wider frame it is clear that NGOs and others in civil society are making a real contribution towards the areas encompassed by the goals, although they are not frequently framed through alignment with the SDGs. Often this work is achieved with very limited financial support and the majority cite lack of human and financial resources as their major problem.

Survey respondents also consider that the government has not yet adopted a formal framework to guide and measure our country's contribution towards realising the ambitious vision of the SDGs. They clearly believe government has a strong commitment to meeting the needs of the most marginalised and creating a more just and equal society, addressing climate change, and protecting the environment for a sustainable future. However, they did not generally believe that government had a wish to consult widely or regularly with civil society. Where there was consultation, it seldom specifically included the SDGs. They do not feel that government has fully engaged yet with civil society to implement and evaluate specific SDG programmes and partnerships, or to provide funding to achieve the goals at home. It is clear, however, that government has worked

with some New Zealand NGOs and businesses to implement the SDGs with overseas partners, mostly in the Pacific.

Interestingly, although 46 of the respondents (36%) stated their organisation had a specific policy linked to climate change, 71 did not. Surely it is time for us all to take action, recognising that every small act counts.

New Zealand has a reputation as a leader in human rights, a country with a clean, green image, committed to a better world and to addressing many of the issues included in the SDGs. However, the reports also show clearly that in spite of efforts nationally, regionally and locally, and progress and successes in some areas, progress has been uneven. The reports and survey indicate that this is particularly true in the outcomes for Māori who are shown to have disproportionately poorer health and education outcomes, lower incomes, inadequate housing and higher rates of incarceration.

Although New Zealand rates 7th in the World Economic Forum's Gender Gap report, it ranks poorly (107th) for women's health and survival. Women still face discrimination in terms of income, senior leadership and governance, particularly in the private sector, as well as high levels of unpaid work through caregiving, household and voluntary activities. For Māori women, in particular, following many years of post colonial racism, and women with disabilities and rare

disorders; trans and gender diverse women; Pacific people, migrant and refugee women, the situation is of serious concern, as reflected in a number of reports. The challenges for women are also multiplied by intersectionality, so that many women are confronted by a range of multiple challenges. Yet there are achievements to celebrate, such as the largest number and proportion of women in our parliament in 125 years, higher numbers of women from diverse backgrounds in higher education, and recent steps to ensure equal pay for equal work for men and women, one of the first resolutions passed by the National Council of Women 123 years ago.

It is clear from reading the full report that New Zealand faces a major threat to its land, its bio diversity, and marine life, all of which are highly threatened and we have been too slow to recognise the full impact of climate change. This will require multi stakeholder partnerships and urgent action from local and central government, the private sector, unions, schools and all New Zealanders in a just transition process.

The massacre of Muslim New Zealanders in March 2019 demonstrated New Zealanders' ability to work proactively together in the face of terrible violence born of racism and prejudice. It has proved the importance of such leadership from government, communities and individuals.

The government's new Living Standards Framework and Wellbeing Budget

demonstrate a vision of a just, fair, equal and sustainable nation. This aligns in many ways with the SDGs. But currently this vision lacks clear, strong links to the wider, universal vision of the 2030 Agenda and the global framework of the SDGs, with shared targets and measurable accountability to which New Zealand committed four years ago.

Recommendations

Government policy

- 1** The New Zealand government to fully engage in its commitment and obligations to the global 2030 Agenda and the SDGs within a Te Tiriti o Waitangi partnership model, and through meaningful engagement with civil society².
- 2** Government as Treaty Partners are reminded that under Article One of Te Tiriti they have a duty and responsibility to protect Māori in the pursuit of Article Two, Rights to Taonga, which includes ngā Hua Māori.
- 3** Full participatory engagement in the global 2030 Agenda means:
 - Young people are supported to progress the SDGs by participating in decision making mechanisms, such as local government, and peace and citizenship education;
 - central and local government policies that lead to bold and effective actions and recognise the value of the involvement of civil society;
 - commitment to building mana enhancing futures together, through the shared visions of hapū and community;
 - alignment of current and future policies and programmes, including clearer linkages between the Living Standards Framework, Wellbeing budget and the 2030 Agenda;
 - establishment of an SDG ministerial portfolio;
 - placement of responsibility for the government's SDG response with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet;
 - just and effective transition to a low carbon and low emission economy;
 - maximising the civil society engagement through full implementation of the Open Government Partnership National Action Plan.
- 4** Government to promote and facilitate the involvement of all people in volunteering for the achievement of the SDGs in line with the 2015 UN Resolution: Integrating volunteering in the next decade.

² The term civil society is used in a broad sense, including the tangata whenua, community and voluntary sector, communities, universities, wananga, schools, iwi, hapū, Pacific people, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), people living with disabilities and rare disorders, children and young people, the elderly, recent migrants, refugees, ethnic communities, LGBTQI+, philanthropic trusts, unions and the private sector.

- 5** New Zealand government aid policy to continue engaging with partners on the SDGs, namely;
- focus on poverty reduction; Aid for Trade strategy;
 - joining the Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children;
 - fuller implementation of the Pacific reset;
 - working in partnership to reduce violence against women and children; and
 - working together to develop resilience and mitigation and adaptation in the face of climate change.

A more just and equal world/ Kua takoto te manuka

- 1** Central and local government and NGOs to work inclusively to recognise the vital role of Māori designed frameworks that address the multiple inequalities and provide solutions that are Māori led and adequately funded.
- 2** Central and local government, NGOs and the private sector to apply urgent attention to align housing, health, education and employment policies to support people experiencing inequalities to live a better life.
- 3** Government to adopt a target to increase the share of the bottom 40% of incomes by between 1-2 percentage points by 2030, similar to the most equal OECD countries.

- 4** Targets to reduce the Gini coefficient to 26 and/or Palma Ratio to 0.9 or less are necessary to achieve levels which are similar to the most equal OECD countries.

- 5** Central government to increase equity funding for schools in lower socio-economic communities.

- 6** Agencies responsible for education and support that impact upon children to:
- lead integrated history programmes that educate New Zealand children on the history of their country, beginning with Te Tiriti o Waitangi; and
 - ensure that children's rights underpin the implementation plan for the Child, Youth and Wellbeing strategy and the SDGs.

- 7** Central and local government and NGOs to apply more collaborative and cross cutting approaches to understand and address the many causes of poor mental health, and provide better access to services and pathways for continuum of care from primary to secondary services. This also requires greater monitoring of new funding and progress against best practice.

- 8** More focus and goal setting are needed to ensure:
- people have “the right to the highest attainable standard of health” and universal quality health care, through a more cohesive approach;
 - priority is placed on those with most need: Māori, Pacific, people living with disabilities and those living with rare disorders and other vulnerable groups;
 - the role and funding model of Pharmac to be reviewed, to align the percentage of health care budget for access to a range of medicines for treatment, in line with Australia and the OECD, and build a collaborative approach with stakeholders ;
 - the Joint Venture to Address Sexual Violence to be implemented with urgency together with other steps to address high levels of family violence and violence against women and children;
 - resourcing of sexual and reproductive health and sexuality and relationship education are increased, including accessible services for young people, and sexuality and relationship education, with the development of national strategic plans for sexual and reproductive health and HIV and AIDS; and
 - abortion is treated as a health issue, removed from the Crimes Act 1961 and related legislation amended.
- 9** Government to Implement the recommendations of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and to implement a National Women's Action Plan as recommended by CEDAW.
- 10** Central and local government to work with stakeholders to change the pervasive gender stereotypes, attitudes and norms that drive sexual and family violence and gender inequality.
- 11** Partnerships between government agencies and iwi, appropriate Māori providers and community services need to be expanded to encourage community and cultural solutions to New Zealand’s high levels of violence against women and children and to support families.
- 12** To create pay equity and parity, central and local government to:
- increase the number of women in governance and leadership across sectors;
 - ensure greater flexibility in work places; and
 - encourage a culture of support for men to take parental leave.
- 13** SDG 5 fails to recognise gender diversity and fluidity, including takatapu and fa’afine and the LGBTQI+ community. Government to implement recommendations, from the Universal Periodic Review including explicit prohibition of discrimination against transgender people in the Human Rights Act.

Legislation and policy are needed to enable people across the gender continuum to “be who I am” and express their identity, and enjoy equal opportunity without discrimination.

14 Government to fully put into action the concluding observations from the third periodic review of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

15 A national homelessness strategy to be co-designed by the sector and resourced by central and local government to ensure housing is affordable and sustainable. This needs to include wrap around services to address the special needs of youth and other vulnerable groups.

16 Central and local government to fully implement commitments under international conventions such as the UN Convention against Corruption and the OECD Convention in Combating Bribery.

A sustainable world/ He kai kei aku ringa

1 The high level of contamination of water and deterioration of eco systems must be urgently addressed with central and local funding and volunteer support.

2 Urgent individual and collective actions are required to:

- support zero waste and carbon zero solutions;

- support marginalised communities impacted by climate without causing further disadvantage;
- use a gender analysis framework when planning climate, development or community activity;
- reduce emissions including those from households and cars, and increase sources of renewable energy;
- equip hapū with the necessary access to upskilling, and participating in alternative energy solutions for maintaining rangatiratanga, or sovereignty of their own whenua; and
- provide climate finance, and establish climate aligned investment and finance mechanisms to ensure mitigation and adaptation at the local level.

3 Central and local government and the private sector to:

- improve efficient public transport and incentivise the use of low or no emission; transport options, including vehicles;
- discourage emission producing transport (through disincentives).

4 Moving to a low carbon environment and low emissions economy requires a Just Transition so that affected communities are not further disadvantaged. The 2019 report [Whakamana Tāngata: Restoring Dignity to Social Security in New Zealand](#) has important

recommendations to ensure economic inclusion.

- 5** Central government to increase New Zealand's climate-related support in line with the promise from developed countries of US\$ 100 billion by 2020, part of this to be used for sustainable energy access that also limits deforestation and fossil fuel use, contributing to both SDG 13 and SDG 7.
- 6** Central and local government to reduce energy cost and hardship and enable community-owned generation and distribution networks, providing income-generating activities.
- 7** Central and local government to assist vulnerable and medically dependent people in marginalized areas with improvements in energy efficiency and transitions to renewable energy, thus also reducing energy costs and energy poverty.
- 8** Map and publicise non-sustainable practices and native species at risk of extinction. Involve communities in the response.
- 9** International marine agreements to be implemented.
- 10** Reinvigorate and review the Oceans Policy project and ocean/seawater management legislation to achieve a more sustainable ecosystem, and

address pollution of marine reserves.

- 11** New Zealand's national plan of action on illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing to be reviewed and enhanced.
- 12** Supporting Hua Parakore / organic farming / regenerative agriculture with a holistic approach to landcare management by:
 - subsidising farmers and producers to adopt natural, non-harmful methods of pest and disease management; and
 - encouraging localised bio regions supporting cultural, social and economic values.
- 13** Stricter enforcement with higher penalties for any harm from pesticides, and immediately phase out the most toxic harmful herbicide such as glyphosate.
- 14** Ensure our cities and their people are increasingly resilient through preparing for short and long term challenges related to earthquakes, flooding, fire and rising sea levels, and in managing their impact with the involvement of central and local government, communities, networks and volunteers.





SDG1 – End poverty in all its forms everywhere

There is no specific SDG for children, they are intended to be a cross cutting theme across the goals , but this can lead to ignoring specific challenges, so that they become the “missing goal”. One of the specific challenges that must be confronted is child poverty.

The Salvation Army’s highly regarded State of the Nation report for 2019 (February) states that “the vast majority of New Zealand children are no doubt safe and doing well. But there is a persistent core of children and teenagers who are either being harmed by their circumstances or have diminished prospects¹.”

Child poverty can be simply defined as “those children who have insufficient income or material resources to enable them to thrive”².

The current government’s aspiration is that New Zealand will be the “best place in the world to be a child”, and that for all to achieve intergenerational wellbeing.

At present however, much of the burden of poverty rests on children, whose families have too few resources for them to be able to participate in life in ways that most of us can take for granted.

Teachers have commented recently, for example, in the media about the number of children who lack internet access at home.

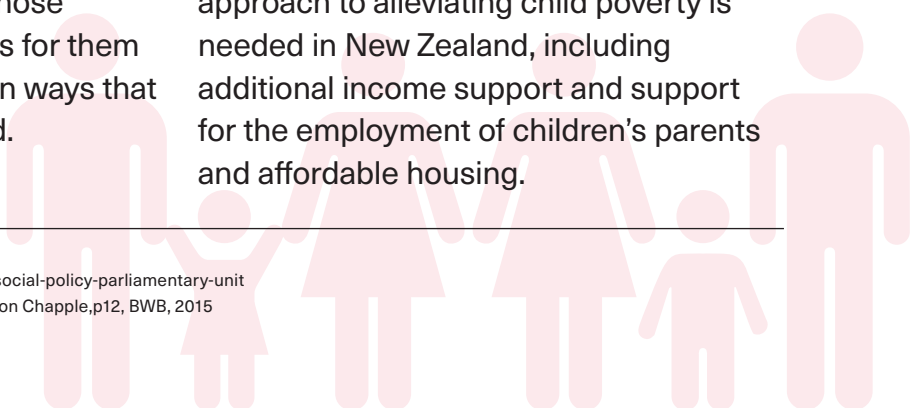
Poverty, in high income countries like New Zealand, is considered to be relative rather than absolute poverty, apart from the extreme deprivation experienced by a minority. It is defined as being about how people can function in society, and whether they can enjoy a standard of living which is much the same as others enjoy, and participate in the community, or whether they suffer hardship.

Thirty years ago New Zealand had comparatively low rates of poverty compared with today.

Many would say that well being requires, as a minimum, housing, health and a job, and it is clear that a comprehensive approach to alleviating child poverty is needed in New Zealand, including additional income support and support for the employment of children’s parents and affordable housing.

¹ <https://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/research-policy/social-policy-parliamentary-unit>

² The Child Poverty Debate”(Jonathan Boston and Simon Chapple,p12, BWB, 2015



In a 2013 study, 60% of children who would be regarded as living in poverty were in a family where no adult was working.

In 2018, no figure was available for child poverty in the Household Economic Survey from the Ministry of Statistics because of unreliable data, but 186,700 children lived in a benefit household, slightly above the previous year.

“The most recent child poverty results from the 2015 HES suggest that as many as 92% of children from benefit-dependent households live in relative income poverty. But around 45% of children living in such poverty come from households receiving wages – in other words, the working poor”.³

Poverty links to a range of poor outcomes including lack of safe housing and health care including dental care, and poor diet, and can contribute to homelessness, frustration and poor mental health.

Commenting on the first wellbeing budget the Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG) remarked that it was a first step but not a transformation. Although it contained “some good things” it still does not reflect the ‘enormity’ of the income and wealth gaps. The government has, however, made it clear, even before being elected, that child poverty must be a priority.

For some children, poverty and “diminished prospects” will increase the risk of offending at a young age, and absence from school, leading to a further spiral of marginalisation, less chance of


employment and a greater chance of being caught in a poverty trap.

Nearly 30% of children in care have parents who were also in care, and the Children’s Commissioner has stated clearly in response to a recent report, that placing young people as young as 14 to 17, in youth justice residences while they are on remand is inappropriate in many cases, and that the waiting time required for the outcome of a court case compounds this situation.

“We need to find good community placements and... provide them with the services they need to build a positive future.”

In his view, taking young people out of the community increases the likelihood of their offending and of poor life outcomes. The Commissioner has made a number of other recommendations, including better early intervention, with a particular focus on children aged 10 to 13 and addressing delays in the justice system which lead to longer waiting times. Given the report found that 70% of those in secure youth justice residencies were Māori he also called for Māori authorities to be involved in supporting Oranga Tamariki in its crucial role, together with other government and non government agencies, including those working in health, youth, justice, education and police.

³ <https://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/research-policy/social-policy-parliamentary-unit>



For young people who are placed in state care, leaving is often an abrupt adjustment, and a time of risk. One of the positive steps in the Budget was the announcement of a new nation wide Transition Support Service for young people leaving the care and youth justice system. This is designed to enable young people to live with a caregiver until they are 21, and support 60 accommodation places for young people requiring support in transitioning to independent living.

The elimination of child poverty will not happen quickly but it is clear that this is a long term investment that must be made and one in which the voices of children and young people must be heard.

A new report, from the Office of the Children's Commissioner, published in June 2019 focuses on children and young people's right to participate in all matters affecting them, and the positive difference this can make to policies that affect children's lives every day.

['Are We Listening? – Children's Participation Rights in Government Policy'](#)

The elimination of child poverty will not happen quickly but it is clear that this is a long term investment that must be made and one in which the voices of children and young people must be heard.





SDG 2 – End Hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

He rongoā he kai, he kai he rongoā

New Zealand has an absurd situation where low nutrient food is easily accessible and more affordable than nutrient dense food. The relationship between health and food cannot be separated, as food plays an essential role in the overall wellbeing of whānau.

The last official survey of food insecurity in New Zealand was the 2008/09 Adult Nutrition Survey which revealed 7.3% of households in New Zealand were classified as having high food insecurity (pg. 264). There were approximately 1.4 million households in 2008, with an average of 2.7 people per household, this would indicate around 236,000 New Zealanders were suffering from food insecurity in 2008. Reports from the New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services indicate demand for food parcels has increased dramatically over the last 10 years.

While initiatives arising from the Families Package and from the Child Poverty Reduction Bill may alleviate some aspects of food insecurity, a larger and more complete range of initiatives will be necessary to eliminate food insecurity whilst the key “cause” of food insecurity in New Zealand is a lack of adequate income. Given the ‘wicked’ nature of the problem, just as with housing, increasing income alone will not solve the problem. We need a more comprehensive approach.¹

Hua Parakore

Hua Parakore is a kaupapa based framework for growing food developed by Te Waka Kai Ora. It draws on the infinite wisdom of hapū and iwi and promotes the re-establishment of native trade and diverse vibrant living economies.²

Distinctively indigenous, it is steeped in six guiding principles:

- 1** Mauri – awareness of life forces and spiritual energy
- 2** Māramatanga ability to be open to new awareness, new knowledge
- 3** Wairua – Truth, sense of balance, harmony, higher forces greater than ourselves
- 4** Te Ao Tūroa – balance, connection, immunity and potency
- 5** Whakapapa – our relationship and kinship connections with the natural world and each other
- 6** Mana – Maintaining autonomy

¹ <https://zerohunger.org.nz/>

² Ngā Kaupapa of Hua Parakore 2011

When all these kaupapa are demonstrated together, they give rise to Hua Parakore and support growers to produce Kai Atua or food from our gods with no interference from outside sources.

Kai oranga³, is a free course available from Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi based in Hua Parakore tikanga principles and is successfully meeting the demand of whānau across the country. With the depletion of Earth's natural resources and a growing human population, there is a need to be concerned with how and what we feed our people and our communities in the future. Through this knowledge that relates to traditional and contemporary food, sustainable practices, seed saving, food production and management are able to be introduced back into whānau, hapū and iwi settings. These in turn support and are led by local indigenous knowledge systems. Twenty -three courses are currently being offered around the country with waiting lists from hapū.

Hua Parakore production is more than just growing food. It is a response to food sovereignty and a way in which Indigenous values can lead change. The link between agriculture and indigenous culture is an essential part of holistic solutions that are available and able to support and enhance local capacities and food economies.

Threats

Genetic engineering and synthetic biology do not guide us in any way towards a future which protects our natural environment and indigenous values. Concerns about this technology are based on ecological damage and uncontrollability. The harmful effects can easily become international and affect our global indigenous communities. Which views Māori develop about gene drive technologies is a matter for individual hapū to decide, but collectively a united position is desirable.



3 <https://www.wananga.ac.nz/programmes/school-of-iwi-development/kai-oranga>

The figure represented is a Kaitiaki which is incapable of protecting the sacred contents of the hue or gourds, 'whakapapa', 'tikanga' and 'whenua'.

The artist, Theresa Reihana⁴, Ngāti Hine, explains that genealogy, the way we do things and the land are all used as commodities. They are bought and sold. Genetic modification has enabled the buying and selling of life.

Creative expression through art is important as stories are transmitted and recorded through experience and myth, and are essential aspects to indigenous learning.

Food production also has water challenges. The state of our waterways is a catastrophe. Numerous water ways around our country are contaminated, unfit for entering and are vehicles for pollution rather than the abundant mahina kai areas they once were. The ability for Māori to gather, harvest, protect and sustain themselves is diminishing.

Intensive farming practices play a large role in the reduced quality of river health with a different approach required urgently that involves more diverse systems and less harm on the land.

For decision making about the environment, and human use, and activities to be well informed and have integrity, it is absolutely critical that it is informed by the māramatanga of the iwi and reflects full awareness. As mana

whenua and Kaitiaki, Te Ātiawa ki whakarongotai is the only entity that has the ability to provide knowledge into decision making from a kaitiaki perspective in the rohe.

Researchers and farmers should be encouraged and supported to develop and implement non-chemical alternatives to glyphosate that foster soil microbial life instead of destroying and depleting it.

When pesticides are used the 'polluter pays' principle should apply, so that pesticide users should be held financially liable for any adverse effects that might occur from spray drift or chemical trespass. Hua Parakore and Organic certified producers and farmers subscribe to strict audit processes to ensure consumers are confident that products they are purchasing or supporting are free from chemicals and inputs that can be traced and accounted for. Sales of organic products are growing twice as fast as conventional products, up 8.8% to \$245 million. Hua Parakore and Organic producers are the future of our sustainable food economy, are the real contributors to our clean green image, pay to be certified and receive very little, if any benefits for undertaking essential reciprocal relationships with the land.

The denial of the right to food for Māori, not only denies the physical survival, but also denies tikanga, social organization, cultures, traditions, languages, spirituality, sovereignty, and total identity.

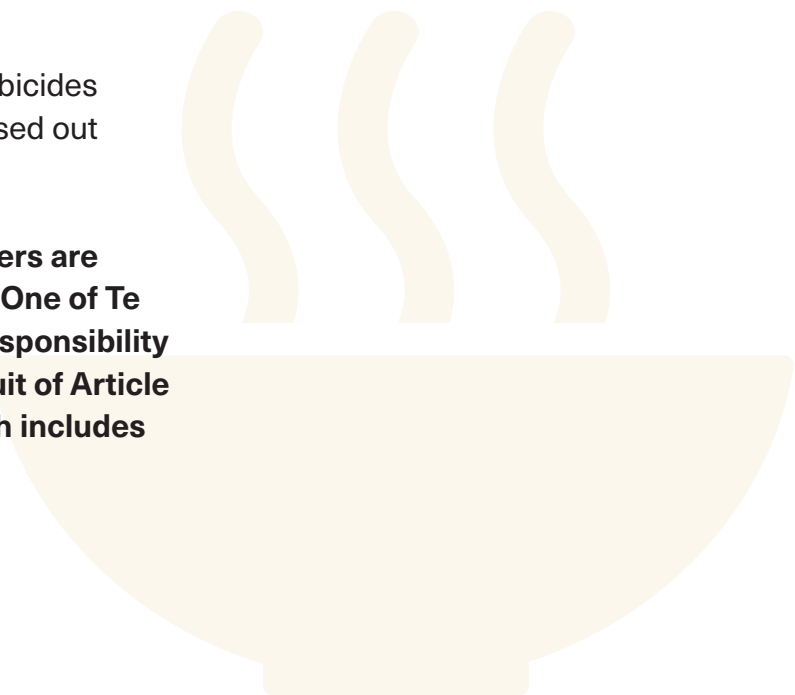
⁴ Image supplied by Theresa Reihana www.maoriartist.com

Implementing Goal 2 must consider and respect the protection of the land or whenua and the traditional place and role that food has. Māori never ceded sovereignty and continue to pay the high price for this continuing to be largely ignored.

Recommendations

- Supporting Hua Parakore / organic farming / regenerative agriculture that has a holistic approach to land care management by subsidising farmers and producers to adopt natural, non-harmful methods of pest and disease management.
- Control of food and food sources be localised and supported by bio regions that support cultural, social and economic values.
- Stricter enforcement with higher penalties for any harm from pesticides caused to human or animal health and/or pollution of waterways, groundwater, air and soil.
- The most toxic harmful herbicides such as glyphosate be phased out immediately.

Government as Treaty Partners are reminded that under Article One of Te Tiriti they have a duty and responsibility to protect Māori in the pursuit of Article Two, Rights to Taonga, which includes ngā Hua Māori.



Kaibosh, a case study

While thousands of people struggle with food poverty, thousands of tonnes of food are wasted each year in New Zealand.

Food waste, which goes to landfill, eventually rots and releases methane – a greenhouse gas, which is harmful for the environment. Enter Kaibosh, a social enterprise that is based in Wellington and is New Zealand's first food rescue organisation. Providing the link between the food industry and those that support people in need, Kaibosh directly supports the sustainable development goals of zero hunger and ending poverty (1, 2, 3, 11, 17).

Over 200 volunteers collect and sort quality food seven days a week.

Some 25,000kg of surplus food is delivered each month to agencies and community groups who are best able to distribute to the appropriate people. This is equivalent to providing 71,000 meals as well as a reduction of 19,400kg in carbon emissions.

Solution driven, it is this type of initiative that will lead the biggest change required to fulfil agenda 2030, in which multi-stakeholder approaches will determine the fate of our progress. Consumer education is required regarding food waste and it is vital that we understand that production, waste, nutrition, and environmental sustainability are inter-connected.



"I can give something back to the community by volunteering here. Kaibosh reduces waste and at the same time helps people in need. The working atmosphere here is awesome and dynamic."

Monique, Kaibosh volunteer





SDG 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages

Although the government states in its Voluntary National Review that it believes it is on track to meet SDG 5, for the achievement of quality health and wellbeing, this view is not reflected in the survey for this report, in which health care rates as the highest area of concern. Nor is it reflected in data such as the Waitemata District Health Board's study released at the end of March this year. This showed that 53 percent of Māori deaths and 47.3 per cent of deaths of Pacific people were attributed to potentially avoidable causes, such as cancers, heart disease, car crashes and suicide. For people who are not of Māori or Pacific ethnicity the comparative figure would be less than 25 percent.

The study's authors stated that the healthcare system needed to recognise and address the role racism continues to play in creating disparities. This illustrates some of the major challenges confronting the health system and wider society in New Zealand.

Steps are now being taken, for example, to ensure emergency departments are more inclusive of kaupapa Māori, in the hope that this will encourage more Māori to seek help in emergencies, as well as

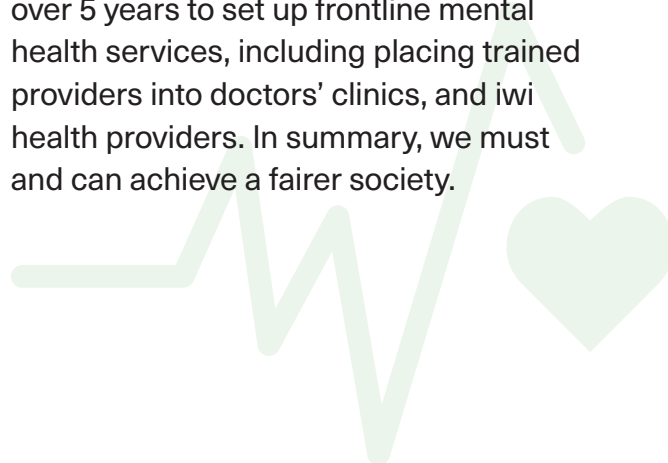
developing programmes to address specific health issues.

The Ministry of Health stated at an NGO Forum that "equity of outcomes underpins all our priorities", and that there is a need for major changes.

As part of this, \$62m has been specifically set in place specifically for kaupapa Māori delivery, together with \$4m over 4 years for a Māori Innovation fund to improve equity, \$12m for rheumatic heart disease over the same period, and a \$10m Pacific innovation Fund over 4 years.

Mental Health

Following calls for urgent change to address mental health issues across New Zealand, including high rates of suicide, (3.4.2) and many submissions to the 2018 Inquiry into mental health, the government recently announced it will set up a Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission. The 2019 budget has allocated \$1.9 billion for mental health over 5 years to set up frontline mental health services, including placing trained providers into doctors' clinics, and iwi health providers. In summary, we must and can achieve a fairer society.



Our ethnic communities also confront some specific health challenges, including high rates of diabetes (3.4.1) among Indian and Pacific communities, so that New Zealand is second to the US in years of life lost to diabetes.

Traffic injuries (3.6.1)

On average one person is killed on New Zealand roads every day, with 2018 having 379 road deaths the highest number since 2009. The government is currently planning a Vision Zero Road safety plan following the Swedish model. Issues under debate include the age of cars and their safety rating, the design of roads, the number and location of safety cameras, and whether or not the number of roadside police patrols should be increased. The Government is investing \$1.4 billion over three years to make urgent safety improvements on our high-risk roads. In announcing the plan Associate Minister Genter commented that on high volume state highways New Zealanders could expect to see more improvements like life-saving median and side barriers and crash-preventing rumble strips on high volume state highways.

Sexual and reproductive Health

Target 3.7 calls for universal access to sexual and reproductive healthcare services, by 2030 including for family planning, information and education. Sexual and reproductive health and rights are essential to realising good health and wellbeing.

From disease prevention, to planning if and when to have a child, sexual and reproductive health care is a necessary component of primary care throughout much of a person's life.

For example, most women will spend about three decades of their lives managing their fertility.

Challenges

There is disparity in access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services, particularly among Māori women and girls. For example, 81% of New Zealand European women had a cervical cancer screen, compared to 64% of Māori women¹. Māori are over-represented among the number women and girls who have inadequate access to effective contraception².

New Zealand has high rates of STIs by international standards, and is in the midst of a syphilis epidemic. Young people, Māori and Pacific, and sexually and gender diverse people are disproportionately impacted.

1 Smith M, Rumlee L, Canfell K. National Cervical Screening Programme Monitoring Report Number 47 (1 January – 30 June 2017). National Screening Unit: Wellington, 2018. Retrieved from: <https://www.nsu.govt.nz/system/files/page/national-cervical-screening-programme-monitoring-report-47-1-january-30-june-2017-jun2018.pdf>.

2 Lawton, B et al (2016) E Hine: access to contraception for indigenous Māori teenage mothers. *Journal of Primary Health Care*;8(1):52–59.

For example, 82% of cases of chlamydia are among 15-29 year olds. New Zealand has limited data and research related to sexual and reproductive health. For example, there is currently no information about the proportion of women of reproductive age (aged 15–49 years) who have their need for family planning satisfied with modern methods (3.7.1)

It is positive that the sexual and reproductive health of young people features in Government's draft Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy³. However, this is the only national strategy which integrates sexual and reproductive health, yet integrating sexual and reproductive health into national strategies is an aspect of SDG target 3.7.

Research shows that 2 in 5 transgender young people cannot access the health care they need⁴. They are also more likely to experience bullying and self harm. Women in New Zealand still do not have access to one of the world's most effective long-acting reversible contraceptive methods – the hormonal IUD – because it is not funded by PHARMAC, and the cost is unaffordable to most women.

There are many ways that HIV intersects with multiple SDGs, for example gender equality, poverty reduction, and quality education. The primary connection, however, with target 3.3 stating that by 2030 we will end the AIDS epidemic (as well as other communicable and non-communicable diseases.)

1 The New Zealand AIDS Foundation has gone further with its Ending HIV campaign, with an ambitious goal of no new HIV transmissions by 2025. Achieving this requires challenging stigma, and engagement from community, government, doctors, funders and those affected by HIV.

2 In March 2018 New Zealand became one of the first countries to publicly fund the HIV prevention drug pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), so those at high risk of HIV have another way to protect themselves, at the cost of a normal prescription. Prior to this game-changing development, PrEP was only available at a cost of around \$1000 for 30 pills. PrEP is extremely effective at reducing the chance of acquiring HIV through sexual contact. Since 2016 there has been a sustained decline of 29% in national HIV diagnoses. The sexual health sector faces many challenges in achieving the goal of ending new HIV transmission by 2025. We have an increasing syphilis epidemic, and high, inequitable rates of sexually transmitted infections. PrEP uptake has not yet reached expected levels, with disparities in access to services. The sector is operating in an environment of funding shortages and capacity constraints. Workforce development, national strategic plans and guidelines are urgently needed.

³ Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. Retrieved from: <https://dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/child-and-youth-wellbeing-strategy>

⁴ Clark et al (2015).

3 Sexual health is absent from the government's draft VNR, apart from the important work to reduce sexual violence. However, there are many important success stories in this field where New Zealand has been a world leader, but there are also important challenges that need to be addressed.

This is also true for other aspects of health.

While Māori and Pacific people are now belatedly but rightly considered priority populations for health care, there are other population groups who are also struggling to achieve universal access and equitable treatment (3.8.1). These include those with disabilities, and some 400,000 New Zealanders with rare disorders, half of them children. As with sexual and reproductive health and HIV there is no national policy, strategy, or action plan. Many have repeated misdiagnoses, and there is no register to provide a cohesive approach, data for planning or assist in transparent decision making. Access to the medicines that could improve their wellbeing and quality of life is too often denied because of cost. Trans gender people also feel they are on “the bottom of the minority heap” when it comes to accessing health care and fair treatment. As medication particularly appropriate for Trans gender people is not subsidised, there are barriers because of cost. Rates of poor mental health and suicide are higher, as a recent study has shown to be the case for young non-heterosexual young people.

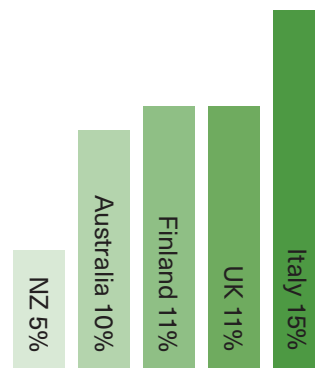
Access to modern medicines (3.8.1)

New Zealand ranks 28th out of 182 countries for its wealth, comparable to the rest of the OECD, yet its investment in modern medicines is 55% lower than the OECD average⁵.

81 modern medicines are funded in Australia but not New Zealand, 4 in New Zealand but not in Australia⁶.

Countries' investment in publicly funded medicines as a proportion of their health budget

New Zealand 5%, Australia 10%, Finland 11%, UK 11%, Italy 15%⁷



Maternal and neonatal health (3.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.2.2)

There is considerable concern at some restructuring of maternity services in a number of DHB areas. In parts of the South Island, for example, where local midwifery services have been replaced by a hub in another town, there have been emergency situations, including journeys while mothers are in labour, or immediately after child birth. This is of considerable concern in a country which has a reputation as a leader for the

⁵ New Zealand's Medicines Landscape 2018/19, p.1

⁶ Ibid p3

⁷ Ibid

training of midwives and nurses from across the Asia-Pacific.

The Health and Disability System Review

Set up in August 2018 this is considered to be a major milestone in New Zealand's health. It will consider independent advice and analysis and engage with DHBs, primary care, health professionals and the public before developing its recommendations later in 2019.

Commenting on early consultation the Chair noted, "This has given us the opportunity to see many examples of the current system working well. However, we have also seen many instances where barriers to access seem insurmountable and where the system is not easy to navigate and is not meeting people's needs."

The focus of this Review is to ensure that we make recommendations for changes which will improve the equity of outcomes. We are also charged with looking to the future to ensure that the system is able to meet the technological, demographic, workforce and other challenges that will confront the system over the coming years."(SDG 3.9c)

Uplifting of Māori babies

It is impossible to comment on Goal three without highlighting the uplifting of Māori babies and the devastating effect this is having on whānau. This statement from the "Hands off our Tamariki" website is part of an open letter to the New Zealand Government.

"Statistics show that over the past four years there has been a significant increase in the number of Māori Newborn babies taken by the State with figures, obtained from the Ministry showing an increase from 110 in 2015 to 172 in 2018.

The most recent attempt to remove a newborn baby in Hawkes Bay and the demeaning, disrespectful and traumatic treatment of a new mother and her whānau has highlighted that the Ministry of Children is not fulfilling the requirement to ensure whānau are at the centre of the wellbeing of tamariki Māori.

For many generations whānau, hapū, iwi, Māori organisations and allies have highlighted the deficiencies within successive government policies and practices in relation to Māori whānau, tamariki and mokopuna wellbeing.

There is an ongoing failure of the State to ensure the active involvement of whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori organisations in seeking pathways to enhance the wellbeing of our tamariki and mokopuna. This has been advocated by a range of organisations including the Māori Women's Welfare League, Whānau Ora collectives, the Māori Council, Te Wharepora Hou, a number of Iwi and Māori organisations, groups of Māori counsellors, social workers and healers, and both the previous and current Commissioner for Children amongst others.

Also noted is the failure of both National and Labour led governments to comply with the UN Declaration of the Rights of

Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) which asserts the rights of Indigenous Peoples to “retain shared responsibility for the upbringing, training, education and well-being of their children, consistent with the rights of the child.

At the heart of the issue is a profound misunderstanding or ignorance of the place of the child in Māori society and its relationship with whānau, hapū, iwi structures.”

Recommendations

- 1** That legislation and policies be co-designed with Iwi/Māori around an honourable Treaty relationship that serves the needs of whānau, hapū, iwi;
- 2** That the State stop stealing Māori children;
- 3** That the current system overseen by the Ministry of Children be overhauled restructured in line with Kaupapa Māori and strengths based approaches that ensure tamariki remain connected to their whānau.





SDG 4 – Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

New Zealand has a high quality, high-performing education system that provides a great start for most ākonga or learners, to develop their potential, engage fully in society and lead fulfilling lives. We are in the top half of OECD countries for participation in early childhood education with generally good levels of participation and achievement in schooling, which is state funded and compulsory from ages 6 to 16. Compared with other OECD nations, we are above average for adults with a tertiary degree or higher, and have the highest rate of participation in adult learning.

Inequality

Unfortunately, these positive results are not shared evenly. While many of our young people achieve at high levels, inequity remains a persistent, serious issue, with insufficient progress toward equity of educational outcomes, particularly for Māori and Pacific students and those with disabilities and learning support needs.

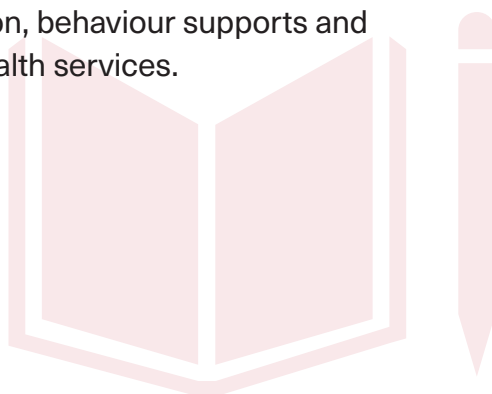
Over the last decade our performance in PISA tests has also slipped, compared to other OECD nations, while our rates of bullying, anxiety and suicide have become increasingly desperate.

Mitigating the effects of poverty is an additional challenge. Despite clear evidence that socio-economic status is a key determinant of the 'achievement gap' for ākonga in New Zealand, equity funding for schools in lower socio-economic communities is currently below the OECD average.

A sustainable workforce

New Zealand is experiencing a worrying shortage of teachers, especially in certain locations, subjects and parts of the sector. Since 2011, enrolments in Initial Teacher Education (ITE) have dropped by 40 percent. Over a third of new teachers leave the profession within 5 years and the average age of the workforce has increased. At the same time the school aged population in New Zealand has grown. The resulting pressure has led to significant industrial unrest in the last two years.

There are also shortages in the availability of learning support and external expertise for ākonga, particularly in early intervention, behaviour supports and mental health services.



Government leadership

In response to these issues the government is working to reshape our education system. They have made some initial steps. Funding will increase for schools which do not request additional donations from their parent community and fees for sitting NCEA qualifications have been removed. Almost all schools are connected to ultra-fast broadband and pilot programmes are in place that provide free in-home internet in lower socio-economic communities. Funding has also been provided for targeted support for Māori and Pacific learners, gifted and talented students, 600 additional learning support co-ordinators, some health services for students and programmes for the visually and hearing impaired.

Since 2018 a 'Fees Free' policy for the first year of tertiary education for domestic students has been in place. Alongside this, the government has started a reform of vocational education and training to ensure New Zealand's public learning institutions can provide the skills and retraining opportunities needed for the changing world of work.

New Zealand's 2019 education budget included a 10 year plan for upgrading school buildings and facilities to ensure they are fit-for-purpose, adaptable, and well-maintained.

Civil society involvement in SDG 4

Until late 2017 meaningful civil society engagement with SDG 4 was limited – although not for want of trying. New Zealand's major education sector unions NZEI, PPTA and TEU, (representing primary schooling, secondary teachers and the tertiary sector respectively) were actively lobbying government(s) to develop a joint approach and, when that was largely rebuffed, committed to working together on the design of a Framework for Action for Goal 4, without government, in the lead up to the general election.

Following the general election in late 2017 things have advanced more productively. At the International Summit of the Teaching Profession in Lisbon, Portugal in 2018 the presidents of the NZEI and PPTA made a commitment with New Zealand's Education Minister to support a co-design and co-implementation approach to the transformation of our education system.

A wide-ranging Education Conversation or Kōrero Mātauranga, involving NGOs, advocacy groups and sector representatives commenced in April 2018 as a way to building a 'shared vision' of 'a system that will serve all learners'.

Māori networks and advocacy groups have been full partners at all levels of the Kōrero Mātauranga, including the development of a strategy for a full-emersion Māori medium education workforce and a new approach to assessment in New Zealand's secondary school qualification, the NCEA.

Alongside a review of the Māori Education Strategy (Ka Hikitia) and Māori Language in Education Strategy (Tau Mai Te Reo) on-going dialogue is occurring to develop the cultural responsiveness of teachers, embed Māori identity, language and culture into local curricula, and to support whānau (families) to engage in the future of education in New Zealand. A similar engagement strand is occurring for Pacific peoples, with the Pasifika Education Plan setting out a strategic direction for improving Pacific student outcomes.

Kura Kaupapa Māori and Kura a Iwi have been instrumental in providing uninterrupted quality education that capture the vision of whānau and hapū. Deliberate and considered learning with a strong emphasis on whānau is key to providing the nurturing conditions that allow students to flourish. Being grounded at Kohanga reo, from 0 – 5 and being able to continue the educational journey right through wharekura until age 18 is optimal for preservation of te reo Māori and the preferred learning environment for many.


Business and tertiary sector engagement with SDG 4 has also started to occur, particularly with reference to the review of the NCEA and the reform of vocational education and training

Conclusions

After a slow start, New Zealand's engagement with the Sustainable Development Goal for Quality Education has taken some important foundation steps. Certainly with key strategies in development, including long-term approaches for Māori and Pacific learners; a plan for early learning, for learning support and an education workforce strategy, a plan for meeting Goal 4 is emerging.

However, much more will be needed if the proposed reforms are to shape a meaningful strategic plan for New Zealand education in order to support learners, deliver improved outcomes and meet the needs of the modern world by 2030.

Central to achieving a long term vision for education in New Zealand which meets the needs of all learners, no matter who they are, or where they come from, is not just the 'shared vision' of what a system that serves all learners might look like, but also a tripartite and sustained commitment to how we get there.



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SDG 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

One third of New Zealanders believe that gender equality has already been achieved in our country¹. 125 years after New Zealand women were the first to win the right to vote in national elections, we have a historically high number of women in parliament, which is led by our third woman Prime Minister. The Governor General and Chief Justice are also women. Yet in 2018 the UN Committee on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) made over 60 recommendations to the New Zealand government, reminding us of how much more needs to be done to achieve genuine gender equality and equity, and of the wide diversity of challenges that women continue to face. These recommendations are also clear reminders that women’s intersectionality matters, resulting in many being further disadvantaged by ethnicity, age, disability, employment status or other factors.

Target 5.1 – End all forms of discrimination

While we have seen the introduction of pay parity principles in the public service, as well as some progress in closing the gender pay gap, together with the introduction of violence leave in addition to parental leave, many inequities remain. Women’s burden of unpaid work continues to increase-particularly if they are carers for those with disabilities or rare disorders.

Women make up only 14% of leaders in the private sector, although 44% of senior managers in the state sector are women, and a new goal has been set of 55%.

A study by Deloitte for Westpac in 2017 of 500 businesses showed only 6% of those businesses had strategies to increase gender parity and 49% of the senior leaders interviewed believed that the shortage of women leaders was due to lack of talent: in the sector, in the company, and in women. Only 1% of New Zealand men take parental leave, compared with some 27% in Norway. A higher take up would lessen discrimination against women at the recruitment stage as balancing parenthood and work would become a less of a gender issue and there would also be additional benefits to men and their whānau. Flexibility is key to women being able to remain in the workforce and brings mutual benefit.

¹ Gender Attitudes Survey, National Council of Women of New Zealand, 2017 p.26

Women's intersectionality which often results in multiple disadvantage continues to be largely invisible in such data and reports. Māori and Pacific women, for example, experience higher rates of violence and are less likely to be engaged in full time, permanent work, but more likely to be in casual work on lower pay. Women with a disability are less likely to be employed than men with a disability. Mothers of children with rare disorders are regarded as the main caregiver by some 70% of children in Europe and New Zealand appears to be similar.

Progress in bridging the gap is slow. The gap between Pacific women's hourly pay rates and Pakeha men's has not changed in 10 years. The number of women CEOs in top New Zealand Forex companies or on private sector boards remains low, in spite of research from McKinsey and others that shows the improvements in companies' equity, financial results, innovation, and staff loyalty and other major benefits of an increased number of women on company boards and in leadership positions.

It is clear that most women begin their career on lower pay than men, and that this continues through their lives. The gender pay gap remains a major barrier for women throughout their careers, and this contributes to lower savings and less security at retirement. On the other hand some successful social enterprises start-ups have been led by women.

Target 5.2 – Eliminate all forms of violence

End violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.

In New Zealand 24% of women, and 6% of men, will experience significant sexual violence in their lifetime; New Zealand women experience some of the highest rates of violence in the OECD. The Global Monitor shows they are also amongst the lowest in terms of media feature stories.

Human trafficking is the third largest form of organised crime internationally. New Zealand has been classified as a destination for human trafficking and a source for domestic trafficking. Amendments were made to the Crimes Act in 2002 to implement the Palermo Protocol. New Zealand works with countries from which people who are smuggled originate, and transit countries, and with regional partners, and is a party to the Convention Against Transnational Organised Crime, and a member of the Bali Process. People smuggling is punishable with up to 20 years imprisonment. There high level inter-agency working group includes the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Gender stereotypes, attitudes and norms continue to drive violence against women, and unconscious bias and discrimination in employment and other aspects of their live.

For example 20% of New Zealanders still believe that it is more important for men to be in charge. New Zealanders need to demonstrate that such stereotypes impact on us all, including men, and prevent us from meeting our potential in a modern world. Change is needed in how we manage our households and 85% of New Zealanders believe that looking after children and household work should be equally shared. It needs to happen on our sportsfields and in our homes. These stereotypes also impact on boys and men, so contributing to mental health issues. Little use has been made in recent years of gender budgeting or gender analysis, although this is may change with recent developments at the Ministry for Women.

The SDGs portray gender only as a binary model of men and women whereas New Zealand law has made progress in recognising the right of all people across the gender LGBTQI+ spectrum 'to be who I am', to lead their lives as takatapui, fa'afine, intersex, transgender, gay, lesbian, non-binary or bisexual, free of discrimination and entitled to equal opportunities without discrimination, and all other human rights, including health, housing and employment. The recent call for transwomen's rights to be recognised as women's rights has been a recent controversial issue but a number of major women's organisations including the National Council of Women and the Women's Studies Association have supported calls for their right to gender identity and expression, to equal opportunities including state funded

services and employment without discrimination.

There is little consistency in how schools in New Zealand teach relationship and sexuality education, including whether relationship and sexuality education meets the needs of rangatahi, and gender diverse students.

The UN HRC has made over 70 recommendations to the New Zealand government in 2019, including that the Human Rights Act must be amended to explicitly prevent discrimination against trans people. The government has indicated that this was already its intention. Research has found that almost 20% of transgender students in New Zealand had experienced bullying in school on at least a weekly basis, much more frequently than non-transgender students.

A 2018 ERO report found that only 20% of schools were teaching relationship and sexuality education very well and 47% were struggling. Despite a statutory requirement, the report showed significant variation in the extent to which

schools engaged parents in the delivery of relationship and sexuality education.

There is also a disjointed, ad hoc approach to funding support for relationship and sexuality education in schools, which is still not compulsory, with few opportunities for professional development for teachers and poor integration of sexual violence prevention programmes into the broader New Zealand Curriculum.

Abortion remains in the Crimes Act, rather than treated as a health issue, although this may not be so after the vote expected later this year. The Gender Attitude Survey in 2017 indicated that 66% of New Zealanders would support this change, but recent changes in US state laws may have some influence.

The sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls are too often side-lined from important discussions about policy. This impacts on gender equality. It is frequently dismissed as being separate to discussions on women's economic, political and social progress. This could not be further from the truth – it is at the heart of women's lives.

Access to sexual and reproductive health care services and information, and relationship and sexuality education are essential to New Zealand if it is to achieve a number of targets under goal 5.

Target 5.6 - Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights

Challenges

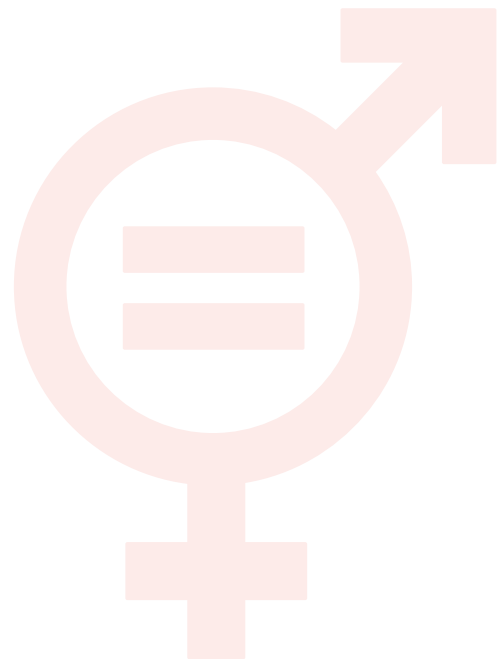
- 1** Sexual and reproductive health and rights do not feature in national strategic planning or initiatives to advance gender equality;
- 2** While declining, New Zealand's teenage birth rate (13.45) is still high compared to countries like Australia (11.4), the Netherlands (4.1) and Canada (7.9). Coupled with high STIs rates in this age group, this provides evidence of a lack of access to youth friendly sexual and reproductive health services;
- 3** Research from 2012 shows that 20% of secondary school girls have experienced unwanted sexual contact.

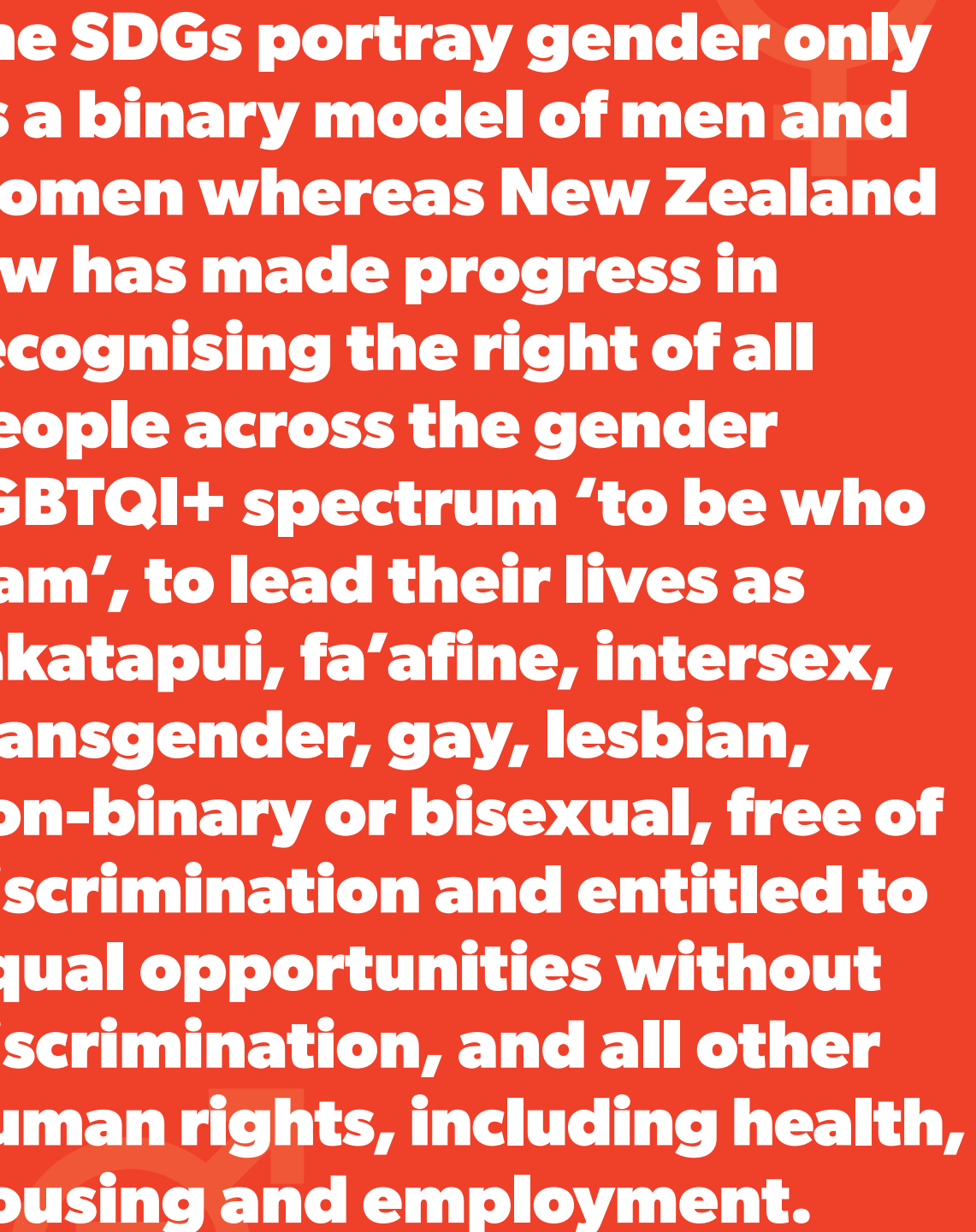
Recommendations

- 1** Integrate sexual and reproductive health and rights into national efforts to address gender equality;
- 2** Provide cross-sector leadership and support to ensure consistent delivery of all aspects of relationship and sexuality education in schools, which meets the needs of all young people;
- 3** Develop a multi-sector approach to teenage pregnancy – including support for young parents - which reflects the range of factors impacting on early pregnancy including culture, health, socio-economic status, education and economic opportunities.

To be well and able to participate equally in society - including in education, work, social and political opportunities – all people need to be able to:

- 1** positively express gender identity and sexuality;
- 2** have healthy, safe relationships;
- 3** choose their partner;
- 4** decide if and when to have a child; and
- 5** access affordable, appropriate and confidential sexual and reproductive health services.





The SDGs portray gender only as a binary model of men and women whereas New Zealand law has made progress in recognising the right of all people across the gender LGBTQI+ spectrum 'to be who I am', to lead their lives as takatapui, fa'afine, intersex, transgender, gay, lesbian, non-binary or bisexual, free of discrimination and entitled to equal opportunities without discrimination, and all other human rights, including health, housing and employment.



SDG 6 – Achieve universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water for all

Target 6.1

Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

The recently published report, *Environment Aotearoa*¹ paints a worryingly disturbing picture of New Zealand's polluted waterways, and the high loss of biodiversity. It is certainly not the clean green country and clear blue lakes we have believed in for so long, but rather where ground water failed standards at 59% of wells because of Ecoli, 57% of monitored lakes with poor water quality and 76% of freshwater fish are at risk of extinction, as are a third of freshwater insects.

The main cause is increased levels of dairying which have polluted rivers and streams with the run off from intensively farmed land.

Response from Forest and Birds was that the report was chilling reading and captured the devastating effects of "decades of procrastination and denial."

Target 6a

Expand international cooperation and capacity building support to developing countries in water and sanitation – related activities.

A number of New Zealand NGOs are involved in WASH programmes in the Pacific, where meeting the needs for modern sanitation is critical for health and also a factor affecting the likelihood of girls' continuation of education, and the success of tourism.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs funding has also contributed to rain water harvesting in Kiribati and elsewhere.



¹ <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/publications/environmental-reporting/environment-aotearoa-2019>

Vanuatu VSA

VSA was delighted to form a partnership with Engineers Without Borders (EWB) in 2017, The first two VSA/EWB volunteers were placed in Vanuatu in 2018 working as Provincial Water Sector Advisers with the Department of Water Resources.

Chris Hartnett went to Vanuatu in July 2018, and Michelle Knappstein took up her role in February that year. Chris' arrival in Luganville, on the island of Espirito Santo, was not long after 11,000 people had been displaced from Ambae, following severe volcanic activity. Absorbing thousands more people on the island who had been forced to abandon their homes, often with nothing, was a challenge, though Chris said he felt humbled by the generosity and resilience he saw around him.

Providing fresh water for the new villages that popped up was a priority, and part of Vanuatu's national strategy to have 100% clean water access by 2030.

In the last month, Chris and his team had a win

"After endless months of assessments and patiently getting on with their business, the community at Manaro St (named after the Volcano that displaced them from Ambae island) now became the proud owners of a solar water pumping system."

The system of solar panels and pumps replaced a small petrol generator which the community had been using to pump

water, and "brought water closer to home for nearly 400 residents who previously faced an 800m walk to a slow trickle at a hand pump down the road."

Chris is a practical sort (he upcycled materials where he could to build compost bins and coconut scratchers), so he was pleased to do "some real work", working alongside the team on panel installation and pipe-fitting. "The systems provided by Savvy Solar in Port Vila were surprisingly easy to install for anyone with a bit of DIY skill." The community will be involved in the final stages of installing the tanks and facilitating the Drinking Water Safety and Security Plan workshops, to ensure longevity of the system.





SDG 7 – Ensure access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy for all by 2030

“Energy poverty is a reality for at least a fifth of New Zealanders.”

Energy is central to our well-being and powers our lives as an essential part of the economic and social fabric of society. Our everyday lives depend on reliable and affordable energy services to keep warm, cool, safe and well; to get us around; to feed us and to provide an opportunity to earn a living.

In New Zealand, meeting the target of access to sustainable energy is primarily a question of the supply of sustainable energy. We have a unique electricity sector that affords us several advantages with hydro, wind and geothermal generation supporting all sectors: from businesses, medicine and education to agriculture, infrastructure, high-technology and communications. We use more and more renewable energy with a system where a current supply constitutes around 80% of electricity demand, but fossil fuel generation continues to be needed unless new solutions can be found for peak and dry year loads¹.

New Zealand has further developed its energy policy, as reflected in its strategy to 2021 and has developed new rules for security of supply.

Outside of the largely low-carbon power sector, managing the economy’s energy intensity and greenhouse gas emissions, while remaining competitive and resilient, remains a challenge.

The government has ambitious plans to boost the share of electric vehicles and renewable energy. But to support sustainable growth in line with the Paris Agreement, the government should facilitate technology opportunities for renewable energy and energy efficiency, in buildings, industrial heat, transport and agriculture.

Though positive progress has been made, New Zealand has not yet reached the target of sustainable energy for all. In this regard, the OECD data highlight the areas that are critical to the success of the energy policy agenda in New Zealand. Future sustainability requires rethinking current market rules in favour of demand response, secure, affordable and environmentally sustainable transformation of our energy sector and economy, putting the people at the centre.

¹ Energy Research Strategy for New Zealand: The key Issues, National Energy Research Institute, 2017

With energy poverty on the rise in New Zealand, many households can't afford the electricity they need to maintain a healthy home.

More than 100,000 households are experiencing 'energy hardship' and paying more than 10% of their income on electricity. Such householders may cut back on their heating, resulting in unacceptable living conditions and significant health costs. Many of the options need electricity prices to be fair, affordable and smart, not just efficient or competitive.

Internationally, with the increasing prominence of climate change issues, NZ aid has expanded its focus into such areas as renewable energy.

With the withdrawal of the US from the Paris Agreement, the commitment of \$3 billion from the Green Climate Fund which is already benefiting some Pacific Island countries, and with a strong knowhow in renewable energy solutions, New Zealand is now well positioned to support more such sustainable solutions for energy access to secure a better future for the Pacific communities across the region.

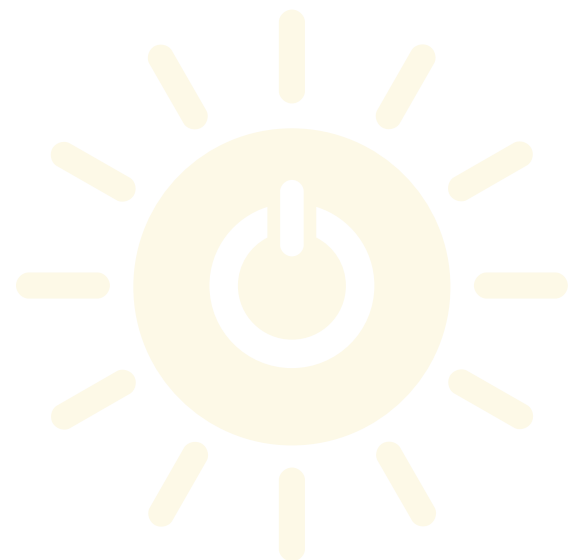
Recommendations

Domestically:

- Reduce energy cost and hardship and establish community-owned generation and distribution networks, providing income-generating activities;
- Assist vulnerable and medically dependent people in marginalized areas with improvements in energy efficiency and transitions to renewable energy, thus also reducing energy costs and energy poverty.

Internationally:

- Increase New Zealand's climate-related support in line with the promise from developed countries of US\$ 100 billion by 2020, part of this to be used for sustainable energy access that also limits deforestation and fossil fuel use, contributing to both SDG 13 and SDG 7.





SDG8 – Sustained, inclusive and sustainable Economic Growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

New Zealand is a wealthy country by global standards, but our wealth is not evenly or fairly distributed.

We are a low wage economy compared to other developed countries. That's not only because New Zealand has had relatively low productivity growth, it's also that we don't do a good enough job of sharing economic gains.

The proportion of national income that goes to workers in wages was 59% in 2018, down from 71% in 1989. If wages had kept pace with the national income over this period, the average worker today would be \$11,800 a year better off.

Full employment remains elusive, especially for Māori, Pasifika, and young workers. Although the official unemployment rate was relatively low at 4.2% in the first quarter of 2019, it was 8.6% for Māori workers and 9.0% for Pasifika. In addition to the 116,000 officially unemployed, a further 106,000 people without jobs and 102,000 underemployed people were looking for work, taking the total rate of 'underutilised' workers to 11.3% of the workforce. This combined rate of unemployment and underemployment is higher for women workers at 13.7% than for men at 9.0 percent.

Youth unemployment is an even greater issue, with the rate of 20-24 year olds not in employment or education at 16.0% overall (seasonally adjusted), 26.7% for Māori and 23.6% for Pasifika.

To meet SDG target 8.5 of 'full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men', the New Zealand government needs to commit to a policy of full employment backed by coordinated fiscal, industry, employment relations and monetary policies.

Pay Equity remains a big issue for working women in New Zealand, with the median wage for women 9.2% lower than for men in 2018. The disparity is even greater for Māori, Pasifika, and Asian women. Compared to Pākehā men, average wages in 2018 were 15.5% lower for Pākehā women, 23% lower for Asian women, 28% lower for Māori women, and 32% lower for Pasifika women.

The settlement of the Care and Support Workers pay equity claim in 2017 was a breakthrough that lifted the incomes and training entitlements of women workers.

It is hoped that the 2019 amendments to the Equal Pay Act will provide a process for other working women to win similar pay equity victories.

Too much of New Zealand's economic activity is environmentally unsustainable. Breaking the link between economic growth and environmental degradation, as Target 8.4 calls on us to do, requires us to also break our economic dependence on export of primary commodities. Diversifying our economy into higher value products would also help to improve productivity and create good jobs.

There are encouraging signs of government support for Just Transition, an approach developed by trade unions to enable an ambitious transformation to a net-zero Carbon economy that delivers good jobs and enables working people to maintain their living standards and wellbeing. A Just Transition requires coordinated planning, active support for retraining, investment to create new jobs, especially in clean energy and transport infrastructure, and other policies to equitably share both the opportunities and costs of transition.

A Just Transition needs to create equity and justice for all, not only those who are already doing well. This means that the process needs to involve working people in every sector, including those not in work, and fully engage with affected communities, including Māori and iwi.

The principles of a Just Transition are equally applicable in responding to other areas of economic transition and

disruption, from an ageing workforce to the effects of shifts in global trade and investment.

The New Zealand Government has set up a Future of Work Tripartite Forum to coordinate work on these issues and promote constructive discussions with employers and unions.

This high-level dialogue is positive, but the real test is how it will transfer into actions for a more productive and inclusive economy.

The 2019 report of the Welfare Expert Advisory Group, [Whakamana Tāngata: Restoring Dignity to Social Security in New Zealand](#), contains important recommendations for economic inclusion. The recommendations to raise benefits substantially, remove punitive sanctions and provide more support to those seeking work have important implications for economic justice and inclusion for women, youth, and for Māori and Pasifika people. While the Government has made some welcome statements of support for such a change in approach, it is yet to make the kind of transformative political or financial commitment that is needed.

A commitment to fully implement the Whakamana Tāngata recommendations would be an important step towards the support for economic inclusion and decent work envisioned by Goal 8.

A conversation with Dr Katie Bruce, CE Volunteering New Zealand

A UN Report from the UN Secretary General in June 2015 Volunteering in the next decade states, that “Volunteerism can significantly contribute to ensuring that ‘no-one gets left behind’ when implementing the new sustainable development framework¹.”

Katie is this true in your view?

“Yes, volunteers contribute across the goals, in countering hunger, ensuring quality education, in kohanga reo and thousands upon thousands of young people are involved in climate action... Young people don't always see a space for themselves in traditional volunteer organisations. There's a real shift in the way young people are looking at systemic transformational change. At the same time they're less hierarchical, they're doing things their way when they're setting up organisations, and they want to give their volunteering in different ways, it's not about a day a week, but a short project and people-powered social change – a large number of people taking small actions and together making a difference.”

So how large are the numbers?

“More people are volunteering, New Zealand is the fourth most generous country in the world in terms of time spent volunteering, but the number of hours is down 42% in recent years. People are working longer, looking after grand children-the available time for volunteering has become compressed. Our society is still structured along gender lines.

We've relied on unpaid work, not valued it, and we still don't value it. We know women still do the majority of volunteering.”

Do you think governments underestimate the contribution of volunteering?

“Yes, and this contributes to underfunding. There's an expectation that volunteers will fill the gap. A national volunteer strategy is really key to the future of volunteering, and the engagement of young people, without a policy and strategy we can only be reactive.”

And if the numbers declined dramatically?

“We wouldn't have many critical, core services-fire and emergency services for example. 98% of those in Search and Rescue services (Coastguard, Surf Lifesaving NZ, LandSAR and AREC) are volunteers according to our recent research.”

The SDGs are expected to be interrelated and equal in importance but is there any one goal that you think would prevent us reaching all or any of the other goals?

“Yes and I think I learned about it from my son. Climate change, and there's still huge resistance to gender equality.”

¹ General Assembly, 26 June 2015 Integrating volunteering in the next decade: Report of the Secretary-General, 22, p8

Is there a country that you see as a model?

“Ireland – here’s a real network of volunteers, and they have 10 staff and we have 2.3. It’s challenging and difficult to make headway on the big stuff when you are so small.”

So what makes people volunteer?

“In some cases they really feel linked to a community-it’s ‘doing your bit’, sometimes it’s connection to a cause, and connection through, and to, other volunteers. We need to involve more young people and they will change the culture.”

I think of VSA’s volunteers working with partners in the Pacific – do you think New Zealand volunteers are any different from others?

“In many ways volunteering is a western concept – but here we can think of it as ‘mahi aroha’ which is about being rooted in your whānau and in the place, it’s a social good which we need to protect. We’re at a crossroads -if we don’t invest in volunteers and don’t see them as worthy of investing in, then the next time we do this report on the SDGs there will be less impact through volunteering-we can’t take it for granted, and if we do, we do so at our peril.”

“The sustainable development goals will create unprecedented global and national urgency to accelerate progress in the recognition, promotion, facilitation, networking and integration of volunteer action by civil society, the private sector, media and multinational actors including the UN.”²

“Governments should promote and facilitate the inclusion of all peoples – youth, seniors, women, students, migrant, refugees, differently abled persons, minorities and other marginalised groups-to leverage the full potential of volunteerism.”³

Volunteering New Zealand

Volunteering New Zealand benefits communities by promoting, supporting and representing volunteering in Aotearoa New Zealand. It believes that volunteers best understand the needs of their communities and the solutions to their challenges. Supporting the development of managers of volunteers and their organisations is a key focus.

² Ibid, p32, V Conclusions and recommendations 119

³ Ibid, p33,122



SDG9 – Industry Innovation and Infrastructure

Infrastructure is in many ways the backbone of our small but long country and critical for New Zealand's agriculture, industry, wellbeing and overall progress although the current standard is variable, with some transport routes recently modernised and others requiring an overhaul.

Recent major funding for Kiwi Rail indicates renewed government interest in transport infrastructure and this is seen as a significant step. Air NZ continues to be a popular, well maintained airline but its domestic costs are causing concern.

A significant change in law has been proposed which will minimise corruption, with the setting up of an independent commission to provide services and systems.

The building industry is regarded by the OECD as the most likely to have more corrupt practices than most, which, given New Zealand's need to build more

housing rapidly could be a concern, but other areas may be affected.

Following a recent resignation from a major bank, consideration needs to be given to issues like personal costs being met by business expense payments and to sound, procurement policies. This includes a move towards materials that are ethically sourced and less likely to impact on sustainability.

Irrigation has contributed heavily to farming productivity in some areas but this may change given the challenges related to fresh water pollution and run off, and the impact on water supplies and aquifers.

The rising cost of insurance from major companies is likely to impact on infrastructure development in cities affected by earthquakes, and climate change as it seems a good rating on NBS is insufficient as an indication of housing quality but rather the land on which

a building stands may be the critical factor.

A number of New Zealand businesses, including SMEs have won a reputation for innovation which must be encouraged. Social enterprise is also growing with considerable success and a number of start ups have also been very successful. The government is considering setting up a new system for polytech and industry training and this may help to provide skilled tradespeople and technical specialists who are in scarce supply. There is an urgent need to invest in workforce growth and training, particularly for Māori men and women.

The IT industry is highly competitive but low income families are still challenged to be able to ensure computers for children to do their homework and this needs to be recognised and dealt with in a systematic way.

New Zealand has one of the highest rates for cyberbullying in the world, and given the government's stand on social media following the Christchurch massacre this is likely to be addressed.

Infrastructure is a vital part of our lives and economy but too often taken for granted and there are many areas today which need to be addressed.

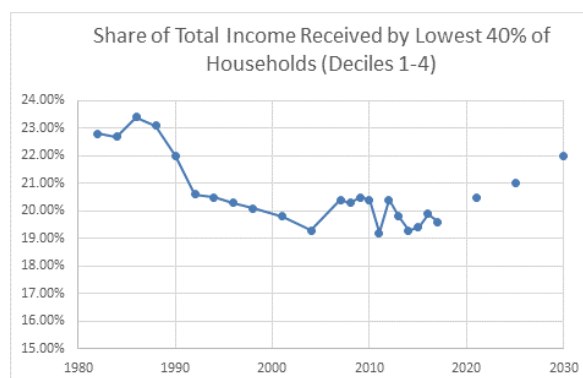




SDG 10 – Reduce inequality within and among countries

Progress towards the inequality goals is limited. Income inequality is not reducing and not on track to meet the 2030 target.

Significant disparities remain in the outcomes for Māori and Pacific people and for those living with disabilities. Recent policy changes are not reflected in current statistics but should bring improvements if sustained until 2030. Much work is needed to bring an inclusive approach to measuring progress by using wellbeing measures that genuinely incorporate the aspirations of Māori and Pacific people and those with disabilities.



Data Source: Household Incomes in New Zealand: Trends in indicators of inequality and hardship 1982 to 2017, B. Perry, Ministry of Social Development, Wellington, 2018, p.94. The dotted line added represents the trend needed to reach a 22% share by 2030

Target 10.1

By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average

Over the past three decades New Zealand has seen an increase in income inequality that began with a sharp increase in the mid-1990s and since then fluctuations around this higher level, with inequality peaking in 2011 (based on Gini coefficient measure). This means that the share of total income received by the bottom 40% of the population has declined or been static. If this trend continues New Zealand will not meet this goal by 2030.

Policies introduced in the past two years that may impact on income inequality are not yet captured in the reported statistics. These include the Families Package that was introduced in April 2018. This package of measures designed to support low income families and other vulnerable groups, is expected to lift incomes for thousands of households and reduce child poverty.

While it may contribute to preventing further increases in income inequality, on its own, it is not of sufficient scale to have a measurable impact.

The Government has set targets to reduce child poverty in line with SDG 1, but has not done the same for inequality.

We recommend that the New Zealand Government should adopt a target to increase the share of the bottom 40% of incomes by between 1- 2 percentage points by 2030. This will mean that by 2030 the income share of the lowest 40% will be around 22%, a level similar to the most equal OECD countries.

The three main ways to reduce income inequality are to lift the lowest incomes through welfare transfers, use the tax system to redistribute income from the highest earners to lower income earners, and promote better labour market policies that ensure higher wages and low levels of unemployment.

The Welfare Expert Advisory Group (WEAG)¹ was appointed by the Government in 2018 to investigate how to modernise the welfare system. Their report was released in May 2019 and contains strong recommendations that include increasing core welfare benefits and abatement rates when entering the paid workforce. These, if implemented, would lift the lowest incomes and contribute to reducing inequality.

The Tax Working Group (TWG) final report² in February 2019 had as part of its terms of reference the task of making recommendations to make the tax system work better to reduce inequality. It made recommendations to change tax thresholds for lower income earners and to introduce taxes on the income from capital. Increasing income tax rates on the highest income earners was specifically excluded from the TWG brief. However, the recommendations on

capital income taxes have been ruled out by the Government, meaning that New Zealand continues to be an anomaly among the wealthy OECD countries in not having meaningful wealth or capital gains taxes.

The Government has implemented significant increases to the minimum wage that will see it reach \$20 per hour by April 2021. The increases in April 2018 and 2019 are well ahead of the increase in average wages over that time. This policy affects hundreds of thousands of low paid workers and should contribute to reductions in poverty and inequality.

Target 10.2 – 10.4

Empowering Inclusion, Ensure Equal opportunity, Policies to achieve greater equality

Despite strong economic performance and increasing prosperity overall in New Zealand, tangible progress towards increasing inclusion and reducing disparities remains elusive. Outcomes are worse for Māori in key areas such as incomes, home ownership, employment rates, life expectancy, and imprisonment rates.

Pacific people experience poorer outcomes and progress to greater inclusion is limited. The huge decline in home ownership among Pacific households is very concerning.

Hopeful signs include a decrease in the number of young people not in education,

¹ Whakamana Tāngata: Restoring Dignity to Social Security in New Zealand, Kia Pike Ake Welfare Expert Advisory Group, May 2019

² Future of Tax: Final Report, Tax Working Group Te Awheawhe Taki, February 2019, New Zealand Government

training or employment³, although these are still well above total average.

The Wellbeing approach to Government policy introduced this year offers the opportunity for greater equity by providing measurement through different outcome indicators through the Treasury Living Standards Framework⁴ and StatsNZ Indicators Aotearoa – Ngā Tūtohu Aotearoa⁵ project. However, these frameworks need more work to make indigenous and other cultural perspectives more meaningful.

The Te Ao Māori approach to measuring wellbeing places much higher worth on measures of cultural and spiritual connection, Te Reo Māori language ability, and whānau/family connection. Data measurement for most of these domains of wellbeing is still in development. The gender pay gap for women is 9.2% less than men and is not reducing⁶. Pacific women are most affected, with average earnings, at \$23 per hour, \$10 less than Pākehā men who average \$33 per hour⁷. It is likely that this will change in coming years as the impact of recent changes brought about by Pay Equity legislation and related wage settlements in occupations where the workers are predominantly women, such as aged care workers and social workers.

The current ongoing review of the health and disability system has made equity a

central issue with a focus on inequitable access to services and outcomes for Māori and Pacific people. The review of the mental health system (completed in 2018) has identified the disproportionate impact of mental health problems on some groups, such as the high suicide rate among young Pacific men⁸.

The Government has announced significant new spending on initiatives that recognise and take action to improve mental health.

Government changes to labour market policies to improve training and education are also underway.

Target 10.5-10.7

Regulation of Financial Markets, Migration

Regulation of financial markets - the New Zealand central bank, the Reserve Bank, is reviewing capital requirements for banks operating here. The proposals include requiring the four largest banks that are all overseas-owned to hold the same level of capital reserves as the New Zealand-owned banks. This is expected to improve the resilience of the banking system in the event of a future financial crisis.

3 Pacific Peoples in the Labour Market – September 2018 Year, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/assets/1c6c6420a1/pacific-peoples-labour-market-report-september-2018.pdf>

4 <https://treasury.govt.nz/information-and-services/nz-economy/living-standards>

5 <https://www.stats.govt.nz/indicators-and-snapshots/indicators-aotearoa-new-zealand-nga-tutohu-aotearoa>

6 <https://women.govt.nz/work-skills/income/gender-pay-gap>

7 <https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/politics/2018/09/pay-inequality-pasifika-women-may-as-well-work-free-for-the-rest-of-the-year-union.html>

8 He Ara Oranga. Report of the Report of the Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction p.73, October 2018

<https://mentalhealth.inquiry.govt.nz/assets/Summary-reports/He-Ara-Oranga.pdf>

Ngai Tahu Tokona te raki – Māori Futures Collective

Mā te huruhuru te manu ka rere - Let our rangatahi be the wings that give us flight.

The South Island iwi, Ngai Tahu, is undertaking a series of initiatives that are an example of non-government initiatives to address equity gaps. It recognises that the skills and abilities of Māori are central to the future wellbeing of our whole nation. The Māori population is on average 10 years younger than the national average and a growing proportion of the total workforce.

Māori incomes are on average some \$10,000 per year less than non-Māori and achieving income parity for young Māori is a goal for Ngai Tahu. The iwi is seeking a “rewiring of the education system for Māori success and preparing Māori for future opportunities.” **“Transformational pathways”** designed to counter inequities and build upon strengths of Māori youth and culture are needed.

Those already in the workforce will also need culturally responsive and transformational training pathways to help them adjust to changing employment markets.

Tokona te raki – Māori Futures Collective <http://www.maorifutures.co.nz>, is a Ngāi Tahu project with a special focus on fixing the “leaky pipeline” (<http://bit.ly/2XnglZz>) of our education system.

This sees many young Māori leave education without the qualifications and skills that would give them future options, income and opportunities. The Collective approach is to work across education providers, employers and communities to build an integrated kura-to-career system to boost Māori employment and enterprise.

Pay Equity in Aged Care Settlement

“It will give us dignity and pride and make our lives worthwhile, knowing we’re being paid what we are actually worth”.

With these words care worker Kristine Bartlett welcomed the \$2 billion pay equity settlement in 2017 that covers some 55,000 care workers working in residential aged care or home-based support. This lift in incomes brings new recognition of the value of work that is traditionally almost exclusively done by women.

The implementation of the settlement continues and a recent evaluation report on the first stages of the implementation found that it has brought new recognition to women's work and is valued by workers and employers alike <http://bit.ly/2XmJCQO>



SDG 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Target 11.1

Adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, and upgrade slums

As the New Zealand population has grown and moved from the regions and iwi land to cities and towns, and migration and urbanisation have increased, housing has increased in price. The one time kiwis' hope of possessing their own "quarter acre pavlova paradise" has become an elusive dream¹. This SDG is one of the most important to New Zealand at this time because of its current shortage of affordable, safe housing.

This continues to be a major challenge for New Zealand in recent years as other reports mention. The KiwiBuild programme now faces a major reset with five ministers, one of whom will be responsible for urban housing, and it is expected that there will be significant progress notwithstanding the complexity of the challenges. However, the provision of safe, affordable housing is a major priority for the current government and local bodies, as it for those who seek it.

Some have become frustrated with the damp, unhealthy places that their homes have become, and small places like Minginui, where they have analysed the data related to poor health and tired of repeated respiratory illness, plan to build 20 new energy efficient homes.

In the first three months of this year emergency social housing grants totalling \$23 million were made to meet the needs of double the number of clients from last year. In March more than 11,000 people were on a waiting list for public housing around the country, and the Housing First programme, for the homeless faces major pressure.

The cost and quality of rented accommodation has been another issue. In July, the Government's Healthy Homes standards will become law, mandating improvements in heating and insulation and the provision of photoelectric smoke alarms.

Māori are particularly disadvantaged in relation to both urban and rural housing. The history of the "second great migration" is relevant to today's situation, when house prices and rentals are high, much of the older less-expensive housing has deteriorated, and the stock of state housing has been dramatically diminished.

¹ Austin Mitchell "The Half- Gallon- Quarter -Acre Pavlova Paradise," 1972

Before World War II, 90 per cent of Māori lived in their rural tribal communities, but by the mid-1970s almost 80 per cent lived in cities. Known as ‘the second great migration’, this resulted in the rise of the “urban Māori.”

In the 1960s, when families had begun to migrate in significant numbers, the government had come to recognise that the economic future of most Māori lay in the larger towns and cities. After the Hunn Report of 1961², which recommended social reforms for Māori, the “relocation” of Māori became official policy. Rural Māori families were encouraged to move to the cities with the provision of accommodation, employment, and general assistance in adjusting to a new life.

An assimilation integration programme, developed by the state, used a strategy of “pepper potting” to scatter individual Māori families among Pakeha neighbours. For the first time, many Māori came into close contact with Pākehā. Initially, however, many Pākehā were determined to discourage the migration. Some thought that city life was not for Māori with their different social and cultural mores, and that they should remain in their settlements where they could pursue their own way of life. This reflected a belief that Māori would become a problem in what were predominantly Pākehā communities.

When urban Māori woman, Ella Henry, was six years old, her parents made a

decision which would change the course of her life – moving from Ahipara to West Auckland.

“I realised after a while that I was in a completely new world. I’d gone from a place where the only white person I knew was the principal of the Native School, to being the only brown person in the school,” Ms Henry said. “And it was uncomfortable, you know being the only brown kid, being the one with the funny name, being different and feeling like an outsider in my own land is extraordinarily painful and stressful.”³

Passed on from generation to generation, the impacts of feeling disconnected from your whenua where your maunga stands, and from the waters that support your lifeforce can be devastating and isolating,

Urban planning and design are largely practised through a lens of eurocentric values, rather than through the values of the indigenous people. Private land ownership is favoured over other forms of ownership, and communal spaces are designed with predominantly western ideas. For example, the original names of locations have often been replaced by colonial ones. Aotearoa is a very good example of this.

Despite all of our major cities being built on the sites of pā and kāinga, there is very little evidence of Māori values being included in their design. Some aspects of

² <http://nzetc.victoria.ac.nz/tm/scholarly/tei-HilMaor-t1-body-d5-d2.html>

³ <https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/we-were-nice-brown-white-men-second-great-migration-maori>

decolonisation are beginning to take place, for example the renaming of Wellington's "Tinakori Hill" to its original "Te Ahumairangi", but there is still a lot of work to be done better to represent Māori values in our urban design⁴.

While we seek to make our cities more sustainable, more green, and more accessible with more communal spaces we also need to think about the role tangata whenua play in this. It is necessary to empower and include young people to engage with city making processes and planning to ensure they are able to see themselves and their culture reflected in the spaces they inhabit. The Wellington Council, for example, has enabled this to happen.

Bringing together the people who are the most marginalised, who don't have access to transport, or green spaces, and who would benefit from community spaces that promote whanaungatanga or relationship building is critical for our present and our future. These people will play an important role in redesigning the way in which cities can transform into safe places for everyone. It will not require so many architects but it will require gardeners, and a shared commitment to the sustainable development goals from the top down and the bottom up-and at the same time.

Target 11.2

Safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport

Transport plays a key role in New Zealanders' lives with widely varying challenges resulting from the topography and geography.

In the views of some commentators, the New Zealand transport sector seems to currently lack defined targets or outcomes. The newly announced Budget expenditure on rail and exploring options for the ferry between the North and South islands will contribute to a better vision of how we can connect urban, peri urban and regional centres and communities.

The 2018 Government Policy Statement on land transport indicated increased funding for public transport, walking and cycling infrastructure to move New Zealanders towards less emission-intensive modes of transport. However, it remains unclear to the average New Zealander about how large this move is intended to be, and what costs, timeline or incentives are intended? The price of new electric vehicles, as well as the limited range of most, has been seen as a barrier to the uptake of electric vehicles, but the way to encourage the use of electric vehicles, as other countries have done for some time, seems unclear.

The recent appearance of electric buses in some cities has been welcomed as a positive sign for the future but while it is recognised that reducing fossil fuel use in

⁴ https://www.victoria.ac.nz/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/1665866/imagining-decolonised-cities.pdf

the transport sector is critical, this also requires considerable investment by local bodies in the necessary charging infrastructure that is required. The recent introduction of electric bikes and scooters in some cities has brought new options for city dwellers, but also demonstrated the need for good, joined up planning in terms of policy, law and infrastructure, prior to introducing innovation which can be disruptive in more ways than intended.

While some freight transport could be shifted from roads to rail or shipping, this is seen by some as having limited potential as most freight is carried over short distances. Again the issue of cost can also be a barrier to other options. It is not currently clear, for example, what the policy is currently regarding the completion of the electrification of the North Island Main Trunk line or what its future role will be. The Government's investment of \$1bn in Kiwi Rail in the recent Budget is a major step in providing a better rail service, and, as a 2016 EY report indicated, rail can also deliver about \$1bn in unrecorded value each year, including reducing road congestion, road maintenance costs, and carbon emissions.

Wellington plays a key role as the centre of Government and is predicted to grow. It is expected that there will be an additional 31,000 jobs in Wellington's CBD in the next 20 years, and the population is expected to grow by 50,000 to 80,000 in that area. At the same time, the region's population is predicted to grow by 100,000 to 150,000 and jobs to increase by 50,000. A business case for

Wellington's proposed mass transit is due to be presented to the New Zealand Transport Agency by the Wellington Regional Council and the Wellington City Council in July in preparation for assessing three possible options: light rail, trackless trams, and rapid buses. Auckland Transport's business case, following a proposal for light rail put forward in 2015, has not yet been completed.

To move forward in this critical area requires national, regional and urban planning with specific goals, targets and actions including encouraging the electrification of public transport, and a significant increase in the rate of uptake of private electric vehicles.

Target 11.3

By 2030 enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanisation...integrated and sustainable human settlement

While a number of local bodies are engaged in addressing this goal, and the issue of whether or not all cities proclaim a climate emergency is widely debated, the Rotorua Lakes Council signed up to the UN Global Compact Cities programme, and its ten principles, in 2015 as part of its Rotorua 2030 vision. It is interesting example, having carried out a carbon audit, strengthened its partnership with the tangata whenua, Te Arawa, to celebrate its heritage, and responded to young people's calls to address climate change – resulting in consultation with iwi, business, students, and communities.

In its 2016 Sustainable Living Strategy, the city shared its perception of sustainability, as based on understanding the connectedness of people, and the natural and spiritual worlds.

Its 2030 goals include a resilient community; homes that match needs; outstanding places to play; a vibrant city heart; business innovation and prosperity; employment choices; and an enhanced environment.

Other cities have also adopted the themes of SDGs in various ways, by becoming a CEDAW city, as Auckland has done and addressing the recommendations in the 2018 report from the Committee on the Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women by, for example, improving safety, and equal opportunities for women

Target 11.5

Reduce deaths by disasters with a focus on protecting the poor and vulnerable.

New Zealanders have learned a great deal from the Christchurch earthquakes, and more recently from the Christchurch terror attack in March 2019. These, in some ways, brought a loss of innocence to modern New Zealand and will have a continuing impact on a range of issues, including the development of relevant policies and legislation related to communities, gun ownership, immigration, community preparedness, resilience, security, social media, security, and emergency responses by police,

ambulance services, and within schools. New Zealand's Prime Minister was hailed world wide for her calm, clear, and empathetic leadership and response to the terror attack.

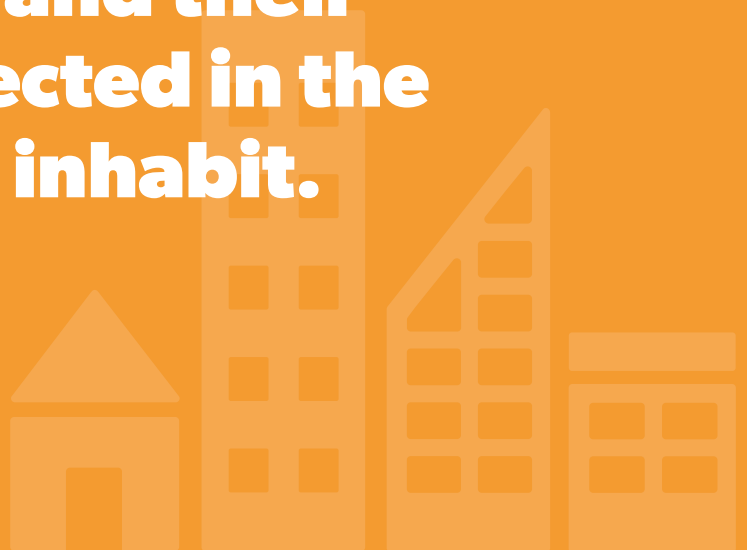
The ensuing debate about the need for a more modern resourcing model for ambulance services is a significant one for civil society and local and national government at a time when resourcing shortages for NGOs are driving competition in the sector, rather than collaboration.

Target 11c

Support least developed countries in building sustainable and resilient buildings utilising local materials.

New Zealand NGOs work effectively in partnership with local partners, and international partners to develop housing programmes in the Pacific, and are also involved in encouraging disaster preparedness and post disaster recovery after natural disasters and this is regarded as an important and relevant contribution.

While we seek to make our cities more sustainable, more green, and more accessible with more communal spaces we also need to think about the role tangata whenua play in this. It is necessary to empower and include young people to engage with city making processes and planning to ensure they are able to see themselves and their culture reflected in the spaces they inhabit.



SDG Health and Wellbeing-Case Study Auckland District Health Board

Tuhōno-Towards a sustainability strategy for the Auckland DHB

The DHB vision is

- Healthy communities
- world-class healthcare
- achieved together 'Kia kotahi te Oranga mo te iti me te Rahi o Te Ao'.

Auckland District Health Board is one of the largest public healthcare providers in New Zealand with 11,000 staff providing care to almost one million patients annually. As a major health service provider, it has a social and ethical obligation to its community in minimising the impact on the environment and reducing the harmful effects of climate change.

For these reasons, it is committed to becoming the most sustainable health board in the country and working towards being carbon neutral by 2050 with the vision "to meet the needs of today without adversely impacting on the needs of the future generation". The organisation's core values align with reducing carbon emissions and eliminating social inequities that are regarded as precursors to poverty and poor health outcomes.

Adopting the UN Sustainable Development Goals as an enabler for generating positive health outcomes that can deliver an improved quality of life,

both now, and for future generations or simply put "it is the right thing to do."

This is based on a sustainability philosophy. Involving the development of a strategy which is integrated with the DHB organisational strategy, with ambitious, achievable and measurable targets. The goal is to be carbon neutral by 2050.

It also recognises the SDGs where the DHB is already contributing

- 5 Gender equality
- 10 Reduced inequality
- 12 Responsible consumption
- 17 Partnerships.

It involves a green culture, choosing goods and services that have a green ethic that deliver broader outcomes in consideration of the social, environmental and economic effects of the products purchased and delivered, using natural resources wisely and building healthy communities and a culture that supports the work of mana whenua in exercising kaitiakitanga.

It empowers staff to develop green teams for sustainability projects, and clinical leaders to lead change in the medical profession and strengthen community networks. All this means increased understanding of environmental aspects of funding, planning and procurement decisions.

A set of principles underlie clinical practice. For disease prevention and health promotion, advocacy and partnership will be essential to tackle the social, economic and environmental determinants of health, combined with patient education and empowerment and use of treatment options with low environmental impact.

Goals are set for energy and waste, including:

- Reducing energy use and CO2 emissions by 2020
- reduction in water consumption by 2030
- green building principles.

Building healthy communities involves partnerships to eliminate inequity and embrace diversity, inter-agency strategies to build resilient and healthy communities and partnerships to promote social and environmental benefits.

The strategy is endorsed by the Senior Executive Team and led by an SDG coordinator.



Interview with Arend Merrie, Director Surgical Services Auckland DHB

Arend, the Auckland DHB is implementing a SDG strategy - how did this start?

"Auckland DHB core values drive the vision. This aligns with reducing carbon emissions and eliminating social inequities that are regarded as precursors to poverty and poor health outcomes. Hence, we are consciously taking a social stand for the population we serve to reduce the environmental impact from our services.

We have been active in the sustainability space since 2015 with a transparent and verifiable process to record emissions by signing up to the Enviro-mark Solutions CEMARS programme. Our aim is to be the most sustainable health board in the country, the ultimate challenge being to mitigate the harmful effects on health arising from climate change and health inequities. The work is driven by a small team of passionate staff members who incorporate activities on top of their regular jobs.

The focus has been on recycling, waste management, procurement and energy reduction. We have had a Sustainability Manager since 2015 which has been vital. In May 2018 we took the challenge to move from a focus of carbon mitigation and reduction, to a wider focus on sustainability incorporating our people

and our business asking ourselves what can we do as individuals, as an organisation and as part of society?"

Was there any opposition?

"In general no, our CFO Rosalie Percival has been the executive sponsor from the outset and we have had strong support from the Executive team. Taking it to the Senior Leadership Team early on and getting their strong endorsement was so important."

So what has it involved?

"We have a strong focus on energy efficiency. In 2017, our DHB received 3 silver awards from the Green Global Healthy Hospital network in the 2020 Healthcare Climate Challenge. These were for Energy Reduction, Non Energy Reduction and for Climate Leadership and was nominated finalists in two categories of the Sustainable Business Network Awards; Going Circular and Efficiency Champion.

In 2018, our DHB received commendation for its energy management programme from Energy Efficiency Conservation Authority, Large Energy Awards and was nominated finalists in four categories of the Sustainable Business Network Awards; Going Circular, Efficiency Champion, Hard-wired for Social Good and Millennials on a Mission.

This year (2019) we have been nominated as a finalist for the Excellence in Climate Action (large org) (>5000 tonnes) Award.

Since our sustainability programme started we have exceeded our energy reduction target and reported a 28% emissions reduction over 4 years which was recognised with an Enviro-mark award. With the endorsement of a framework we have engaged a Sustainability Project Manager to begin the work of framing up an organisational strategy commencing with a materiality assessment. We've reported to the Board on the strategy and the sustainability gains we've made and they are very interested and supportive."

Do other DHBs have a similar strategy?

"Not that we are aware of - sustainability in healthcare is an increasing focus with many DHB's active in this area reporting good emissions reductions and sustainability initiatives but this is a wider strategic model."

Some people might say this is great for the environment but what about the people?

"The relationship between climate change and health is a strong one with these issues raised in the medical literature back in 2012 and 2014. We've been slow in the sector to act on this. This government is bringing a wider perspective to health - and there is a need for a climate change strategy in the health sector as a whole with broader conversations across the workforce and the sector."

What have been the main challenges now that you are implementing this?

"The challenge is in how to continue to develop and implement this.

Partnership and collaboration are critical – and it takes time and trust. The cultural context in New Zealand Aotearoa is so important and our challenge is to have Te Tiriti o Waitangi at the centre - it's a unique lens for how the SDGs can work, as opposed to other frameworks. At Auckland DHB our relationship with Ngati Whatua is very important and our journey needs to be led by our Treaty partners.

We believe that it's about getting it right for the most vulnerable or disadvantaged, then we will get it right for everyone.

As part of our consultation around developing a strategy we are reaching out to our people and the breadth and depth of the communities we serve, to capture their voice and concerns."

Part of the conversation is about 'what the SDGs are and what does an SDG framework look like or do?'

"Sometimes it's about how do we frame the message or the conversation. Our workforce is the same as the rest of society - a cross section - so we look at how different demographics respond.

There are still some climate sceptics, some don't want to believe in it."

What happens now?

“The climate crisis necessitates a huge step change for the sector and society that will require all of us to do the right thing to not only be carbon neutral by 2050 but also mitigate the health effects of climate change. Our strategy is a step towards that, that will guide our DHB along a path to deliver high quality sustainable healthcare and eliminate health inequities. It is both a challenge and an opportunity for how we deliver healthcare in an increasingly complex environment, it challenges us how we respond to our communities locally, nationally and in the Pacific, how we reduce travel, energy and waste but maintain and gain, skills, knowledge, expertise and wisdom.

It’s about kaitiakitanga and manaakitanga, getting it right for those who can benefit most, and then we’ll get it right for all of us.”

**It's about kaitiakitanga
and manaakitanga,
getting it right for
those who can benefit
most, and then we'll
get it right for all of us.**



SDG 12 – Responsible consumption and production

Target 12.8

By 2030 ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature.

Changing people's consumption patterns looks promising with more people seeking out ethical brands that support their lifestyle, make them feel as if they are making an investment with their purchase and making conscious choices. Consumers want a long term relationship with products that deliver both materially and sustainably but most importantly tell a story that they can resonate with. Competition can be brand fierce and is limited to those who have the luxury of disposable incomes and choices to decide.

Kokako

Kokako were the first solely organic coffee company in Auckland (established in 2001) and have always tried to find innovative sustainable ways to package products and ethically source ingredients. The specialty coffee sector, like every other, is shaped by the challenges of the future: a growing population, a changing climate, and scarce resources. As a business they have an opportunity and a responsibility to respond to these challenges and seek a better way.

The sector also faces some specific challenges: low coffee prices for growers, global warming impacts like droughts and diminishing soil fertility affecting productivity, income and working conditions. "Together with our suppliers, collaborators and customers, we're doing our best to address these challenges."¹

There has been an increase of fair trade products available in New Zealand, mainly around bananas and coffee. Fair trade advocates for better working conditions, and improved terms of trade for farmers and workers in developing countries.

The banning of plastic bags by larger companies quickly saw competitors follow suit and was readily embraced by the public. Unfortunately it is not enough. More needs to be done by the larger companies to make any real inroads into reducing impacts on our environment without compromising productivity.

Tailoring impact reports are provided by Little Yellow Bird² who specialise in sustainably sourced workwear and uniforms. They have creatively included their customers in this process, as they are able to measure their purchases as part of a sustainable journey.

¹ <https://www.kokako.co.nz/pages/our-sustainability-report>

² www.littleyellowbird.co.nz

This goes well beyond triple bottom line reporting. Key indicators which demonstrate the total amount of water saved; plastic not used and pesticides not needed are encouraging. They are also exactly the impact statements that consumers and new businesses see as indicating increasing integrity, and enabling them both to do their part in supporting ethical operators using multi level approaches to the sustainable development goals.

The realization of new economic futures that support business models to excel, but firstly consider the impacts on responsible consumption and production, must be a priority for us to succeed in re-shaping the future we want.





Goal 13 – Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts

Today we face a climate emergency, in New Zealand and globally. The scale of the climate and ecological crises has been laid bare by two landmark reports. In October 2019, global scientists said carbon emissions must halve by 2030¹ to avoid even greater risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people. In May 2019, we were told that human society was in jeopardy from the accelerating annihilation of wildlife and destruction of the ecosystems² that support all life on Earth.

Climate change poses a threat to the achievement of all or any of the SDGs, and to human rights. In October, 2019, the UN Human Rights Committee adopted General comment No. 36 (2018) on article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), on the right to life. It concluded, among other things that climate change poses a serious threat to the ability of current and future generations to enjoy the right to life, and that States have an obligation to protect the environment against climate change (paragraph 62). Furthermore, it recognised that issues related to gender, the empowerment of women and the value of their knowledge, are essential to resilience and achieving the 2030 Agenda.

The leadership of our government at this time of climate crisis is critically important. Should be in ways that uphold the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi,

including kaitiakitanga or guardianship, and the protection of the environment based on traditional Māori values and beliefs.

New Zealand, in line with the 2015 Paris Agreement, banned new oil and gas permits in 2018 although more recent decisions related to existing permits have caused concern. It has also introduced legislation to achieve the fundamental goal of halving carbon emissions by 2030. On the international level, in the Pacific, New Zealand has worked with Pacific governments on climate related policy and projects over recent years and a new climate change programme within the aid programme will add \$300 million to the aid budget over four years. Though these are positive steps, the government must do more.

The marches, rallies, protests, the extinction rebellion and student strikes, together with consumer demand for

¹ IPCC report October 2019

² Summary for policymakers of the global assessment report on biodiversity and ecosystem services of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services-6 May 2019

enviro-friendly products demonstrate increasing public support for climate action and an increasing desire to see results. This could bolster government to adopt effective policy and programmes, and, for example, to declare a climate emergency, as Christchurch has done, and to take urgent action in collaboration with civil society and business stakeholders.

We need transformational change, and courageous actions to deliver it. But transformative actions come with risks, for our farmers, investors, government agencies, local government, people and politicians. Likely short and long term impacts need to be understood, and steps taken to ensure a just transition, with consultation and planning so that there are inclusive processes to ensure understanding and minimise the risk of greater inequalities.

Governmental action on climate justice could take a number of forms: ethical investment; community-owned energy systems; green hydrogen; nature-based solutions, cutting subsidies, and litigating against or taxing carbon-heavy corporations.

The New Zealand public wants urgent action on climate change and strongly supports holding fossil fuel companies and the New Zealand government accountable for the negative effects of climate change.

The survey for this report has revealed that the respondents have mixed views about how strong government's focus on climate change is, compared with other issues. 63 respondents believed it has shown some focus on climate change, 30 believed it had shown a strong focus, and 15 a very strong focus, compared with 20 respondents seeing a very strong focus on the most marginalised groups and 20 seeing a very strong focus on a more just and equal society. When asked which of the SDGs was most relevant to New Zealand Climate action was ranked fourth after "good health and well being", "quality education", and "no poverty".

The government should commit to allowing citizens to play a direct role in an imminent energy revolution, notably through micro-generation, in the food-system, collaborating with Government in co-designing clear climate actions backed by implementation maps, timelines and identification of responsible organisations. It should include a major reform of governance on climate mitigation and adaptation measures including the adoption of multi-year carbon budgets that will limit overall emissions.

Some objectives can be shared by two or more SDG focus areas. For example, challenges associated with water availability and global warming have been shown to have a greater impact on more vulnerable communities, especially on women, as well as impacting on food supplies, agriculture, bio diversity and other areas. These types of problems cross the boundaries between SDGs 1, 2, 3, 5, 13, 14 and 15.

Effective climate action will require much stronger participatory democracy, where local people are actively informed and engaged in action and decision-making about their own communities and their own future. The responsibility is not government's alone, and local government, the private sector, iwi and communities all have a part to play. Change is possible, and it comes from the power of the people.

Recommendations

- 1** Urgently firm up policies and proposals to tackle climate crisis, including:
 - A whole-of-government and whole-of-society plan and coordination platform across government, civil society, academia, business and iwi to carry out a transition that will bring about a step change in our climate ambitions over the next decade to implement inclusive, just and creative solutions, leveraging beyond existing networks;
 - Commitment to enabling citizens to play a direct role in climate action and resilience, including disaster preparedness, starting with the imminent energy revolution, notably through micro-generation and adaptation initiatives. Incentives should support new carbon zero technologies;

- A strong focus on implementation, including actions with timelines and steps needed to achieve each action, assigning clear targets of responsibility for delivery;
- Stronger participation by women and young people at climate-related decision-making fora should influence the direction of climate action and resilience to address specific vulnerabilities of women and girls.

- 2** Provide climate finance towards a climate resilient future

- Establish climate-aligned expenditure and finance mechanisms related to investment and expenditure, public and private, domestic and transnational financing that demonstrably contribute to flows to enable projects and citizens to deliver mitigation and adaptation benefits at the local and community levels.

We need transformational change, and courageous actions to deliver it. But transformative actions come with risks, for our farmers, investors, government agencies, local government, people and politicians.





SDG14 – Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

New Zealand's environmental reporting is improving, but caution is required in assessing New Zealand's performance and reporting, partly because of a narrow range of official indicators.

Target 14.1

By 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, in particular from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution.

Many coastal and marine environments have suffered substantial changes from nutrient run-off and sedimentation from poor land management. New Zealand is losing about 192 million tonnes of soil a year (see Our Land 2018, Ministry for the Environment and Statistics NZ). This soil erosion is contributing about 1.7% of the sediment delivered to the world's oceans annually, even though the country accounts for just 0.2% of global land area. While some is natural, over 40% of the soil entering our rivers comes from pasture¹. Other sources include logging of (plantation) forests, from which slash and sediment clog waterways, housing development, and roading.

New Zealand has been slow to ratify some international agreements on marine pollution and has yet to ratify MARPOL annexes IV and VI².

Plastics in the marine environment are pervasive, including micro-plastics. New Zealand has banned single-use plastic shopping bags³.

There are no controls on lost fishing lines, nets, and discarded plastics. These hurt or kill marine species by ingestion, entanglement, and drowning, and act as rafts for alien and invasive marine species.

Oil spills from oil and gas production and boats remain of concern. The 2018 ban on new prospecting for oil and gas offshore has not stopped existing permits and applications for drilling.

Actual and proposed seabed and coastal mining for iron sands, minerals, and phosphorite nodules are of increasing concern. Sources of impact include digging up and then smothering the benthos, sediment plumes, and the prospect of the release of heavy metals and toxic nodule components.

¹ <https://niwa.co.nz/news/reducing-sedimentation>

² See <http://www.imo.org/en/About/Conventions/StatusOfConventions/Pages/Default.aspx>

³ <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/consultation/plasticshoppingbags/>

Target 14.2

By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.

The Resource Management Act 1991 provides for sustainable management and integration of management from the mountains to the outer edge of territorial sea (12 nm). In the marine environment, implementation has been patchy and enforcement poor, but it is improving owing to public concern and a change of government and policy. Māori have rights of substantive engagement. There is provision for public consultation, but this was diminished by changes made earlier this decade by the previous government.

New Zealand passed the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012 for management beyond 12 nautical miles, but this is only a “gap filler”(see 14c below).

The allocation of fishing rights, setting of catch limits, permitting of access to minerals, and the regulation of shipping, are outside the ambit of both Acts, but must be considered.

New Zealand’s marine management lacks cohesion, as there is a multitude of laws, agencies and users with specific and disparate goals.

Regional councils manage efforts to avoid, control, and manage marine alien

invasive species. National coordination is under-funded and under-organised although the problem is recognised. Some marine invasives such as *Undaria* have spread widely.

New Zealand has limited forms of marine spatial planning and management but some trials exist.

Marine protected areas fulfilling the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, (IUCN category criteria I-IV) are small and fragmented and opposed by fisheries interests. Previous Governments have reported that 30% of the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is protected by “Benthic Protected Areas”, colloquially known as bogus protected areas. This Government has dropped such spurious claims.

There are other, partial, environmental protections, such as for protected marine mammals seabirds, reptiles, and some sharks and rays under the Marine Mammals Protection Act, the Wildlife Act, and controls under the Fisheries Act.

The National Plan of Action (NPOA) on Seabird bycatch is under review and the one on sharks is about to be reviewed.

The non-statutory Threat Management Plans for threatened sealions has been reviewed. The revised Hector’s and Maui dolphin plan was released in June 2019 for comment. Those populations are in decline. Maui dolphins are on the edge of extinction, as only 66 individuals are left. Seismic blasting and seabed exploration and mining are proposed to continue

throughout their range. Only some areas of their range are proposed for protection from trawl and set-net fishing.

There are few measures to protect the benthos, and there are no ecosystem impact assessment requirements on particular fishing methods.

Beyond the above, there is no system of place or ecosystem-based assessment or protection of marine ecosystems except for a few trials. Proposals to develop standards to protect vulnerable marine ecosystems (VME) within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) were stopped by previous ministers under pressure from the fishing industry.

Target 14.3

Minimize and address the impacts of ocean acidification, including through enhanced scientific cooperation at all levels.

New Zealand scientists are working cooperatively on understanding and reporting on ocean acidification and its effects⁴. New Zealand's emissions are high per capita and rising, not falling. Nearly 50% of New Zealand's emissions of greenhouse gases derive from the agriculture sector, methane being the main emission from this sector.

Target 14.4

By 2020, effectively regulate harvesting and end overfishing, illegal, unreported and unregulated

fishing and destructive fishing practices and implement science-based management plans, in order to restore fish stocks in the shortest time feasible, at least to levels that can produce maximum sustainable yield as determined by their biological characteristics

Implementation of the New Zealand Fisheries Act 1996 is limited when it comes to controlling environmental impacts. As administered, there are few systematic fisheries method controls or substantive environmental assessments, though the Act would allow these. Bottom-trawling, dredging, and Danish seining – all damaging fishing methods – have limited restrictions.

New Zealand commercial fisheries management relies heavily on a catch-limit based Quota Management System that grandparented quota to medium-large fishers who can trade quota. There is a partitioned quota for Māori commercial purposes as part of Treaty of Waitangi settlements. Small-scale fishers were expelled from the fishery around 1983 without compensation. Other fishers left the fishery under a buy-back scheme.

Trading quota allowed aggregation of fisheries quota ownership by a few big players. Most of the original quota owners have been reduced to contract fishers. Māori interests own about 40-50% of the total commercial quota, but in many cases their quota is leased to New Zealand or foreign companies using New Zealand registered vessels.

⁴ See <https://nzoac.nz/#new-zealand-ocean-acidification-community>

Commercial fishing interests dominate over Māori community-based concerns about the environment. Separate provisions are made for non-commercial fishing – for subsistence, recreation, and sport. There are limited provisions for public participation in fisheries management.

Fisheries management uses commercial catch limits for specific species in each large quota management areas. The focus is on managing discrete stocks for harvest. The Act provides for managing “at or above” maximum sustainable yield, but typically in practice, stocks are allowed to fall to 20% of the unfished biomass or below.

The ecosystem effects of fish stock distortion or depletion, and fishing method impacts, are largely ignored,

High rates of New Zealand fish stocks achieving harvest standards and limits should be treated with caution because such standards and limits are very permissive. The harvest standards for stock levels allow high depletion before action is taken and are not ecologically sound. Fish stocks are allowed to drop to 20% of their original unfished biomass (soft limits) before action is taken. Even at the hard limits of 10 percent, a fishery may not be closed.

About 27 stocks or sub-stocks out of the 169 assessed are now considered to be below the soft limit (May 2018 and November 2018 assessments). New Zealand counts as overfished only those

stocks assessed as being below 20% of their unfished stock size—a low bar when looking at ecologically sustainable fish stocks. (Those under 20% include important stocks of snapper and orange roughy). This assessment does not consider the additional 388 stocks currently not assessed, or the 297 nominal stocks that have had no assessments of any kind.

New Zealand’s harvest strategy rules allow much lower stock sizes than those used in Australia, which sets the closure at 20%, while New Zealand allows fishing down to 10 percent or below. Ecosystem-based management under the Convention for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) has much stronger rules, targets being 50% for predator species and 75% for prey species.

Many ecosystem impacts are not monitored or assessed. Some action is taken to protect marine mammals, seabirds and shark bycatch. The stock status limits ignore the ecological impacts of fishing on the seabed, affecting, for example, cold water corals, marine mammals, seabirds, sharks, or other vulnerable species. It also ignores the ecosystem roles of these species and the impacts of cutting populations by over 80% or up to 90% before calling it over-fished.

These limits and practices do not conform to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) requirements to preserve and protect the marine

environment, nor to the UN Fish Stocks Agreement. New Zealand's Fisheries Act lacks an unequivocal precautionary approach, information sufficiency clause, or obligation to favour the environment in the face of uncertainty and unknowns.

New Zealand is reviewing some minor aspects of fisheries management. Many in the science and ENGO community hope it may introduce true ecosystem-based management.

The New Zealand Sustainable Seas National Science Challenge has made Ecosystem Based Management a central focus, as well as integrating Māori knowledge and interests into the science agenda.

But the definition adopted of Ecosystem Based Management is about spatial management and brokering human uses and interests, not ecosystem health. Maintaining ecosystems and allowing them to recover are not central to the definitions or to management and are not a focus in the administration of the Fisheries Act 1996 or the EEZ & Continental Shelf Act 2012.

By-catch controls are weak and “High-grading” is common, so that low value fish are dumped in favour of filling the holds with high value fish⁵. Moves to include cameras to improve compliance with

rules and monitor impacts have been shelved under industry pressure⁶. Fisheries managers are exploring changes to reduce high-grading and require all fish caught to be landed⁷.

Some IUU fishing has been detected and prosecuted. One New Zealand vessel is being prosecuted by New Zealand and is on the draft SPRFMO IUU vessel list for 2019⁸. New Zealand's national plan of action on IUU fishing has not been revised since it was completed in 2004⁹, although it is supposed to be reviewed every four years (para 24, IPOA)¹⁰.

Within the New Zealand EEZ, violations of foreign crews' human rights have led to two inquiries and changes required vessels fishing in New Zealand waters to operate under full New Zealand legal jurisdiction from 1 May 2016¹¹.

5 <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/313631/mpi-official-admits-fish-dumping-widespread>; and <https://theconversation.com/new-zealands-hoki-fishery-under-scrutiny-after-claims-of-fish-dumping-misreporting-97167>

6 <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/350382/govt-considering-ditching-fishing-boat-camera-plans>; and <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/politics/110279240/cameras-on-fishing-boats-delayed-angering-greens-and-greenpeace>

7 <https://www.mpi.govt.nz/news-and-resources/consultations/your-fisheries-your-say/questions-and-answers-on-fisheries-consultation/>

8 <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/381399/big-problems-in-the-fisheries-talley-s-boat-taken-off-blacklist>

9 NPOA - New Zealand - National Plan of Action to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing. 2004.

10 FAO. (2001) International Plan of Action to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Rome, FAO. 2001. 24p.

11 McLeod, M and D Hammond (2016) Case Study: The New Zealand Fisheries (Foreign Charter Vessels And Other Matters) Amendment Act. Human Rights at Sea. 11p.

There are no controls on lost fishing lines, nets, and discarded plastics. These hurt or kill marine species by ingestion, entanglement, and drowning, and act as rafts for alien and invasive marine species.



Target 14.5

By 2020, conserve at least 10% of coastal and marine areas, consistent with national and international law and based on the best available scientific information.

New Zealand has about 9.8% (17,697 km) of its territorial sea covered by no-take marine reserves. This equates to about 0.4% of the combined EEZ and territorial sea area, but the fishing industry has blocked the creation of any no-take marine reserves in the EEZ and on the continental shelf.

There are other marine protected areas such as marine mammal sanctuaries, but exploration and mining permits have been issued in these. There is no legislative mechanism to protect areas for biodiversity purposes in the EEZ. A law to create a Ocean Sanctuary around the Kermadec Islands is stranded in Parliament.

There is legal provision for establishing small areas for customary Māori fishing areas (taiapure and mataitai) and some have been established.

Target 14.6

By 2020, prohibit certain forms of fisheries subsidies which contribute to overcapacity and overfishing, eliminate subsidies that contribute to illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and refrain from introducing new such subsidies, recognizing that appropriate and effective special and differential treatment for developing and least

developed countries should be an integral part of the World Trade Organization fisheries subsidies negotiation.

New Zealand does not provide overt subsidies, but indirectly subsidises fisheries by allowing fishing with weaker environmental protection controls, subsidising fisheries management and research, assisting with certification, and “social licence” campaigns. Fishing quota holders were given a free allocation of emission trading scheme permits to emit greenhouse gases. “Fishing quota owners were given some NZUs in a one-off allocation in 2010 to compensate for the effect of increased fuel costs from the NZ ETS [Emissions Trading Scheme] on the value of their fishing quota¹².”

Target 14.7

By 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism.

Well over 50% of New Zealand's aid budget is spent in small island developing states. About 5.5% of the NZAIDA programme (about \$45 million) is focused on marine transport, fisheries management, and aquaculture. Projects include assistance to Pacific Island countries on fisheries management and research on key Pacific tuna species.

The New Zealand Aid Programme contributed an average of \$NZ30.3 million

¹² See <https://www.mfe.govt.nz/climate-change/new-zealand-emissions-trading-scheme/allocations>

per annum to support biodiversity-related development during the period from 2014/15 to 2017/18 (Table 10). This is 25% more than the 2006/07 to 2009/10 baseline. Only part of this funding has been spent on marine management.

Target 14a

Increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity and transfer marine technology, taking into account the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission Criteria and Guidelines on the Transfer of Marine Technology, in order to improve ocean health and to enhance the contribution of marine biodiversity to the development of developing countries, in particular small island developing States and least developed countries.

New Zealand's cost recovery system, whereby the fishing industry pays some of the research and management costs, has created perverse incentives, unhealthy dynamics, and strong industry influence, though some consideration of conflicts of interest has recently been launched by government.

The more lucrative a fishery, the more money the industry will tolerate paying for research, but those most at risk of stock depletion get the least attention. Treasury funding rules have also prevented costs being spread over several years.

New Zealand has seen some once large stocks of long-lived fish fished down very quickly, e.g. orange roughy. The funding model means that those stocks that may

be in the most parlous state are least likely to have expenditure on research.

Many stocks simply are not researched at all. Today, New Zealand spends less than half on fisheries management research than it did 25 years ago. Spending declined from \$23 million to about \$10 million in 2018 (in 1992 New Zealand dollars). Many fish stocks have not had their state reviewed for many years.

Another unhealthy dynamic created by cost recovery has been the capture of fisheries research priority setting for research and other matters by the commercial fishers using the cost recovery process as a lever to get their way.

The industry has persuaded the government to allow the industry itself to conduct some of the research. Passed off as "co-management", this has given the industry a politically dominant position and has often led to the exclusion of community and public concerns.

The Sustainable Seas Science Challenge and other public good science funding has introduced a much broader research perspective than the focus of fisheries research. Genuine efforts to expand research horizons to explore Mātauranga Māori (indigenous knowledge), social sciences, ecological research, and other aspects within the Sustainable Seas and related science challenges have been made.

Outside the Sustainable Seas Science Challenge, economic drivers dominate the selection of distribution of the research questions and effort and the research question development.

This is been primarily fisheries interests but increasingly scientific effort is also being diverted to understanding the impacts of, or directly working for, applicants for seabed mining.

Public good science exists, especially in the Sustainable Seas Science Challenge and by some academics. The public science funding model used in New Zealand routinely crowds out public-good science in favour of paying customers. The National Institute of Oceans and Atmospheric research (NIWA) has some public good science funding, but it must cover 60% of its costs and must fund from reserves or pay market rates for capital expenditure. Under the previous Government at least, NIWA was also obliged to pay dividends to the Government as owner. These institutional arrangements, and persistent under-funding of university research, have provided the extractive industry with strong opportunities to dominate research institutions.

Target 14b

Provide access for small-scale artisanal fishers to marine resources and markets.

All commercial fishing is regulated via the Quota Management System and few artisanal fishers remain. Non-commercial fishing is managed through a “recreational” and customary fishing provision.

Māori may apply for specific local reserves (mataitai or taiapure) and increasingly assert their claims to co-management. There are 11 Taiapure and 42 Maitaitai areas covering 40,700 ha and 44,959ha respectively.

Target 14c

Enhance the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources by implementing international law as reflected in UNCLOS, which provides the legal framework for the conservation and sustainable use of oceans and their resources, as recalled in paragraph 158 of The Future We Want¹³.

New Zealand has ratified and supports UNCLOS and all of its implementing agreements. However, it has been slow in implementing International Maritime Organisations (IMO) agreements, including Annexes of MARPOL, the Antifouling Convention, and the Cape Town and the Torremolinos Agreements.

13 158. We recognize that oceans, seas and coastal areas form an integrated and essential component of the Earth's ecosystem and are critical to sustaining it and that international law, as reflected in United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), provides the legal framework for the conservation and the sustainable use of the oceans and their resources. We stress the importance of the conservation and sustainable use of the oceans and seas and of their resources for sustainable development, including through the contributions to poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, food security, creation of sustainable livelihoods and decent work, while at the same time protecting biodiversity and the marine environment and addressing the impacts of climate change. We therefore commit to protect, and restore, the health, productivity and resilience of oceans and marine ecosystems, and to maintain their biodiversity, enabling their conservation and sustainable use for present and future generations, and to effectively apply an ecosystem approach and the precautionary approach in the management, in accordance with international law, of activities impacting on the marine environment, to deliver on all three dimensions of sustainable development.

New Zealand has yet to implement comprehensive measures to protect and preserve the marine environment (article 192 UNCLOS). Most marine law is missing a precautionary and/or ecosystem approach to management.

There is no coherent marine spatial management in the EEZ (and it is very limited elsewhere).

We do now have legislation to govern some activities in the EEZ under the Exclusive Economic Zone and Continental Shelf (Environmental Effects) Act 2012, but this is a “gap filler” and does not provide coherent integrated planning or management. Some of the most damaging activities such as fishing are not regulated by this legislation.

Recommendations

- Implement international agreements in the marine environment;
- Review New Zealand national plan of action on IUU fishing;
- Revive the Oceans Policy project and overhaul the legislative landscape to update laws and management to achieve: more integrated management to ensure that any use is ecologically and socially sustainable; bound within requirements for the precautionary principle and approach to management in favour of the environment; a genuinely ecosystem approach to management; at least 40% of each ecotype fully protected with no-take reserves; adopts other instruments to protect and preserve the marine environment to sustain its functioning and resilience;

- Economic durability requires that any harvesting and extraction must be within ecological function and resilience limits and subject to environmental impact processes open to the public;
- Ensure the removal of conflicts of interest in the design, commissioning and conduct and reporting of marine research, while retaining a levy on extractive uses of the marine environment.

Note:

Other marine science is undertaken by academics, regional and central government agencies and staff.

Fisheries research is commissioned by the Ministry of Primary Industry's Fisheries NZ, and done by various contractors, most commonly the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), and at times the fishing industry.

15 LIFE
ON LAND



SDG 15 – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Aotearoa/New Zealand is a special place. Our whenua has been isolated from the rest of the world for 65 million years and has evolved a range of unique habitats supporting a large amount of biodiversity found nowhere else. Since humans came to this land, beginning with Māori settlement approximately 1000 years ago, and Europeans approximately 200 years ago, ecosystems have been heavily modified. Habitat transformation for human use and introduced pest species which accompanied human settlement have been the most catastrophic influences on our native biodiversity. Despite extensive planning and legislative reforms these challenges remain.

There are a number of threads supporting positive biodiversity change. New Zealand has a definite culture of environment care and responsibility which has been moulded uniquely by tikanga Māori. Practices from Tikanga and Mātauranga Māori are increasingly discussed and adopted, bringing a longer term perspective to environmental trade off considerations.

Citizens across the country have been encouraged by the Government's vision for Predator Free 2050, and approximately 1200 community groups are now taking action to control pests. The Government's billion trees programme is supporting biodiversity enhancement, though much emphasis seems to be placed on exotic forestry increases, and therefore opportunities for genuine enhancement of indigenous biodiversity are missed. The Department of Conservation is currently pursuing a new biodiversity strategy involving fairly rigorous consultation with NGOs and business communities.

Interrelationships between the goals

The UN emphasises that the SDGs should not be viewed in isolation, and that positive and negative interrelationships need to be considered. In practice, however, efforts to enhance biodiversity have usually been quite siloed, and both foreseeable and unintended consequences on other goals are not often explored.

Furthermore, some of the most intractable challenges facing biodiversity arise from activities more usually associated with other goals, where biodiversity is traded off for attaining something else.

Target 15.1

By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements.

Target 15.1.2

Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type.

Most catastrophically for native biodiversity has been wholesale habitat transformation for human use. In 2012, just over half our land had a modified land cover. Exotic grassland (pasture) is now the largest single type of land cover and accounts for about 40 percent of our total land area. Exotic plantation forest covers about 8 percent of the country, concentrated in the central North Island. 90 percent of New Zealand's original wetlands have now been drained.

The loss of native vegetation has continued in recent years, with more than 70,000 hectares lost between 1996 and 2012 through conversion to pasture,

plantation forestry, and urban areas. Wetland areas have also continued to shrink, with at least 1,247 hectares lost between 2001 and 2016.

Our urban areas are spreading – the area of urban land increased by 10 percent between 1996 and 2012, especially around Auckland, and in the Waikato, and Canterbury. Between 1990 and 2008, 29 percent of new urban areas were on 'versatile' land. This type of land often has the best, or 'high-class', soils and has many agricultural uses such as growing food, but now represents just over 5 percent of New Zealand's land.

The fringes of our urban areas are increasingly being fragmented – broken into smaller land parcels – and sold as lifestyle blocks. The number of lifestyle blocks has increased sharply in recent decades, with an average of 5,800 new blocks a year since 1998. A 2013 study found that 35 percent of Auckland's versatile land was used as lifestyle blocks.

Regenerative practices such as the Government's "billion trees" programme represent useful initiatives, but unless systemic change occurs to curb habitat destruction, especially wetlands, we will remain on the negative side of the biodiversity ledger.

Target 15.2

By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.

Target 15.2.1

Progress towards sustainable forest management.

New Zealand has a strong history of Sustainable Forest management. New Zealand land is managed chiefly through the Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991. The RMA has been transformative in supporting decision making to mandate consideration of environmental effects, and for thoroughly embedding the indigenous Māori concept of kaitiakitanga, which can roughly be translated to guardianship. However, in recent years legislative changes have reduced the RMA's potency and ability to effectively regulate decisions which compromise ecological health.

Target 15.3

By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.

Target 15.3.1

Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area.

Soil in New Zealand is being heavily modified, through losses from erosion and the input of overseas fertilisers. Both processes degrade long term soil quality.

"In 2012, it was estimated that 192 million tonnes of eroded soil entered New Zealand's rivers each year; of this, an estimated 84 million tonnes (44 percent) was from exotic grassland.

Of South Island regions, West Coast (49 million tonnes/year), Otago (18 million tonnes/year), and Canterbury (17 million tonnes/year) had the highest levels of sediment movement into waterways. In each of these three regions, sediment movement into waterways estimated to be from exotic grassland was: Canterbury (20 percent), Otago (10 percent), and West Coast (5 percent).

Of North Island regions, Gisborne (40 million tonnes/year), Northland (15 million tonnes/year), and Manawatu/Wanganui (13 million tonnes/year) had the highest levels of sediment movement into waterways. In each of these three regions, sediment movement into waterways estimated to be from exotic grassland was: Manawatu/Wanganui (86 percent), Northland (82 percent), and Gisborne (70 percent). The demand for freshwater for irrigation has increased markedly. This has been driven by a near doubling of New Zealand's irrigated

agricultural land area between 2002 and 2017, most notably in Canterbury.

This reflects a nationwide shift from sheep and beef farming to dairy farming, and an increase in the number of animals per hectare in some parts of the country.”

Target 15.5

Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.

Almost 4,000 of our native species are currently threatened with or at risk of extinction, and it is likely that many presently unknown species are also threatened.

For a small country, we have a very diverse range of unique ecosystems. Some are naturally rare (there were only a few even before people arrived), while others are uncommon internationally. Almost two-thirds of our rare ecosystems are threatened with collapse. The rate is higher for rare coastal ecosystems (like coastal turfs and shingle beaches), where more than three-quarters are threatened.

Much effort is expended on single species campaigns which captivate the public imagination (especially cute animals). Our biodiversity is not all cute and lovable, but it is important!

Target 15.7.1

Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked.

New Zealand is a signatory to [CITES](#) (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora), administered by the Department of Conservation.

The Wildlife Enforcement Group, a three-person team drawn from three government departments ([the New Zealand Customs Service](#), the [Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry](#) and the [Department of Conservation](#)), was set up in 1992 to investigate wildlife smuggling to and from New Zealand¹. The WEG’s activities led to 24 prosecutions, but the group was gradually disbanded between 2012 and 2014, and since that time there has been no dedicated task force policing wildlife smuggling in New Zealand². There have also been no arrests or prosecutions for wildlife smuggling since 2012, despite strong evidence that it is occurring³. New Zealand reptile species, in particular endemic geckos, appear to be most desirable and vulnerable to international smuggling.

Target 15.8

By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species.

¹ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wildlife_smuggling_in_New_Zealand#cite_note-1

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wildlife_smuggling_in_New_Zealand#cite_note-2

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wildlife_smuggling_in_New_Zealand#cite_note-4

Target 15.8.1

Proportion of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species.

New Zealand has extensive measures in place to control or reduce the likelihood of new invasive species entering the country. The Biosecurity Act 1993 places some of the world's tightest restrictions on entry of foreign goods, and surpasses individual freedoms to allow for the management of biosecurity threats.

Nevertheless, invasive species are a huge problem in New Zealand. Invasive plants have extensively modified our ecosystems and often have few natural consumers or diseases in New Zealand. Our largest city, Auckland, is often referred to as the "weediest city in the world". Mammalian predators, especially rats, ferrets and stoats have decimated local populations of invertebrates and birds.



The loss of native vegetation has continued in recent years, with more than 70,000 hectares lost between 1996 and 2012 through conversion to pasture, plantation forestry, and urban areas.





SDG 16 – Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Whilst some government activity fits reasonably well under SDG targets and Indicators, there does not appear to have been any focused measurement of SDG 16 targets and indicators.

In some areas, such as anti-corruption, progress has been extensive. In other areas such as reducing violence there is a lot of activity with some success in crime reduction over time. However, violence against women and children remains at high levels. This report focusses on several areas: combating organised crime; public participation via the Open Government Partnership; combating violence; and access to information.

Target 16.4

By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime.

Government's Major Contribution or Leadership

There has been considerable activity to combat organised crime and reduce illicit financial flows, following on from the signing of international conventions. These activities can be retrofitted to sit under Goal 16 within Targets 16.3-16.7.

Government efforts are having a positive impact on reducing the flow of money, drugs and the power of organised crime in New Zealand. Not least are:

- the ratification by New Zealand of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and monitoring of observance in the upcoming Financial Action Taskforce Review;
- a suite of anti-corruption and organised crime legislation passed in 2016, including the implementation of anti-money laundering provisions for financial institutions, lawyers, accountants, real estate agents and sellers of high value goods;
- legislative progress towards more transparency in the beneficial ownership of companies and other legal entities which has placed a limitation on money laundering;
- a national anti-corruption programme developed by the Ministry of Justice, the Serious Fraud Office and other government agencies;

- increased resourcing for the Police Financial Crimes Group which has resulted in more focused activity around financial crimes.

The contribution of civil society in anti-corruption activities

Both Government and civil society organisations make valuable contributions to fighting corruption.

Some examples are:

Transparency International New Zealand (TINZ) advocates directly and provides information on many issues around corruption; undertakes an assessment of the integrity systems that, if working well and cohesively, reduce the environment for corrupt activities. TINZ has just released the New Zealand National Integrity System Assessment 2018 update (NIS assessment)¹ This notes progress on recommendations since its 2013 NIS assessment; tracks New Zealand's progress in implementing its Pledges to the 2016 London Anti-Corruption Summit; and analyses New Zealand's score and rating in the Corruption Perceptions Index.

Crimestoppers provides a confidential service for people to report crime and runs campaigns around topics such as targeting those who are responsible for receiving and dealing in stolen property.

Māori Wardens provide security at events and public places and provide support at

District Courts. They are supported by Te Puni Kokiri and the New Zealand Police.

Media, Academics and professional bodies regularly comment on, and investigate or research corruption. Some examples are: Victoria University of Wellington's involvement in the Trans-Tasman research project 'Whistling While They Work' study, looking at whistle-blowing processes in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors; Anne-Marie Brady researching a range of topics around China's strategic interests and NZ foreign policy. Journalist Nicky Hager's books exposed collusion or lack of transparency in several areas, including defence, politics and the environment, and the Law Society provides a representative voice for lawyers and for the public on Bills as they are introduced to Parliament and considered by select committees.

Target 16.7

Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels

The most important focused approach to representative decision-making is through the Open Government Partnership, and the development of National Action Plans.

"Since 2018, officials working on the OGP National Action Plan (NAP) commitments have been actively supported by Cabinet and there has been increased collaboration between

¹ New Zealand National Integrity System, Assessment - 2018 update, p34 <https://www.transparency.org.nz/national-integrity-system-assessment-2018-update/>

government agencies. This increased effort has led to greater originality, greater ambition and a greater number of NAP commitments. There are three times the number of commitments in NAP 3 compared with the high-level, first Action Plan. This offers much greater potential for more civil society and community participation.”

While the NAP 3 commitments are far more ambitious than in the earlier OGP Action Plans, there is potential for even further improvement.

“In most areas of policy formation, opportunities for public consultation could be better designed. It appears that government agencies are giving insufficient priority and funding to the development of expertise in and technology capacity and other resources required for public consultation that empowers people to speak up.”

A further area of focus could be on the work going on to increase diversity in public services and on public Boards.

Target 16.1

Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

The New Zealand murder rate sits at 1-1.1 per 100,000. Whilst the general crime rate is dropping, the murder rate remains of concern for a country with no active conflict. The statistics are particularly stark for New Zealand women and children and for Māori. It is clear that family violence and in particular violence against women and children is a serious

problem in New Zealand. The level of violence experienced by children is appalling.

Statistics from the New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse and from the New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey also show that the burden of violence and crime continues to fall unevenly on New Zealand citizens. Between 2007 and 2016 approximately one third of homicide victims were Māori.

In that same period 12 per cent of homicide victims were children under the age of five.

The level of personal violence experienced in New Zealand is shameful. Nineteen personal violence incidents happened for every 100 adults. More than one quarter of incidents relate to sexual assaults, and almost a third relate to other assaults and robberies. Almost 80,000 adults experienced more than 190,000 incidents of family violence over the last 12 months. The proportion of female victims of family violence (71%) more than twice exceeds that of male victims (29%). The number of family violence incidents per 100 adults among Māori is twice as high as among New Zealand Europeans.

In 2014, 24% of New Zealand women and 6% of men reported having experienced sexual assault in their lifetime. 17% of New Zealand women report having experienced sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime; 2% in the last 12 months. In 2016, there were 2,708 reported sexual offences against an adult over 16 years.

Māori women are more than twice as likely to be a victim of a violent interpersonal offence by an intimate partner as the general female population. Māori children are six times more likely to die from child abuse or neglect.

The New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey 2018 shows that although 90% of family violence victims were aware of support organisations, only 23% contacted services, for reasons such as wanting to handle the situation themselves and preferring privacy.

What is being done by government and civil society organisations

- Recent successive government policies have focused on cohort analysis and support and on lifting children and families out of poverty;
- The government and iwi are testing close collaboration to support the care of vulnerable tamariki within a whānau approach;
- There are multiple NGOs working to support families and reduce physical and sexual violence. These include Shine, Salvation Army, Shakti, Women's Refuges and Rape Crisis, Family Works, Kidsline, Youthline, Atu-Mai, Common Ground, the Harbour, Dear Em, Voyce, Mana Ririki, the Backbone Collective, Korowai Tumanako, Māori Women's Welfare League, the National Council of Women, and Hohou Te Rongo Kahukura.

While a number of past strategies have attempted to address these extreme levels of violence, the recently announced Joint Venture brings together ten

government agencies to work together in new ways to ensure an effective, whole-of-government response to reduce family violence, sexual violence and violence within whānau. A high level Māori roopu, and planned links with communities and iwi provide some hope for much needed change.

Recommendations

- 1** Better access to plain and multi-language resources about corruption, fraud and bribery, increased understanding of civics and greater public participation.
- 2** Higher expectations of business and the not for profit sector to encourage and actively embed integrity frameworks.





SDG 17 – Partnership for the Goals

New Zealand's contribution to the global partnership for sustainable development has strengthened recently. Yet, there is much room for more improvement if New Zealand is to fulfil its commitments under SDG17, and to the SDGs in general.

Multi-stakeholder Partnerships and Leadership

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were focussed on high income countries, like New Zealand and the rest of the OECD providing Overseas Development Assistance to support low income countries to achieve greater progress between 2000 and 2015.

The SDGs, however, provide a universal vision and framework for all countries. They should now be as important in Kaikohe as in Kiribati.

There is more that the New Zealand government can do to build multi-stakeholder partnerships that bring government, civil society, the private sector, and others, together to achieve the SDGs, both at home and internationally. The recent 'well-being' budget approaches key issues, such as child poverty and health, in a holistic way, requiring different government agencies to co-operate. Yet, the important roles of the private sector and civil society have not, at this stage, been included in this joined-up approach to addressing particular SDGs.

The survey carried out for this report indicates very little engagement between government and civil society in relation to achieving the SDGs in New Zealand, other than between NGOs working internationally, which will generally have a relationship with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT). Following a review in 2018 that relationship is also currently going through considerable change.

This lack of engagement is not surprising given that there is little obvious government attention paid to the SDGs within New Zealand. MFAT has been left with the role of coordinating the SDGs, although their achievement within New Zealand, as part of a universal agenda for all countries, is understandably not this ministry's priority. Civil society calls on the government to appoint a Minister for the SDGs and to place responsibility for the SDGs in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Only then will the SDGs gain cross-societal attention through the kinds of multi-stakeholder partnerships envisaged in SDG 17, and which are required in order to achieve the holistic, ambitious 2030 Agenda.

Financing for Development

New Zealand's contribution to financing the SDGs beyond New Zealand's borders is not generous. We sit at 0.28 per cent of Gross National Income for our Overseas Development Assistance. This is an increase from 2015, when New Zealand's percentage of GNI to ODA was 0.23%. Yet, we have a long way to go to achieve our agreed 0.7% of GNI to ODA. The Minister for Foreign Affairs has stated he wants to get New Zealand to 0.35 percent by 2024, but this is not government policy and there is no clear timeframe.

New Zealand provides some support for domestic resource mobilisation in partner countries, including tax reform and making remittance-sending more efficient. We could do more in this area.

New Zealand's focus for its ODA is the Pacific region, with approximately 60 percent of all ODA going to the Pacific. This means New Zealand gives below the ODA targets for least-developed countries. While there are good reasons for New Zealand to focus predominantly on the Pacific, a review of its ODA for its focus on poverty reduction would enable a clearer assessment of where New Zealand may be able to refocus its efforts to achieve the SDGs, both across the Pacific and beyond.

Violence against children (particularly corporal punishment, verbal aggression and sexual abuse) is one of the most pressing human rights issues in the Pacific, with data indicating that about four in every five children aged 2-14 experience some form of violent discipline at home

(Source: Know Violence in Childhood (2017): Ending Violence in Childhood. Global Report 2017).

Violence at school is also disproportionately high with about one in every two students between 13 to 15 years reporting being bullied, involved in physical fights, or experiencing severe injuries as a result of school violence. (Source: UNICEF (2018): An Everyday Lesson: #ENDviolence in Schools).

Governments have a role to play in reducing violence against children. Yet, despite legislative and policy frameworks in many Pacific countries, most governments do not prioritise ending violence. Law enforcement and services for children are often under-resourced and harmful social norms remain unaddressed. As a result, it is extremely difficult for boys and girls to report violence, secure protection and access quality response services.

Ending violence against children and promoting their rights to safety and protection has not been a priority; in 2017 only a tiny fraction of ODA (less than 1 per cent) was spent on activities that are targeted at ending violence against children.

Violence against women remains high with some Pacific countries having some of the highest rates in the Asia-Pacific, and investing in women's and girls' sexual and reproductive health, and violence prevention is key. New Zealand's NGOs and government can play key partnership roles with Pacific governments and NGOs in order to support action on these longstanding issues.

Policy Coherence for Development

New Zealand has made good headway in expanding its policy coherence for development, with long-term work to improve fisheries management and Pacific Island Countries' benefits from this, and the Regional Seasonal Employers' scheme that allows people from the Pacific and Asia to undertake temporary horticulture work in New Zealand, together with work to improve the ease of remittance transfer.

Five new principles underpin New Zealand's engagement in the Pacific region (referred to as the 'Pacific Reset'): understanding, friendship, mutual benefit, collective ambition and sustainability. These highlight the government's commitment to building meaningful partnerships and to ensuring that New Zealand policy settings contribute their maximum to achieving the SDGs beyond our borders.

Trade

In 2018, the government launched a 'Trade for All' consultation, to involve New Zealanders in a discussion about New Zealand's trade policy. Several principles underpin the government's approach to trade, including upholding the rules-based global order, preference for multilateral trade agreements, and ensuring that trade protects the rights of indigenous people, labour rights, women's rights, and the environment. New Zealand has launched an initiative at the WTO to phase-out fossil fuels and to reform fisheries subsidies, two things that will have a positive impact on SDG achievement globally.

PACER Plus is a trade agreement that was touted as a 'development' trade agreement. However, it is not quite clear what this means beyond a commitment by the New Zealand government to spend 20% of its Official Development Assistance on assisting countries to implement PACER Plus. There are currently eleven signatories (Australia, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu), which in addition to signing PACER Plus, signed an accompanying Labour Mobility Arrangement. There is no Aid for Trade Strategy in existence, and civil society calls on the government to devise one, including adjustment assistance that enables countries to protect their environment and their people from the negative impacts of trade liberalisation.

Non-State Actors

In 2018 Victoria University of Wellington hosted the first New Zealand SDG Summit, with a wide range of predominantly private sector organisations presenting on their work to achieve the SDGs. This year, the Auckland University of Technology will host this Summit.

In terms of contributing beyond New Zealand's borders to assist other countries to achieve the SDGs, there is a strong international development community in New Zealand. The umbrella body – the Council for International Development – conducts an annual survey of its members (approximately 35) ([here](#)). The 2017 survey shows that these organisations generated NZ\$215 million dollars for international development efforts in 70 countries across the world. In terms of the SDGs, the sector has expanded its focus on the SDGs, to 87 percent of organisations focusing their work on the SDGs, particularly in areas of health and well-being, education, children and young people, and decent work and economic growth.

These civil society organisations are growing partnerships among themselves, but also with the private sector and other government agencies. Approximately 70% of respondents to the CID survey had a partnership with a private sector organisation, including for funding or in-kind support, design work or delivery of activities. Highlighting the reciprocal nature of these partnerships, the private sector organisations also utilised CID

member expertise and local networks. While CID members' relationships with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade are strong, 11% of them also had partnerships with other government departments, 16% with local New Zealand governments, 44% with a Crown Research Institute or academic institution, and 29% with partner country governments (p. 6).

Conclusion

New Zealand's contribution to the global SDG partnership is mixed. New action with a new government in late 2017 has seen trade revitalised with a focus on several SDGs, even if not in name. While New Zealand's ODA is increasing, it must do more to meet its commitments and contribute its fair share to financing the SDGs, and supporting domestic resource mobilisation. It must review its ODA for its poverty focus and develop an Aid for Trade strategy. The government is doing well on policy coherence for development, and should not lose focus on this but look for ways to fully implement the Pacific Reset principles, particularly mutual benefit and collective ambition. While there is a need for concerted action in prioritising the SDGs and supporting multi-stakeholder partnerships, there is a great deal of action underway in the non-state sector's contribution to the SDGs. The government needs to show leadership on the SDGs by establishing an SDG ministerial portfolio and placing responsibility for the government's SDG response within DPMC.

SDG 17.16

Multi stakeholder partnerships that mobilise and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources to support the achievement of the SDGs in all countries.

SDG 17.17

Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships.

Interview with Frances Manwaring: Moxie

Frances, Moxie is a sponsor for the SDG Summit in Auckland in September and some of your clients are NGOs , busy putting the SDGs into action – here or in the Pacific with partners – how did all this come about?

“My business has been involved in the sustainability discussion for many years, as part of our social responsibility. When John and I took over Moxie, we embraced a philosophy of “design for good”.

For many years, Moxie published research about the preferences of people seeking a lifestyle of health and sustainability (LOHAS) to help our clients design sustainable products and services for this emerging market.

Looking at the MDGs (Millennium Development Goals) and moving into the SDGs, we felt we had to ensure our offer was still relevant.

We considered the 17 SDGs in terms of our own business and our suppliers, making sure we and they were ecofriendly – all the things you would expect.

But we wanted to take it further. In the past, we'd worked at triple bottom line reporting and supporting companies into corporate social responsibility strategies. We've always used design thinking to help people build brand strategy and their key messages, something we realised could also be applied to the SDGs. We wanted to apply this experience in the SDG context for our clients as well. We were particularly interested in the social inquiry sphere, in SDG 17 (partnership) and 5 (gender) and 8 (sustainable, inclusive economic growth, employment and decent work for all).

For us, ultimately it's not so much about the reporting and cross referencing with targets and indicators but really thinking about it in a holistic way. We wanted to exemplify the feeling of leaving no-one behind. If we can't change enough in 10 years, what happens then-rising temperatures, lack of oxygen in the oceans-the list goes on, but often people still don't know how much is happening and what it will mean.

I think more and more SMEs have a social conscience, they're supportive of the social enterprise model-but it can be hard to do it successfully.

As Managing Director of a small creative agency, I see our role very strongly as being to use our skills to amplify the work of others so that we can help shape the world we want to see.”

Do you have any specifics?

“We do a lot of work with charities and NGOs . We’re currently supporting the Wellington City Mission in finding ways of making Wellingtonians more aware of the critical support programmes they run for all ages and stages. We talk a lot about ‘brand perception’ – that is the ideal perception you would like your audiences to have. In building brand strategies we usually start with research to understand what the public actually do perceive and then find ways to bridge the gap between the desired and actual states. As with many other charities, The Mission has high name recognition but that doesn’t necessarily translate into a full understanding of what they actually do and we are seeking to change this. It’s interesting that many people believe they run the region’s ‘soup kitchens’. They don’t! They do have a dynamic and welcoming drop in centre with a café. If more people fully understand the great work they do, it’s likely to result in more revenue so they can do more great work. The ultimate virtuous circle. Coming back to SDG thinking, while The Mission don’t think in terms of the SDG framework, I’d say they absolutely exemplify many of its underlying principles and their work de facto encompasses many of the SDGs.

Another, VSA, offered a wonderful opportunity to frame language that could effectively communicate some great work

– at its core, what we do is to take the values of an organisation and help to translate that into an emotional connection with its audiences. The Moxie/VSA partnership was a great example of SDG17 in play, resulting in a campaigning slogan “people, transforming lives” which caught the essence of their work . The concept of co-creation is a relatively new one in our vocabulary. I really love this because I’ve always believed that magic happens when we humans come together with open minds. SDG 17 implementing the the SDGs through multi-stakeholder partnerships.”

And the Little Suns – how did that fit in?

“Working “ for good” is not only for profit – over the years we’ve done a range of pro bono work for good causes. Little Sun is an amazing social enterprise John discovered when he was in London in 2012 at the time of its launch at the Tate Modern. It was founded by artist Olafur Eliason and engineer Frederik Ottesen from Finland. Their mission was to provide universal, safe and affordable energy. The great thing about the Little Sun lamp is that it’s a work of art in its own right. There are many solar powered lamps with high specs, but Little Sun is one people absolutely love. The aim is to sell as many as possible in high income countries at full retail price, so they can sell the lamps at locally affordable prices in off-grid communities in Sub Saharan Africa.

They do this via the small businesses that they help set up and support, creating local jobs and sustainable micro businesses. Since they started, they've transformed more than 2million lives.

Little Sun is a Berlin-based operation and John approached the founders to see if we could represent them in New Zealand. They were delighted. Our aim was not only to sell as many as we could, but also to see if we could bring Little Sun to the Pacific Region. We succeeded in getting Little Suns to a school in Myanmar and we helped set up a distributorship in the Solomon Islands via a contact we made when we took Little Sun to the Wellington Lux Festival."



Moxie Communications

Moxie is a Wellington-based creative agency: designers, strategists and brand specialists, working for more than 15 years with people and organisations who make a difference everyday. Their mission is to design for good, to create effective and enduring visual communications, supported by a wish to influence in a practical way.

"Our clients include policy-makers, regulators, charities, innovators, activists, social businesses and people who produce commercially sustainable products and services. The common denominator is that they are contributing to the development of liveable communities where people can lead happier, healthier and more fulfilling lives in ways that are kind to our planet."

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The missing SDG? A youth perspective

There are several issues captured by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are repeatedly shown to be of significance to young people in New Zealand. These are climate change, mental health and inclusion. Attempts by young people to address these issues demonstrate the varied, contemporary methods young people are using to engage with the SDGs. Despite this there remain barriers for young people to participate in progress towards the SDGs. These include exclusion and lack of representation in formal decision making bodies and a lack of civics education.

The broad issue of climate change relates directly to goals 12, 13, 14 and 15. Young people in New Zealand have taken varied action to address this, including the School strike for climate NZ. Students in New Zealand have been part of the global movement of school strikes on March 15th and May 24th. Alongside striking, young people have arranged meetings with officials and have a list of demands including declaring a climate emergency and a legal enforceable plan to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2040³. The organisers of the strike are aged 8-18. Many of them have never met but are united by their concern for the planet⁴. The lists of demands are captured in an open source cloud stored document so that anyone can contribute to and distribute the document.

The organisers plan their work through a free video calling and messaging service with different channels/groups for different work streams. National organiser Sophie Handford says the use of technology creates time and cost flexibility which allowed for the inclusion of people from more locations and ages⁵. The group has resources on their website for individuals to organise a strike, letter templates to schools or politicians and promotion material. This reflects the focus of many youth movements on empowering and including individuals.

Young people are underrepresented in central and local government and thus their concerns are not reflected in traditional decision making. This is even often more so for rangatahi Māori who

² <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Vb4voJUHwmPvul75AHlBw7Qolo6oaviCl8U9HTYIzhs/edit>

³ <https://www.schoolstrike4climatenz.com/about>

⁴ Handford, S., Personal Communication, June 2, 2019

don't recognise themselves in services developed for them. Equipping rangatahi Māori with the tools and permission to be themselves in their own setting at their own pace is crucial for engagement of any kind. Following the May 24th strike New Zealand's current youngest member of parliament, Chloe Swarbrick, introduced a motion to declare a climate emergency that failed in the house⁶. Further, only 60 of the 78 local councils in New Zealand in 2019 signed a 'Climate Declaration' which acknowledged the challenge of climate change, and outlined key commitments by council in response to climate change⁷.

Another primary concern for young people in New Zealand is the current mental health crisis. This relates directly to goal 3. A series of actions have been taken by the government to address these concerns. The most significant being the government commissioned Mental health inquiry. The panel received 5,000 submissions and further held hundreds of meetings⁸.

Chapter 2.8 of the report outlines findings regarding young people. It highlights regarding young people it highlights that the challenges and barriers young people face to maintain good mental health are more complex than ever, including from the perspective of parents,

"Parents spoke of their deep concerns about bullying and alcohol abuse, which link to youth suicide, about the misuse of the Internet, including pornography and harmful sexual images, and about social media, also linked to bullying and poor social skills development."⁹

The government has accepted 38 out of the 40 recommendation from the report and invested 1.9 billion NZD in mental health in the first wellbeing budget¹⁰.

The need to have social and education approaches was also highlighted in the report.

"Students and teachers highlighted the importance of learning about mental health in schools and of helping young children develop resilience and learn how to regulate their emotions."¹¹

Such a need was already recognised by many young people who have been working at the 'grassroots' level to change the stigma related to mental health and improve social and cultural factors. The huge demand for mental health resources in small towns across our country that are significantly under-resourced is of concern.

⁵ https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/hansard-debates/rhr/combined/HansDeb_20190528_20190528_04

⁶ http://img.scoop.co.nz/media/pdfs/1707/Climate_Change_Declaration_Final.pdf

Local government Nz (2019). Local Government Leaders' Climate Change Declaration 2019

⁸ <https://mentalhealth.inquiry.govt.nz/inquiry-report/he-ara-oranga/chapter-1-the-inquiry/1-3-how-we-went-about-our-work/>

1.3. How we went about our work, He Ara Oranga The Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction. Wellington: Government printer.

⁹ <https://mentalhealth.inquiry.govt.nz/inquiry-report/he-ara-oranga/chapter-2-what-we-heard-the-voices-of-the-people/2-8-children-and-young-people/>

¹⁰ <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/taking-mental-health-seriously>

¹¹ <https://mentalhealth.inquiry.govt.nz/inquiry-report/he-ara-oranga/chapter-2-what-we-heard-the-voices-of-the-people/2-8-children-and-young-people/>

“Students and teachers highlighted the importance of learning about mental health in schools and of helping young children develop resilience and learn how to regulate their emotions.”



Often this requires those in need to travel further for expert help, to places that are not open outside of work hours and are not flexible enough to come to deliver where the need is. Small towns that border District Health Boards are particularly vulnerable.

Examples include, *Voices of Hope* a not for profit established by two young women to create multimedia content profiling the stories of those who have recovered from mental illness. It does so to provide hope to those dealing with mental illness by promoting wellbeing and empowering them in reaching out for help¹².

Additionally, Tu Kotahi created by Ezekiel Raui. Tu Kotahi was funded by the government to pilot in four schools. It aims to support wellbeing and resilience training for young people. Supporting them to work with professionals and support each other to navigate wellbeing challenges¹³. These examples again highlight the diverse measures young people are taking to progress the SDGs.

Beyond political action, being involved in government programs, starting not for profits and utilising media campaigns, young people play a large role in New Zealand's social enterprise sector and in turn its role in progress towards the SDGs. Like much of the world New Zealand has seen an increase in interest and development of its 'social enterprise sector'¹⁴. There are over 3500 social enterprises in NZ and in 2017

New Zealand hosted the social enterprise world forum. A 2012 report by DIA showed that 'young people' were the second biggest beneficiaries of social enterprises operating in NZ, this was second only to the families of whānau which probably also includes a large impact on young people.

For young people, social enterprises are an appealing way to address social challenges and progress the SDGs. Dignity is a social enterprise that provides women sanitary products through a buy one give model. 'Dignity' partners with corporate organisations that pay for sanitary products to be in their office bathrooms and cover the cost of the equivalent sanitary products for young women in schools. Their work directly impacts on goals 4, 5 and 10. Jacinta Gulasekharam Dignity co-founder says, being a social enterprise allows her business to be sustainable as well as impact driven.

Despite this young people in New Zealand still face many challenges to engaging with and progressing the SDGs. Specifically, these include the lack of civics education and lack of inclusion in traditional decision making bodies.

At present, the civics education in the curriculum sits under 'social studies' a core subject only at year 9-10.

¹² <https://www.thevoicesofhope.org/>

¹³ <https://www.education.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Ministry/Information-releases/2019-releases/Tu-Kotahi-pilot-programme-1174813.pdf>

¹⁴ <http://www.todd.foundation.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2009/01/Social-enterprise-and-social-finance-in-NZ-with-case-studies.pdf>

During these years, a student should learn “how systems of government in New Zealand operate and affect people’s lives and how they compare with another system”. However, there is high level of autonomy for individual schools, and how they teach the curriculum and several factors can affect the extent of achieving such learning outcomes. For example, National Standards emphasise numeracy and literacy meaning resources are often invested in these areas of study rather than topics such as civics education. The current government has remove national standards which may support a cultural shift to prioritising the teaching of civics. However current curriculum statements do not reference international law or politics or support learning about instruments such as the SDGs.

The government has piloted the development of a ‘School Leavers Tool Kit’ designed to help schools provide opportunities for their students to become financially capable, learn about civics and how government works and develop key workplace competencies to try and address the education gaps in the current curriculum.

Young people are making diverse and innovative progress to many SDGs, especially those that relate to climate change and mental health/wellbeing. Young people still face significant barrier to contributing to progress towards the SDGs due to a lack of civics education preventing learning and engagement and continued barriers to participating in formal decision making mechanisms.

The average age of a member of parliament in 2017 was 49 and the average age of a local government elected member was 39. There are many barriers that prevent young people participating in such process and institutions. Taking only one example, the role of a counsellor is generally only 20 hour a week. However, due to inconsistent meeting and work hours it is nearly impossible to maintain an additional part time job. Attempts have been made to improve representation of young people, for example the establishment of a Young Elected Member’s Committee within Local Government New Zealand.

Case Study

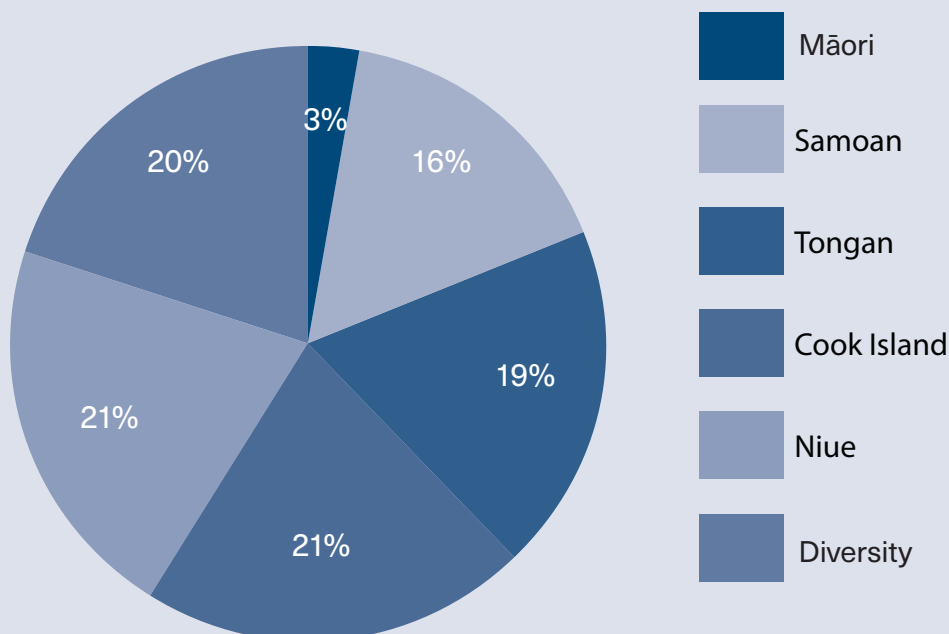
Until young people feel heard, valued, respected and understood, very little progress will be made.

Rangatahi Māori also want to see their own culture reflected in particular. Often it is a “trade off”, to put themselves in situations where they know they will learn something but respect or even acknowledgment of culture is likely to be absent. As hapū Māori have different ways of exercising their rangatiratanga so too do Pacific whānau. A common cry from Pacific people is the need for respect for the many islands that make up the Pacific Islands. Polyfest was first created by teachers and students at Hillary college, Otara, in 1976.

It was created to showcase the students’ heritage and encourage students’ pride in their cultural identity.

In doing this, they bring their cultures together in one place. This gives people a chance to understand another culture other than their own. Polyfest is able to do this by creating an environment where you are able to learn and embrace cultures that surround you, by watching various performances on the many stages. This helps us to learn and understand other cultures, making it easier to relate and get along with others. The more knowledge that people have, helps them not to be naive or unconfident in a social situation. Looking at the big picture, Polyfest is trying to create unity, and it attracts over 90,000 visitors over the four days.

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