

I AM AUCKLAND

An Auckland-wide strategic action plan
for children and young people

STATUS REPORT 2017



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FOREWORD

It is with great enthusiasm and anticipation that I write this foreword for the *I Am Auckland* Status Report.

There are more than 500,000 children and young people currently living in Auckland, over a third of our population. This growing group of children and young people needs a city in which there are opportunities and environments that match their enormous potential.

As a dedicated group of young people, the Youth Advisory Panel has ensured that voices of young people have been heard throughout Auckland Council. We have made certain that young people have a say on council plans, policies and by-laws and that regional youth issues are brought to the council's attention to ensure action for positive change.

In particular, three years ago the Youth Advisory Panel assisted Auckland Council to develop *I Am Auckland*, a strategic action plan for Auckland's children and young people. Engaging with young people across the region we learned that some young Aucklanders are facing serious challenges and issues that cannot be ignored. This motivated us to take *I Am Auckland* very seriously, striving to make the voices of these children and young people heard in order to realise their dreams for Auckland and to address the challenges they face.

Working towards the seven goals of *I Am Auckland* has been our most dedicated task and the one in which we take the most pride. These goals mean a lot to us as panel members, but more importantly they carry the aspirations of Auckland's children and young people.

The Youth Advisory Panel welcomes this progress update of *I Am Auckland*, and sees it as an opportunity for all of us to reaffirm our commitment to children and young people. We are hopeful that *I Am Auckland* will continue to be used as a guide to direct the work of the council family to support children and young people.

May we be responsible in the guardianship of our children and young people. May we uphold their mana and maintain their mauri-ora today and in the future.



Flora Apulu
FORMER CHAIRPERSON,
YOUTH ADVISORY PANEL



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Auckland Council adopted *I Am Auckland* in 2013 as its strategic action plan for children and young people. Three years on, this report reflects on the key achievements of Auckland Council and its council-controlled organisations (CCOs). It also looks toward potential next steps to continue delivering positive outcomes for Auckland's children and young people.

A THIRD OF AUCKLAND'S POPULATION ARE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The 2013 New Zealand Census showed that Auckland continues to be a young city. Over a third of Auckland's population is under 24 years of age. The 'Southern Initiative' area is home to nearly a quarter of Auckland's children and young people and also has the highest proportions of children and young people.

MOST ARE DOING WELL BUT SOME CONTINUE TO FACE HARDSHIP AND OUTCOME DISPARITIES

Overall, there have been some positive trends for Auckland's children and young people. There have been improvements in education outcomes, early childhood education (ECE) participation and a general reduction in the proportion of youth who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). However, there are still challenges for many, including youth

unemployment and significant educational and employment disparities for Māori and Pacific children and young people.

THE COUNCIL IS DOING LOTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE BUT THERE ARE SOME GAPS

A lot of inspiring and valuable activity has been undertaken over the last three years that aligns with and contributes to achieving the seven goals of *I Am Auckland* (refer to section 1.3 *I Am Auckland* goals and action areas).

Many council groups and CCOs are delivering initiatives, programmes, plans and policies that contribute toward more than one goal. A few deliver on three or more.

Some parts of the council family have explicitly aligned their strategic documents to *I Am Auckland* or intentionally articulated actions for children and young people that link to achieving one or more of the seven goals.

Where this is occurring, there are more likely to be activities focused on positive outcomes for children and young people.

KEY FINDINGS ON THE COUNCIL FAMILY'S ACTIVITIES:

- The stocktake identified over two-hundred discrete actions, policies or programmes explicitly focused on children and young people.



- Fourteen out of 64 new council-wide policies, plans and strategies have specifically referenced *I Am Auckland* and a majority of the rest have statements that align with at least one of the seven goals.
- One CCO Statement of Intent specifically references *I Am Auckland*.
- There has been intentional co-design, co-leading and robust engagement with children and young people.
- Most council family activity is focused on Goals 4 and 6 of *I Am Auckland*:
 - o Goal 4: "I am given equal opportunities to succeed and have a fair go"
 - o Goal 6: "Auckland is my playground".

These goals include action areas relating to education, connecting with work, skills development, sport, recreation, arts and culture. All of these are key areas of service delivery for the council.

- Goal 7 "Rangatahi tū rangatira (All Rangatahi Will Thrive)" had the fewest aligned activities. This goal includes action areas relating to rangatahi leadership and co-development of action with tamariki and rangatahi.

COUNCIL FAMILY DELIVERS FANTASTIC CHILD AND YOUTH OUTCOMES

The case studies in this report showcase some of the child and youth best practice occurring at the council. In addition, it includes seven snapshots that profile the breadth of good or promising practice happening in each of the goal areas of *I Am Auckland*.

EXAMPLES OF THIS SUCCESS ARE:

- **Dare to Explore / Kia Māia te Whai** - Auckland Libraries' summer reading programme
- **Career Pathways** - council's internal youth recruitment programme

- **Auckland is my Playground** - council's Young Peoples' Sport and Recreation Implementation Plan
- **Youth Advisory Panel** – council's formal mechanism to receive regular advice from young people
- **JobFest** – a free one day youth employment event
- **Enviroschools** – an environmental education programme in schools that supports implementation of sustainability initiatives.

Each of these examples has unique circumstances and attributes that have contributed to its success. There are also some critical success factors that many of these initiatives share.

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS INCLUDE:

- intentional co-design or robust engagement with young people
- a collaborative approach that engages with a range of internal and external stakeholders, businesses, iwi, schools and community groups
- well-structured programmes with clear processes, good planning and adequate resources
- strong feedback and evaluation methods
- political and senior leadership support
- flexibility to adapt to particular circumstances
- a clear purpose and objectives
- strong guiding principles underpinning the approach and delivery.

These factors could be used to inform future initiatives and project development.



LIMITED EVALUATION OF I AM AUCKLAND

I Am Auckland is linked to the long-term, aspirational targets of the Auckland Plan. The Auckland Plan targets are important for understanding how outcomes for young people are improving over the long-term but they do not provide insight on short-term progress towards meeting the goals of *I Am Auckland*. Other than these targets, there are no dedicated tools for measuring, monitoring or evaluating *I Am Auckland*.

Where council groups independently measure and monitor the progress of their child and youth activities, measurement is mainly focused on outputs such as participation numbers, hours of utilisation or numbers of events. Occasionally, feedback is collected to measure the quality of delivery. Rarely are initiatives measured to assess their effectiveness (i.e. how well the initiative is achieving its intended outcome). There is even less evaluation over time to investigate the long-term impact of these initiatives.

KEY EVALUATION FINDINGS:

- There is an overall positive trend in the Auckland Plan targets that specifically identify outcomes for children and young people.
- Measurement of the council family's child and youth focused activities includes:
 - o 45 per cent of activities have been measured in some way
 - o 10 per cent of activities have had their outcomes or the quality of outputs measured.
- There are currently no dedicated measurement frameworks or tools for evaluating *I Am Auckland*.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUTURE ACTION

Overall, the council family is delivering a significant amount for children and young people, with much of this activity aligned to the goals of *I Am Auckland*. However, there are opportunities for improvement and areas where the council could place a greater focus and take further action.

GREATER FOCUS ON ACHIEVING GOAL 7:

▷ "RANGATAHI TŪ RANGATIRA"

Goal 7 "Rangatahi tū rangatira" had the fewest initiatives, strategic documents, local board plans or funding criteria aligned with it. Achieving Goal 7 requires renewed focus to increase rangatahi leadership and co-development of action with tamariki and rangatahi. This renewed focus could take the form of discrete actions, but could also be woven throughout activities by intentionally bringing young Māori into planning, design and leadership processes.

▷ CONTINUED FOCUS ON AREAS WITH HIGH NUMBERS OF YOUNG PEOPLE, PARTICULARLY THE SOUTH

Strategic focus needs to be maintained in areas of the city with high numbers and proportions of young people, particularly the Southern Initiative area which is home to nearly a quarter of Auckland's children and young people.

▷ FOCUS ON EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES FOR MĀORI AND PACIFIC YOUNG PEOPLE

Māori and Pacific young people make up more than a third of Auckland's young people and continue to experience higher levels of disparity in education and employment outcomes than others. There needs to be increased strategic focus in these areas on creating positive outcomes for Māori and Pacific young people.

▷ IMPROVE EVALUATION MECHANISMS AND DEVELOP AN EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

To better understand how well the council family is delivering on the vision of *I Am Auckland*, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms need to be built into individual project design and into the assessment process of the plan overall. One possibility for better assessment could include the creation of an *I Am Auckland* evaluation framework with outcome measures that more closely link to activities.

▷ REFINE AND DEVELOP GOOD PRACTICE

The critical success factors outlined in Part Two of this report can be used as principles to inform and refine project development in the future. Paramount among these factors is the importance of co-design and co-leadership with young people. It will be important to grow the gains made in this area and to expand engagement with children and young people in planning, action and decision making.

▷ CONTINUE TO INTENTIONALLY ALIGN TO *I AM AUCKLAND*

In some parts of the council family there has been good strategic alignment to *I Am Auckland*, but this could be enhanced. Where council groups have aligned their strategic documents to *I Am Auckland*, they often have intentional actions to enable positive outcomes for children and young people.





INTRODUCTION

In 2011, more than 6000 children and young people shared their hopes, dreams and aspirations for their future with Auckland Council. Their insights became the foundation of *I Am Auckland*, the council's strategic action plan for children and young people.

Children and young people are the future of Auckland and the first priority of Auckland Council. The plan is part of council's strategic commitment to ensure all children and young people are able to reach their full potential. It outlines the specific areas where the council has committed to take action.

Since the adoption of *I Am Auckland* in 2013, the wider council family (made up of Auckland Council and Council-controlled organisations) has been working hard to make positive changes in the lives of Auckland's children and young people.

This status report reflects on what has happened since the plan was adopted.

PART ONE – CURRENT STATE

Part One - Current State provides an overview of the lives of children and young people in Auckland and reflects on the status of child and youth focused activities undertaken by the council family.

PART TWO - MAKING IT HAPPEN

Part Two - Making it Happen highlights some of the council family's best practice, including several case studies and snapshots profiling key achievements that have delivered on the seven goals of *I Am Auckland*.

The strategic action plan is intended as a living document, able to evolve over time. This report proposes how we can continue to embed *I Am Auckland* into the council family's work, and further develop good practice. This will enable the council family to continue to deliver on the aspirations of young Aucklanders, and fully realise the goals of *I Am Auckland*.



1 PART ONE – CURRENT STATE

1.1 METHODOLOGY

The purpose of this status report is to reflect on how *I Am Auckland* is being implemented, gain insights to enhance future delivery and provide evidence for better future planning.

A mixed-method approach was adopted to understand what has been happening since the development of *I Am Auckland* in 2013.

This included:

- a stocktake of all children and youth (0-24 years) focused activities undertaken by the council family
- a desktop exercise evaluating how strategic documents align with *I Am Auckland*.

There was also a series of stakeholder engagements, including:

- a workshop to identify indicators of best practice in local government children and youth focused activity in Auckland
- a workshop to assess the impact of implementation of *I Am Auckland*
- in-depth semi-structured face-to-face interviews with staff and Youth Advisory Panel members
- two surveys, one with staff and one with local youth board representatives, to assess the adoption of *I Am Auckland* and their observations of any culture shift to meet the goals of *I Am Auckland*.

1.2 PROFILE OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN AUCKLAND

Key take-outs:

- Auckland is a young and diverse city, and the number of children and young people is expected to grow further over the next twenty years.
- Many of our children and young people are doing well and thriving, although a significant proportion live in areas of socio-economic deprivation.
- Some educational and employment outcomes are improving, but there are still disparities in outcomes for Māori and Pacific young people.

This section provides an overview of Auckland's child and youth population from birth to 24 years of age. It provides a summary of who they are, where they live and insight into how they are doing in key areas of education, employment, health and wellbeing. It summarises information from RIMU's July 2016 technical report, *A Profile of Children and Young People in Auckland*. This information provides a backdrop to inform future work for *I Am Auckland*.

Figure 1: Population heat map of children (0 - 14 years) for Auckland's Urban Area (2013)

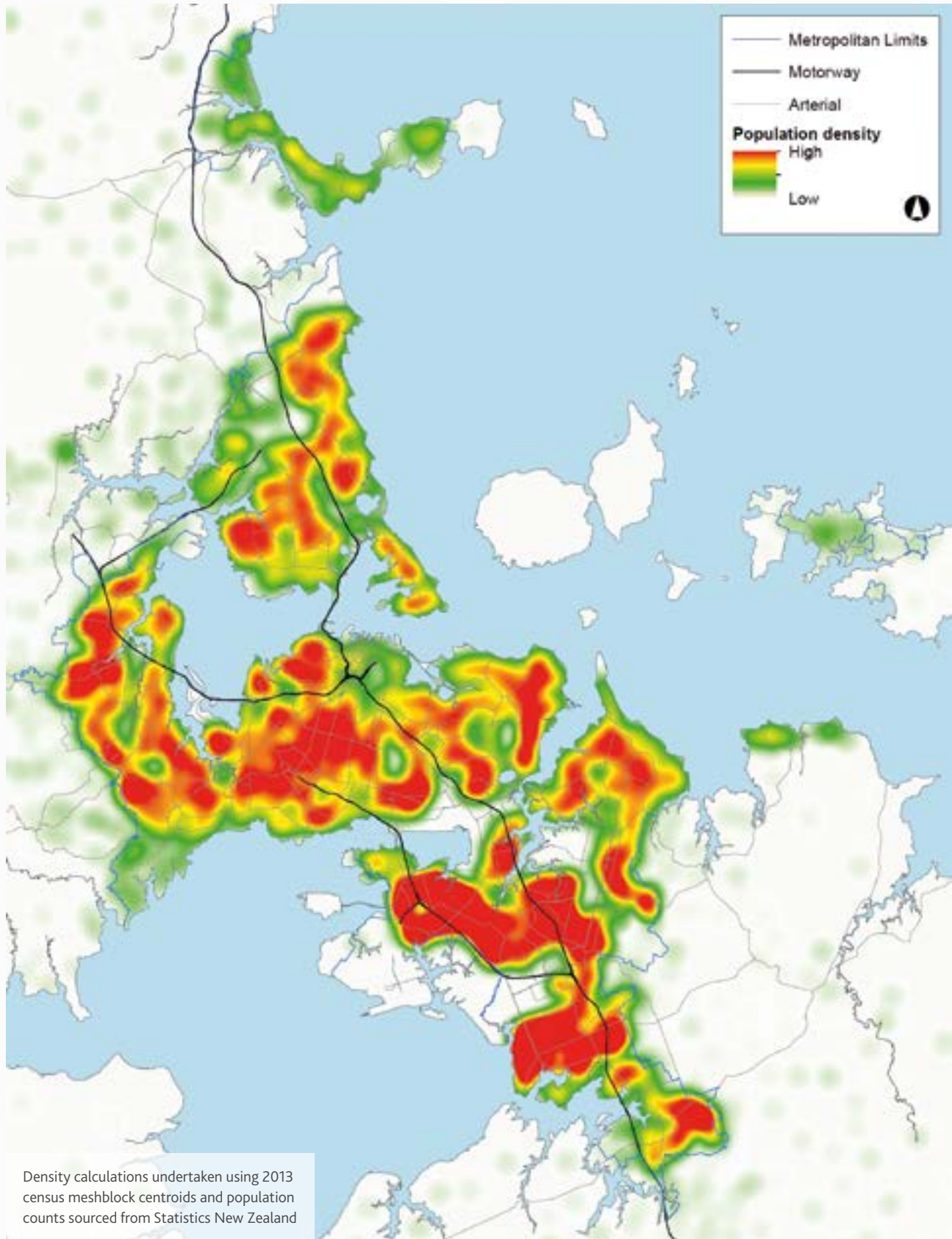
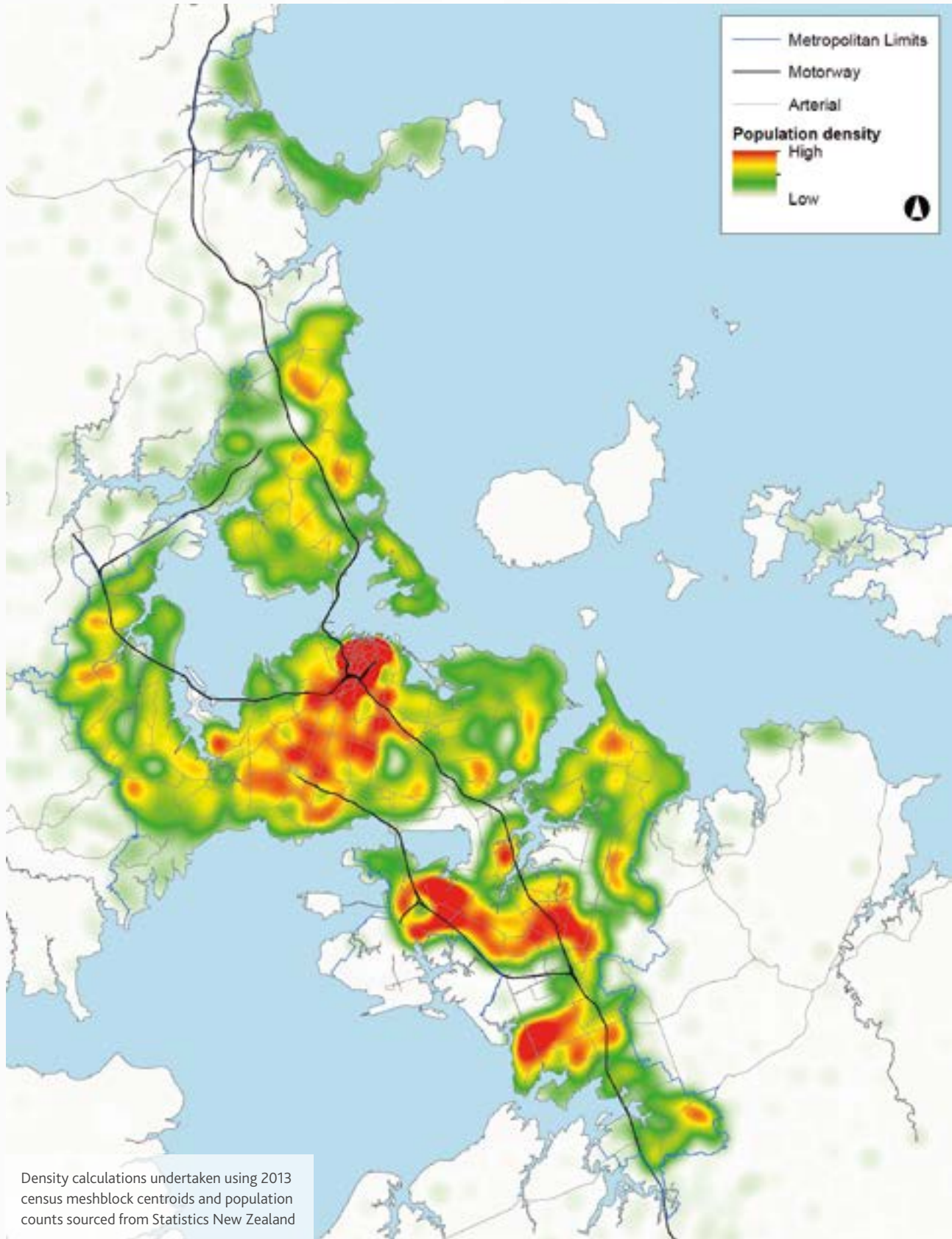


Figure 2: Population heat map of young people (15-24 years) for Auckland's Urban Area (2013)



THERE ARE MORE THAN HALF A MILLION CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN AUCKLAND

A third of all children and young people in New Zealand live in Auckland. The 2013 Census counted 507,495 children and young people, an increase of 19,875 since 2006. Growth was particularly strong in children aged 0 to 4 years (8.8%) and youth aged 20 to 24 years (9.2%).

Children and young people represent over a third of Auckland's population (35.9% in 2013). Statistics New Zealand's projections (medium series) suggest that the number of children and young people will continue to increase over the next twenty years by another 26.5 per cent, but the proportion of children and young people will decrease in line with population ageing.¹

THE HIGHEST PROPORTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE LIVE IN THE SOUTHERN INITIATIVE AREA

Children and young people live in every area of Auckland, but some areas have higher numbers of young people. In 2013, the Howick and Henderson-Massey local board areas had the largest numbers of children and young people, 43,200 (34% of the population) and 40,530 (37.6% of the population) respectively.

The four local board areas that constitute the 'Southern Initiative' area were home to nearly a quarter (23.3%) of Auckland's children and young people. This area also had the highest proportions of children and young people. This includes Māngere-Ōtāhuhu where 45.4 per cent of people in the area were 0-24 year olds, followed by Ōtara-Papatoetoe and Manurewa (both 43.2%),

and Papakura (39.2%). The proportion of children aged 0 to 14 years old in this area was also high compared to Auckland as a whole (26.6% compared with 20.9%).

In 2006 and 2013, the Waitemata local board area had the highest proportion of young people aged 15 to 24 years in Auckland (24.1% and 23.3% respectively). This is partly due to the high concentration of schools and universities in the city centre. The maps in Figure 1 and 2 show where Auckland's young people reside.

YOUNG AUCKLANDERS ARE ETHNICALLY AND CULTURALLY DIVERSE

Among young people aged 0 to 24 years old, just over half were in the broad 'European' ethnic category (54.3%), followed by nearly a quarter in the broad Asian category (24.2%). The next largest groups were Pacific (22.1%) and Māori (15.7%). The Middle Eastern, Latin American and African (MELAA) group accounted for 2.2 per cent of this age group overall.²

Although there is a high number of European children and young people (259,029), their proportionate share of the age group has decreased from 61.1 per cent in 2001, to 50.8 per cent in 2006 and 54.3 per cent in 2013. Over the last ten years, there has also been a significant increase in the number of Asian children and young people from 66,996 in 2001 to 115,002 in 2013.

In Auckland some ethnic groups have younger populations than others. Over half of Māori (52.4%) and Pacific people (54.1%) are under 25 years of age³ (see Figure 4).

¹ 'Population ageing' refers to a well-recognised and long-term demographic trend occurring nationally and in many other countries with developed economies. It is caused by a gradual transition from historically high birth and death rates to lower birth and death rates. As people live longer and fertility rates decline, there will be numerically and proportionately more people in older age groups over the next few decades.

² Children and young people could identify, or be identified by their parents, as belonging to more than one ethnicity, so these groups are not mutually exclusive and sum to more than 100 per cent.

³ Children and young people could identify, or be identified by their parents, as belonging to more than one ethnicity, so these groups are not mutually exclusive.

Figure 3: Number of people in each ethnic group, by age group (2013)

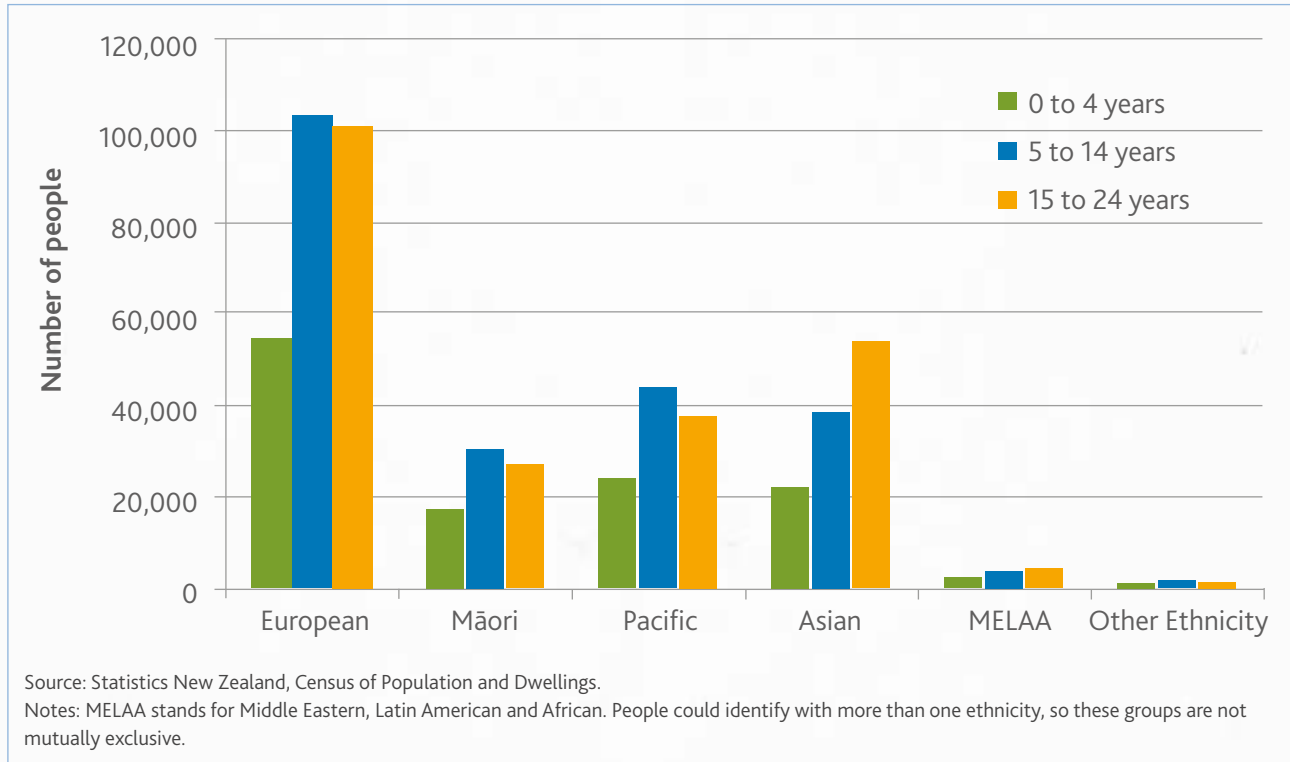
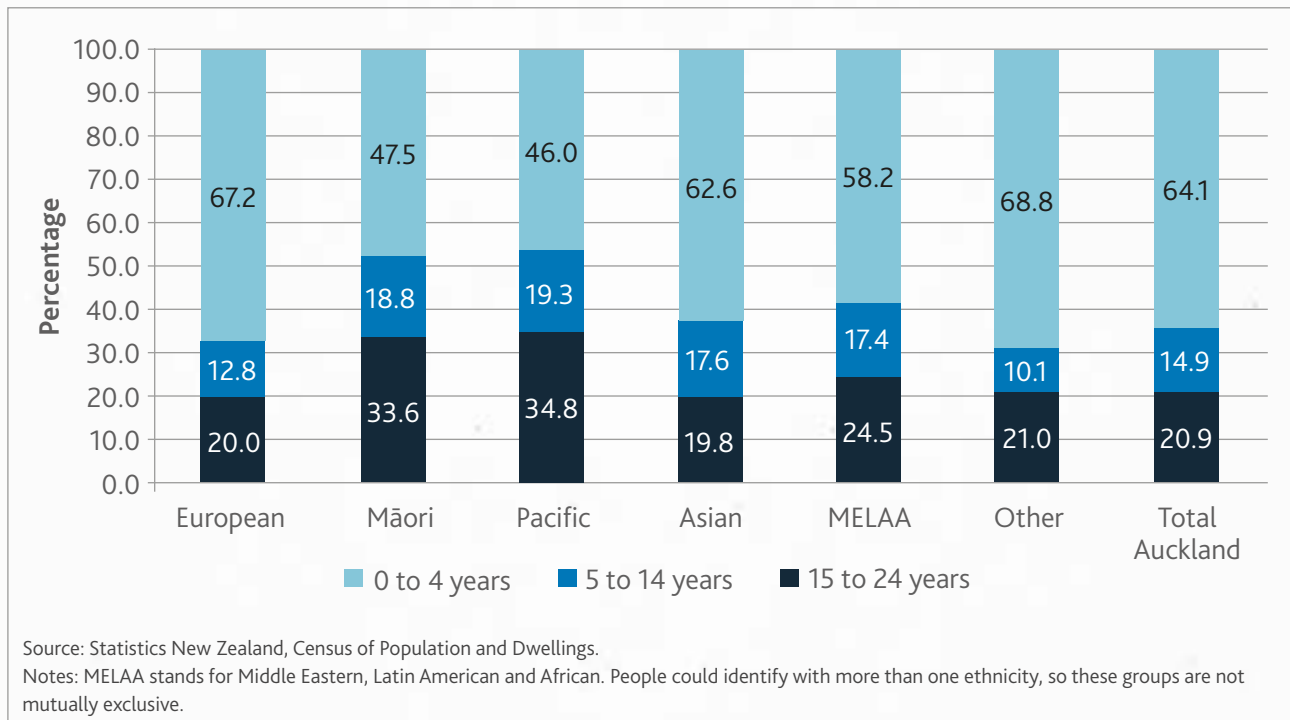


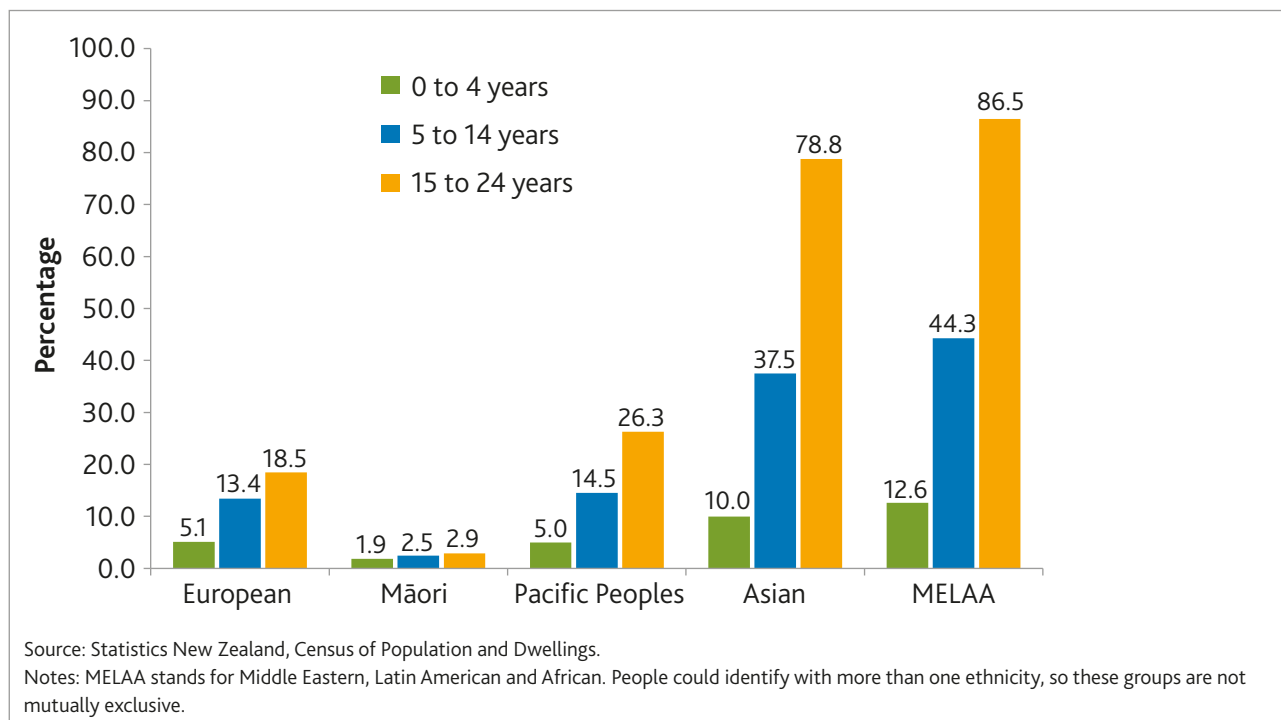
Figure 4: Proportion of ethnic group who are children and young people (2013)



In 2013, nearly a quarter (115,464 people or 24.4%) of Auckland's children and young people were born overseas. The majority of MELAA (86.5%) and Asian

(78.8%) children and young people were born overseas. A relatively large proportion of Pacific young people were also born overseas (26.3%).

Figure 5: Proportion of ethnic group who were born overseas, by age group (2013)



1.2.1 EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

The importance of education and employment are emphasised in *I Am Auckland*. Goal 4 focuses on children and young people having access to high-quality learning opportunities and good support to transition into further education or work. The council family has taken up the challenge, providing many new employment and education opportunities to help achieve this goal. This section provides some specific insights on education and employment.

IMPROVEMENTS IN ECE PARTICIPATION RATES AND ATTAINMENT OF NCEA LEVEL 1 AND 2

There is consistent evidence linking good quality education, especially early childhood education

(ECE), with improved skills development and employment prospects. In 2015, the Ministry of Education reported that 95.2 per cent of children in Auckland took part in ECE. Although the rates for Pacific (89.5%) and Māori (91.9%) children are still lower than for other groups, this is a significant improvement from 2012 participation rates.

Auckland has a disproportionate number of low decile schools. Thirty-two per cent of all decile 1 schools in New Zealand are found in Auckland, while only 21.5 per cent of New Zealand's schools are in Auckland. Māori and Pacific children are more likely than others to attend low-decile schools. As of 1 July 2015, approximately 71 per cent of Auckland's Pacific students and 50 per cent of Māori students attended decile 1, 2 or 3 primary and secondary schools, compared to only 6 per cent of

⁴ For this data, reported ethnicity is prioritised in the order of Māori, Pacific, Asian, Middle Eastern, Latin American and African (MELAA), other groups except European/Pākehā, and European/Pākehā.

European/Pākehā students.⁴ There have been slight improvements between 2011 and 2014 in the level of attainment of NCEA Level 1 or 2 for all ethnicities.

NEET RATES ARE FALLING, BUT NEET RATES FOR MĀORI AND PACIFIC ARE HIGH

The youth Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) rate⁵ is defined as the percentage of youth (aged 15 to 24 years) who are unemployed and not engaged in education or training. The NEET rate is designed to capture a wider understanding of the proportion of young people who are excluded and/or disengaged from both work and education. Since September 2013 the NEET rate in Auckland has fallen from 10.7 per cent to 9.9 per cent in September 2015⁶.

Exclusion and disengagement from education and employment varies greatly across ethnic groups in Auckland⁷. In 2015, the proportion of youth aged 15 to 24 who were NEET was 16.7 per cent for Pacific young people and 17.6 per cent for Māori young people. The NEET figures for Māori and Pacific youth aged 20 to 24 in Auckland were particularly high, at 26.5 per cent of Māori and 27.3 per cent of Pacific, compared to 13.4 per cent of Auckland youth in these age groups overall. These rates have improved since 2013, but Māori and Pacific young people are still significantly over-represented. The NEET rate also varies by gender. Women are more likely to be NEET than men, particularly in the 20 to 24 age range.

OF 20 TO 24 YEAR OLDS, PACIFIC AND MĀORI YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE THE HIGHEST UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Many young people in Auckland are engaged in work. At the time of the 2013 Census, of those aged 15 to 24 years, 82,455 were paid employees (working one or more hours a week), 2,406 were

self-employed, 396 were employers and 1,395 were unpaid family workers.

Young people aged 15 to 19 years tend to be completing secondary school qualifications and beginning tertiary study or training. Those who are seeking work at this age are unlikely to have qualifications, skills or much work experience, contributing to low labour force participation rates⁸ (39.1% at the 2013 Census) and relatively high unemployment levels (30.5% at the 2013 Census). Of those who were employed aged 15 to 19 years at the time of the 2013 Census, two thirds (67.3%) were employed part-time.

Labour force participation and full-time employment are generally higher among 20 to 24 year olds as many have completed their formal education or training. Among those aged 20 to 24 at the 2013 Census, 70 per cent of those who were employed were working full-time. Pacific and Māori young people 20 to 24 had the highest unemployment rates (25.1% and 22.9% respectively, compared with 15.2% overall).

Between 2006 and 2013, the number of young Aucklanders aged 20 to 24 employed full-time decreased and those who were unemployed increased. The unemployment rate of young people in Auckland is higher than of other age groups, and has been for some time. In particular, Māori and Pacific young people aged 15 to 24 are facing challenges finding work in Auckland, and their unemployment rate is nearly double that of other groups.

⁵ The Household Labour Force Survey results are used to measure NEETS.

⁶ Youth NEET rate (Total aged 15-24 years) by Auckland Council region. Statistics New Zealand. Household Labour Force Survey, September 2015. stats.govt.nz/infoshare/Default.aspx

⁷ These figures need to be read with caution as there is a relatively high sampling error associated with estimating NEET rates by ethnicity and age, due to small sample sizes.

⁸ "Labour force participation" means they were either employed full-time or part-time, or they were unemployed and looking for work.

1.2.2 HEALTH AND WELLBEING

The importance of Auckland's children and young people being able to lead healthy and safe lives is a key focus of *I Am Auckland*, and particularly of Goals 2 and 3. Children and young people in Auckland have varying levels of health and wellbeing. Much of the information that is available in New Zealand concerns children and young people's physical health outcomes.⁹ A number of determinants of health and wellbeing have been selected to provide a broad overview of the health and wellbeing of Auckland's children and young people including poverty, housing, smoking, safety and family violence.

ONE THIRD OF AUCKLAND'S YOUNG PEOPLE LIVE IN AREAS OF HIGH SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEPRIVATION

The New Zealand Deprivation Index 2013 shows that over a third of Auckland's children and young people (34%) live in areas of high socio-economic deprivation, a larger proportion than other age groups. In 2013, 19 per cent of children aged 0 to 14 in Auckland lived in households with annual household incomes of \$40,000 or less. This proportion varies significantly between ethnicities. Thirty-five per cent of MELAA children, 31 per cent of Pacific children, 29 per cent of Māori children, 23 per cent of Asian children and 16 per cent of those in the 'Other' ethnicity category were in this type of household, compared to only 12 per cent of European/ Pākehā children.

Housing is one of the key determinants of health, particularly for those on the lowest incomes. It has been estimated that there are about 432,000 inadequately insulated homes within the

Auckland area,¹⁰ which has consequences for rates of asthma and respiratory and contagious illness, especially among the young.

In 2013 Statistics New Zealand counted 61,272 children under 14 (22.3%) living in crowded housing in Auckland.¹¹ Auckland's children and young people experienced the highest levels of crowding compared to other age groups. This was particularly the case among young Pacific people (0-24) in Auckland, half of whom were living in crowded housing in 2013. The rate of crowding among children and young people had decreased since 2006 but had increased among those aged 20 to 24 years.

OTHER INSIGHTS ON HEALTH AND SAFETY

Smoking

There are significant health impacts for young people who are regularly exposed to smoke, particularly in the home. In the three District Health Board areas that overlap with Auckland's boundaries (Waitematā, Auckland and Counties Manukau) the proportions of children 14 and under living in a household with a smoker were 20.7 per cent, 18.4 per cent and 31.7 per cent respectively.¹² Children exposed to second-hand smoke have higher rates of sudden infant death, respiratory infection, asthma, middle ear infections and meningitis.

The proportion of young people aged 15 to 24 who reported that they were regular smokers themselves was 10.5 per cent in Waitematā, 9.3 per cent in Auckland and 13.7 per cent in Counties Manukau. These rates are below those for New Zealand overall but still high given the potential effect on young smokers' lung development and function.

⁹ Much of what is reported here has been taken from a comprehensive 400 page report into the determinants of health for children and young people prepared by the New Zealand Children and Youth Epidemiology Service and the University of Otago. For further more detailed information find this report at <http://hdl.handle.net/10523/6383>

¹⁰ The Auckland Plan. Auckland Council 2012.

¹¹ 2013 Census.

¹² The Determinants of Health for Children and Young People in the Northern District Health Boards. Simpson et al. 2012.

Violence

Feeling safe from violence is an important dimension of the wellbeing of children and young people. In 2015 there were 40,757 notifications to Child, Youth and Family in the Auckland region, where there was suspicion that a child's wellbeing may have been at risk. Between 2009 and 2013, 216 Auckland children aged 14 and under were admitted to hospital for injuries arising from assault, neglect or maltreatment¹³.

Suicide rates and social isolation

In 2012, young people in New Zealand had the highest rate of suicide compared to other age groups, 23.4 per 100,000 people aged 15-24 years.¹⁴ This rate varies by gender and ethnicity. In 2012, the suicide rate was 32.3 per 100,000 male young people and 13.8 per 100,000 female young people. The Māori youth suicide rate was 2.8 times the non-Māori rate.

In addition, young people in Auckland report more social isolation and less connection to their communities and neighbourhoods than other age groups. Aucklanders aged 18 to 24 are less likely to have positive contact with those in their neighbourhoods and are more likely to report feeling isolated than older age groups.¹⁵

1.2.3 SUMMARY

Auckland is a youthful city. Many of Auckland's children and young people are thriving, but there are still areas where they need to be further supported. There have been improvements in education outcomes, in ECE participation and a general reduction in NEETs. Although trends are improving, there are still significant educational and employment disparities for Māori and Pacific

children and young people in Auckland. Māori and Pacific young people represent a sizeable portion of the younger generation of the city, and we need to focus further attention on lifting the achievement levels of these groups.

Unemployment is still an issue for many of Auckland's young people and particularly Māori and Pacific young people. We need to maintain strategic focus on increasing employment and training avenues.

Although many of Auckland's children and young people are healthy, some continue to experience poor health and wellbeing. Too many live in poor quality or overcrowded housing and in areas of deprivation. There is more that can be done to enable all of Auckland's children and young people to have access to a safe, smoke-free, warm and non-crowded home, in connected and supportive communities. Increasing health and wellbeing outcomes for Pacific and Māori young people requires continued attention as they are disproportionately represented in areas of high deprivation with lower health and wellbeing outcomes.

Geographically, we need to pay attention to areas with high numbers and proportions of young people, particularly the Southern Initiative area which is home to nearly a quarter of Auckland's young people.

Part Two of this report provides some best practice examples of what the council family has been doing to address some of these education, employment and wellbeing issues.

¹³ These hospital admission statistics exclude emergency department cases.

¹⁴ Ministry of Health, 2015. Suicide facts: Deaths and intentional self-harm hospitalisations 2012.

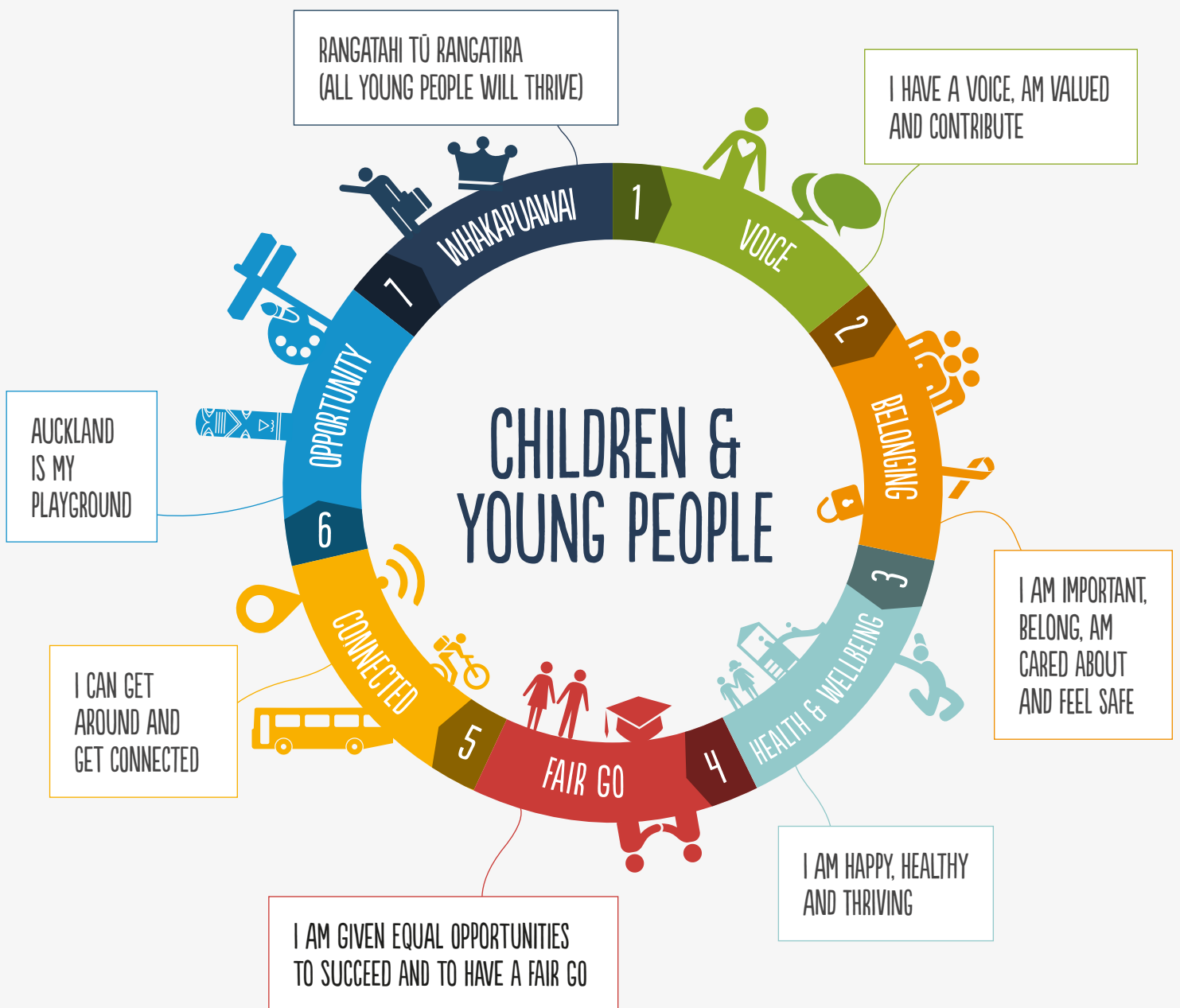
¹⁵ Nielsen Research, 2014. Quality of life survey: Results for Auckland.

1.3 I AM AUCKLAND GOALS AND ACTION AREAS

I Am Auckland has seven key goals for children and young people. These goals were developed following engagement with 6000 children and young people. Each goal contains a number of

Auckland-wide action areas and is linked with Auckland Plan strategic directives and targets.

This report considers the progress within each of these goal areas. Part One reflects on how well the council family has aligned its work to these goals and Part Two provides examples of good practice in all of these goal areas.





1.4 ACHIEVING THE GOALS OF I AM AUCKLAND

Key take-outs:

- The council family is delivering significantly against the seven goals of *I Am Auckland*, especially in the areas of 'Goal 4: I am given opportunities to succeed and to have a fair go', and 'Goal 6: Auckland is my playground'.
- The council family has begun to explicitly align strategic documents to *I Am Auckland*.
- 'Goal 7: All Rangatahi will thrive' is the least delivered on and is an area for further focus.
- Our ability to evaluate the outcomes of *I Am Auckland* is currently limited and would be improved by developing a comprehensive monitoring and evaluation framework.

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING TO ACHIEVE THE GOALS OF I AM AUCKLAND?

Since *I Am Auckland* was adopted in September 2013, the council and council-controlled organisations (CCOs) have delivered more than 200 discrete actions, policies or programmes explicitly focused on children and young people.

A stocktake has been conducted across the council family to provide an overview of all the activities, initiatives, programmes, plans and policies that align with and contribute to achieving the goals of *I Am Auckland*.

Council groups have identified which goal their activities are most closely aligned with. Acknowledging that some activities have overlapping priorities and objectives, and that some activities are larger in scale than others, this stocktake simply provides a lens to understand the council family's general areas of focus.

I AM AUCKLAND GOALS



- GOAL 1:** Voice - I have a voice, am valued and contribute
- GOAL 2:** Belonging - I am important, belong, am cared about and feel safe
- GOAL 3:** Health and Wellbeing - I am happy, healthy and thriving
- GOAL 4:** Fair Go - I am given equal opportunities to succeed and be given a fair go

- GOAL 5:** Connected - I can get around and get connected
- GOAL 6:** Opportunity - Auckland is my playground
- GOAL 7:** Whakapuawai - Rangatahi tū rangatira (All rangatahi will thrive)
- Children and youth focused activity that does not align

GOAL AREAS OF HIGH DELIVERY

Of the plan's seven goals, the council family focused delivery most heavily on:

- Goal 4 "I am given equal opportunities to succeed and have a fair go" which includes action areas relating to education, connecting with work, learning and skills development.
- Goal 6 "Auckland is my playground" which includes action areas relating to sport, recreation, arts and culture.

Within both goal areas there is a huge variety of exciting and important activity happening to increase positive outcomes for young people. There are 71 distinct activities being delivered in Goal 4 alone. These activities vary significantly, from the Career Pathways Programme which recruits young talent into the council and Youth Connections which works across sectors to bridge the gap that exists between work-ready youth and youth-ready employers, to Kauri Kids which provides an early childcare option in 10 council facilities across Auckland.

Goal 6 "Auckland is my playground" has 60 diverse and distinct activities. These range from Movies in Parks and Silo Cinema focusing their offering towards children and youth audiences, to the Learn to Swim programme which promotes learning water safety confidence for young people and the Takaporepore programme which delivers physical and social development activities for pre-schoolers in te reo Māori.

The most highly delivered-on action areas are within these two goals. The five most commonly delivered-on action areas are:

Table one: Top 5 action areas

GOAL	ACTION AREA	ACTIVITIES
6	RECREATION	21
4	SKILLS AND LEARNING	21
4	SCHOOL AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION	16
6	ARTS	15
4	CONNECTING WITH WORK	10

HIGH DELIVERY ACTION AREAS

The recreation and sport action areas constitute 43 per cent of activities associated with Goal 6. The council's Sport and Recreation department has taken its commitment to young people seriously and has developed its own plan which is strongly aligned with the goals of *I Am Auckland*. The plan, *Auckland is my Playground*, aims to help children and young people be more active more often.

Recreation, arts and civic participation activities are traditional areas of focus for local government, and the high levels of activity in these areas reflect this. However, increasingly activities focused on skills, learning and connecting with work are becoming areas of emphasis for local government. This reflects a growing understanding of the importance of early childhood opportunities, high quality training and education to connect young Aucklanders with sustainable employment opportunities.

These activities are areas of importance for young people highlighted in *I Am Auckland* and they are in line with central government and wider sector investment.

In addition a greater number of activities is now being delivered through more co-design, co-leadership and robust engagement with children and young people. This approach is consistent with Goal 1.

Goal 1 "I have a voice, am valued and contribute", commits to listening to children and young people, developing youth leadership opportunities and involving young people in decision making. This commitment has influenced how activities are delivered across the board by incorporating child or youth co-design or engagement as part of the activity. Examples of this are given in Part Two of this report.

DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE COUNCIL FAMILY ARE DELIVERING ON DIFFERENT GOALS

Many council groups and CCOs deliver toward more than one goal and a few deliver on three or more. This includes the direct provision of activities, working collaboratively with partners and contracting others to deliver services and activities.

Child and youth activities are being delivered by a wide range of council groups and CCOs. This shows a strong commitment across the council family to deliver child and youth outcomes. Largely council groups deliver on the goals that most closely align with their primary function. However, the level of cross-council activity in Goals 4 and 6 suggests additional strategic drivers motivating delivery in these goal areas (e.g. new areas of emphasis, overlapping strategic direction, political support or increased government or sector interest).

WHAT'S NEW?

The wider council family has been innovative, particularly with programmes for young people. One example is the 2015 pilot of the Tuatara Club, an Auckland Zoo initiative to provide an opportunity for youth age 15-17 to gain volunteering experience at Auckland Zoo every Saturday for six months. This is being offered again in 2016.

Another example is the 2015 Mana Whenua Kaitiaki Rangers programme, a student ranger programme designed for mana whenua rangatahi. This successful pilot was embedded as part of the council's annual summertime ranger programme.

SOME VALUABLE ACTIVITY INDIRECTLY SUPPORTS THE GOALS OF *I AM AUCKLAND*

Seven activities in the stocktake did not specifically align with any of the goals of *I Am Auckland* but were still valuable child or youth focused activities. In some cases, they underpin other actions which are more directly aligned, and allow council groups to deliver on the goals more effectively. These activities include research on young people in Auckland, submissions to central government on issues affecting young people, and administration of investment or grant schemes, some of which is spent on children or youth outcomes.

These activities also help to understand and influence what is happening in the wider sector which can inform and enhance the council family's ability to deliver to children and young people.

DEPARTMENT	GROUP	GOALS							DOES NOT ALIGN	
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7		
CEO	COMMUNICATION AND ENGAGEMENT									
CEO	PEOPLE AND CAPABILITY									
CPO	AUCKLAND DESIGN OFFICE									
CPO	AUCKLAND PLAN, STRATEGY AND RESEARCH									
CPO	COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL POLICY									
CPO	THE SOUTHERN INITIATIVE									
GOVERNANCE	DEMOCRACY SERVICES									
COO - IES	ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES									
COO - CS	ARTS, COMMUNITY AND EVENTS									
COO - CS	LIBRARIES AND INFORMATION									
COO - CS	PARKS, SPORTS AND RECREATION									
CCO	PANUKU DEVELOPMENT AUCKLAND									
CCO	ATEED									
CCO	AUCKLAND TRANSPORT									
CCO	REGIONAL FACILITIES AUCKLAND									
CCO	WATERCARE SERVICES LIMITED									
CCO	COMET AUCKLAND									



I AM AUCKLAND IS INFLUENCING THE STRATEGIC DIRECTION OF THE COUNCIL FAMILY

Of the 64 council-wide policies, plans and strategies that have been produced since *I Am Auckland* was adopted in September 2013, fourteen have specifically referenced *I Am Auckland*. The majority of the other strategic documents have actions or general statements that align with at least one of the seven goals of *I Am Auckland*. None of these strategic documents has specific actions or measures that encompass all seven goals.

Council-controlled organisations have 'Statements of Intent' (SOI) which set out the strategic framework, activities and performance measures that deliver on their role and contribute to Auckland Council's targets and priorities.

Of the six substantive CCOs that have child and youth activities, only the Auckland Tourism Events and Economic Development (ATEED) Statement of Intent for 2015-2018 mentions *I Am Auckland* specifically. ATEED's SOI outlines actions that align closely to three goals and a general statement that aligns to a further goal.

COMET Auckland's SOI does not reference *I Am Auckland* explicitly, but aligns highly with the goals related to building child and youth skills, education and employment. The SOI also outlines many actions that expressly seek to enable positive outcomes for children and young people.

The other CCO statements of intent each have actions or general statements that loosely align to one or two of the goals in *I Am Auckland*.

Six of the 21 Local Board plans explicitly reference *I Am Auckland*. Puketāpapa local board had the strongest incorporation of *I Am Auckland* goals in its plan, with actions aligning to goals one to five.

Many local boards have created criteria for assessing community grant applications that align with



the goals. For example, the Māngere-Ōtāhuhu local board has targeted its grants programme to "Improve skills training, increase employment opportunities for the local workforce especially Māori and Pacific youth" and to prioritise young people to "lead and have a voice in local matters".

There is also some movement across the council towards aligning other grants programmes with the goals of *I Am Auckland*. The Annual Regional Events Grant Funding programme and the Community Access Grants, for instance, have a focus on funding child and youth outcomes. The Regional Sport and Recreation Grant Programme goes further, creating specific targets that align with *I Am Auckland*, for example; "Providing or supporting easier and more affordable access to populations with low participation rates in sport and recreation, particularly: Children and young people aligned to *I Am Auckland* Strategic Action Plan".

1.4.1 AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT — GOAL 3 AND GOAL 7

In all areas there are some excellent activities underway. Part Two of this report profiles at least one action in each goal area. However, there are two goals that are delivered on the least, Goal 3 and Goal 7.

GOAL 3 “I Am Happy, Healthy and Thriving” which includes action areas relating to healthy housing, access to services and the creation of policies and bylaws that create healthy communities.

There are currently few council initiatives directly aligned to Goal 3. This can be expected as central government controls most of the levers that create significant change in this area.

Unlike some of the other goal areas, achieving outcomes in Goal 3 is more dependent on collaboration between the council and those with responsibility for public health including government organisations and other stakeholders. For example, the council family, the health sector and other key stakeholders need to take shared responsibility to work together to promote public health and to reduce health inequalities.

The council family’s activity in this goal area is more likely to be related to outcomes and benefits for the wider community, not just children and young people, such as alcohol and smokefree policies. The large scale and whole-of-community nature of actions in this area make them less frequent and more difficult to track. It is also possible that the explicit implications for children and young people of council’s activities in areas like public health promotion have not been fully captured.

Long timeframes and significant resources are also often required to achieve health outcomes. While there may be fewer activities undertaken, their impact may be more wide reaching (e.g. the potential positive impacts of smokefree and alcohol policies on the health of young people over time).



GOAL 7 “Rangatahi tū rangatira”

(All Rangatahi will thrive)

includes action areas relating to rangatahi leadership and co-development of action with tamariki and rangatahi.

Goal 7 had the fewest initiatives attributed to it and also the fewest strategic documents, local board plans or funding criteria aligned to it. There is an opportunity to do more in this area.

There are a handful of initiatives that engage tamariki and rangatahi in meaningful ways such as the Southern Initiative’s kōhanga reo enrolments design programme, and the council’s support for an external Rangatahi Rōpū, intended to work towards young Māori having a dedicated voice in council.

These provide a good foundation for more work in this area. The council family could refocus on recognising the needs and aspirations of young Māori and deliver more opportunities for tamariki and rangatahi engagement and action. This renewed focus could take the form of discrete actions, but could also be woven throughout actions by intentionally bringing young Māori into planning, design and leadership processes.

1.4.2 MEASURING AND EVALUATION

This report is part of the first progress update of / *Am Auckland*. Other than the Auckland Plan targets, which are discussed in the following section, no dedicated tools for measuring, monitoring or evaluation of the plan have been created. Therefore, any measuring or monitoring of child and youth outcomes has happened at this high level or by self-directed measurement of individual activities.



WE FOUND THAT:

- measurement of individual initiatives by council groups differs and there is little consistency in how this is done
- only about 45 per cent of activities are being measured in some way
- measurement is usually at output level (e.g. participation numbers, hours of utilisation or numbers of events)
- feedback is occasionally collected to measure the quality of the delivery as well, measuring things like the levels of satisfaction or perceptions of improvement
- only about 10 per cent of initiatives have had their outcomes or the quality of outputs measured which means that there is little measurement to determine how well an initiative is achieving the desired outcomes for children and youth
- there is even less evaluation over time to investigate the long-term impact of initiatives.

Further work needs to be undertaken to build evaluation mechanisms into project delivery. Additionally, there needs to be better assessment of the short to medium-term success of *I Am Auckland*.

One possibility for better assessment in future could include the creation of an *I Am Auckland* evaluation framework with outcome measures that more closely

link to activities. Good evaluation on both levels will assist the council family to more fully understand how well their initiatives make positive change in the lives of young Aucklanders.

1.5 AUCKLAND PLAN TARGETS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

The goals of *I Am Auckland* are each linked to a number of strategic directives and region-wide targets from the Auckland Plan, and these are being monitored annually.

The Auckland Plan targets are aspirational aims for

Key take-outs:

- Overall, we are making good progress on the Auckland Plan targets related to child and youth outcomes. However, these targets are wide-reaching and require further monitoring before progress can be fully understood.
- The Auckland Plan targets are not directly aligned to the *I Am Auckland* goals.
- Developing an evaluation framework with indicators and measures specifically aligned to *I Am Auckland* would allow us to better assess progress being made over time.

the long-term future of Auckland and to achieve these targets a concerted effort will be required from many sectors. These targets strive for significant statistical shifts for Auckland. Annual measuring and monitoring of the Auckland Plan charts progress towards these targets. The last monitoring report was published in December 2015.¹⁶

Most of the Auckland Plan targets are not specific to children and young people but relate to wider societal and community outcomes. These are nevertheless important to improving outcomes for children and young people, as their wellbeing is dependent on the economic, environmental, cultural and social conditions

that impact on their lives, families and communities.

There are seven Auckland Plan targets that specifically identify outcomes for children and youth, as indicated in the following table. These targets are a measure of overall progress towards delivering on the region-wide commitment to children and young people. Most are not entirely within the council's control, for example the key levers to improve health and education outcomes are held by central government.

Figure 6: Summary of Auckland Plan targets specifically identifying child and youth outcomes¹⁷

PROGRESS	TARGET	TARGET	MEASUREMENT AS OF 2015
	Goal 2	Decrease the number of child hospitalisations due to injury by 20 per cent by 2025.	This target is measured through the rate of public hospital discharges due to unintentional injury for 0 to 14 year olds. Between 2010 and 2014 there was an average of 2564 discharges per annum. This fell from a high of 2723 in 2010 to 2477 in 2011 and has since risen slowly to 2599 in 2014.
	Goal 3	Ensure that by 2017, all pre-school children receive 'all well' checks, including the B4 School Check, and are up to date with childhood immunisation.	This can be measured by the percentage of 2 year olds who are up to date with immunisations from Ministry of Health data. In the year to June 2015 more than 90 per cent of 2 year old children were fully immunised across the three District Health Boards in Auckland. These levels decreased slightly in 2013 but recovered and improved in 2014 and 2015.
	Goal 4	All 3-4 year olds will participate in, and have access to, good quality, culturally appropriate early childhood learning services by 2020.	This is measured in the Auckland Plan Targets Monitoring Report by the number of enrolments among 3 and 4 year olds in early childhood learning services. Over the last decade these numbers have increased steadily to 40,188 in 2014. This growth is in line with the overall growth of this age group. Ministry of Education data from 2015 shows that around 95.2 per cent of children in Auckland take part in some form of early childhood education. There has been a steady increase in both the proportion of New Zealand children involved in early childhood education, and the number of hours they spend in it, since 2012.

¹⁶ Auckland Plan Targets: Monitoring Report 2015. December 2015.

¹⁷ More detail on these targets and their measurements is available in the Auckland Plan Targets: Monitoring Report, found here: aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/SiteCollectionDocuments/aboutcouncil/planspoliciespublications/technicalpublications/tr2015030aucklandplanatargetsmonitoringreport2015.pdf

	Goal 4	Increase the proportion of school leavers who achieve at least NCEA Level 2 from 74 per cent in 2010 to 100 per cent by 2020 and ensure that all school leavers have a career plan by 2020.	The proportion of young people who leave school with NCEA Level 2 has been increasing over the last 5 years. In 2014, 82 per cent achieved this level or higher, up 2.1 per cent from the previous year ¹⁸ . There has also been a significant increase in the proportion achieving NCEA level 3.
	Goal 4	All young adults will complete a post-secondary qualification by 2030.	This is measured through the number of young adults aged between 15 and 24 who have a post-secondary qualification. In 2013, 20.7 per cent of young adults living in Auckland had a post-secondary education qualification. This is an increase of 2.1 per cent from 2006. This does not include those currently working toward a qualification. Central government has placed a significant emphasis on tertiary education, and is supporting increased participation through initiatives like the Youth Guarantee.
	Goal 4	Ensure that all Auckland children can access a primary school within 30 minutes and a secondary school within 45 minutes (recognising that the particular needs of rural and urban communities and groups with special needs differ), and that all schools have facilities suitable to meet the learning needs of their students.	This target is not currently being monitored, as there is no measure currently established.
	Goal 6	Increase the number of school-aged children participating in organised sport and informal physical activities by 2040.	This target can be measured from responses to the Sport New Zealand Young People's Survey. This survey was conducted in 2011 and established the proportion of children in Auckland participating in physical activity. A similar survey will need to be conducted to establish progress against this baseline.

While there is a positive trend overall, these targets are broad and wide-reaching. Most have a long time horizon that will require further monitoring before progress can be fully understood. These targets enable us to understand how children and young people are doing over the long-term, but understanding the short and medium-term effectiveness of *I Am Auckland* will require other evaluation mechanisms.

Over the next three years another approach to measurement of *I Am Auckland* could focus on monitoring actions that more directly align with *I Am Auckland* goals and action areas.

¹⁸ Reid, A and Rootham, E (2016). A profile of children and young people in Auckland. Auckland Council technical report, TR2016/022, knowledgeauckland.org.nz/assets/publications/TR2016-022-Profile-of-children-and-young-people-in-Auckland.pdf



2 PART TWO – MAKING IT HAPPEN

Key take-outs:

- Across the council family there is a range of high-quality, innovative and promising practice for children and young people.
- We have identified some common critical success factors that underpin these initiatives, and can use this insight to further develop and improve our programming and delivery.

Part Two of this report profiles some outstanding activities that have been undertaken by the council family since the adoption of *I Am Auckland*.

A cross-council and CCO workshop was held to explore and collectively identify indicators of best practice in children and youth focused activity within the wider council family. These indicators were then used to select several best and promising practice initiatives which were developed into case studies and snapshots for this report.

2.1 OVERVIEW OF HIGH QUALITY INITIATIVES

Six case studies and seven snapshots are presented to paint a picture of the high-quality work happening across the council family.

The case studies are large scale, long-term, regional in scope and each has compelling evidence of its success. They showcase activities from across the council family, ranging from environmental education; child literacy development; youth providing strategic advice to council; to youth employment and active recreation.

Every case study tells a story about how the council family strives to create powerful outcomes with and for Auckland's young people. The case studies are:

- Dare to Explore/Kia Māia te Whai
- Career Pathways
- Auckland is my Playground (#AklPlay)
- Youth Advisory Panel
- Jobfest
- Enviroschools.

The snapshots showcase good, promising or innovative practice in each of the seven goal areas. Together these examples encompass both short and long-term projects, some local and others regional. Each highlights a good example of child and youth activity in one of the goal areas. The snapshots are:

- **Goal 1** – Freyberg Square and Ellen Melville Centre Children’s Audit
- **Goal 2** – Youth Zones and Youth Hubs
- **Goal 3** – The Local Alcohol Policy
- **Goal 4** – Māori and Pasifika Trades Training
- **Goal 5** – Walking School Bus
- **Goal 6** – Workshops on the Wharf
- **Goal 7** – Mana Whenua Kaitiaki Rangers pilot.

EVIDENCE OF SUCCESS

The snapshot examples were chosen to profile the breadth of good work happening in all the goal areas of *I Am Auckland*, including innovative projects and the piloting of new approaches.

In an effort to capture this innovation, these snapshot initiatives were not required to have undertaken rigorous evaluation. Nonetheless, most of them have received positive feedback from young people, parents or sector partners.

To be selected, the case studies required several indicators of good practice coupled with evidence of success. It is not surprising that most had formal evaluation methods that were regularly monitored to show progress over time and to assess the outcomes for our children and young people.



Many attributed their success to their robust evaluation which led to on-going development and improvement.

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

Considering all of these examples together, some themes begin to emerge. There are several common critical factors that have made these case studies and snapshots successful. These factors are:

- intentional co-design or robust engagement with young people
- a collaborative approach that engages with a range of internal and external stakeholders, businesses, iwi, schools and community groups
- well-structured programmes with clear processes, good planning and adequate resources
- strong feedback and evaluation methods
- political and senior leadership support
- flexibility to adapt to particular circumstances
- a clear purpose and objectives
- strong guiding principles underpinning the approach and delivery.

The first two of these critical success factors were essential to almost all of these examples.

INTENTIONAL CO-DESIGN OR ROBUST ENGAGEMENT WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

All of these initiatives have taken an intentional proactive approach to robustly engaging young people. Many strive to co-design, co-deliver and evaluate initiatives with young people. Through these approaches they have created welcoming child and youth-friendly environments that are responsive to the changing needs and aspiration of young people. This is key to their success.

COLLABORATIVE APPROACH

Most of these initiatives have taken collaborative approaches to make the most impact, creating relationships not only with young people but also with businesses, iwi, government, local community organisations, sector stakeholders and groups across the council. These relationships create better initiatives with supportive networks, shared responsibility and more robust design.

INFORMING FUTURE WORK

All of the factors combined have created initiatives that contributed to delivering great outcomes for children and young people. These critical success factors can be used as principles to inform and refine project development in the future.



CASE STUDY

DARE TO EXPLORE / KIA MĀIA TE WHAI

Dare to Explore is Auckland Libraries' summer reading programme, designed to support children to maintain or improve their reading skills over the summer holidays. There is strong evidence that children's learning often suffers over the summer holidays, and Auckland Libraries have implemented Dare to Explore to help prevent this. Libraries are locally based, free, open and trusted by their communities. This allows them the opportunity to engage and build relationships with children during the holidays.

Dare to Explore focuses on improving a range of children's literacies, including collaboration, speaking and expression.

WHAT IS DARE TO EXPLORE?

Any child aged five to 13 is able to take part in Dare to Explore. The programme is free, and all participants receive a booklet containing a collection of challenges for them to complete in any combination or order they choose. The challenges are flexible and designed so that children of different abilities or aptitudes can complete them on their own. The Dare to Explore booklet can be used in conjunction with library resources, but even where families are not able to return over the summer it still presents a valuable learning resource for children to keep.

Individual libraries also run customised activities and events (e.g. games, quizzes, storytelling activities)

during summer, responding to the needs and characteristics of their local communities. Any child who completes four or more of the challenges is invited to a special party at the end of the holiday period. This is a great opportunity to celebrate their achievements and reward their successes.

Dare to Explore focuses on improving a range of children's literacies, including collaboration, speaking and expression, not simply reading and comprehension. Children are able to complete their activities in a variety of ways and with whatever tools and skills they are most comfortable. The programme aims to stimulate children's imagination and creativity.

SUCCESS AND IMPACT

Each year Dare to Explore is evaluated through surveys of both the children who took part and their parents or guardians. Feedback shows that the programme is valued by both adults and children. Of ninety-nine per cent of parents say that their children's reading ability improved or was maintained over the summer. Children similarly thought that the programme had helped them with their reading.

A key benefit of Dare to Explore is that it helps to build and strengthen positive relationships between children, their families and the libraries. Children can complete their activities on their own, but the activities also create family interaction times over the summer, and parents say that they value this.



Most parents agree that they are more likely to visit a library after taking part, and children agree that Dare to Explore makes going to a library more fun. Many children who take part in Dare to Explore were not previously library members.

In response to the feedback from parents and Kura Kaupapa Māori, significant te reo Māori and te ao Māori components have been included in Dare to Explore for a number of years and this aspect of the programme continues to be developed and strengthened.

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Most parents agree that they are more likely to visit a library after taking part, and children agree that Dare to Explore makes going to a library more fun.

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CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

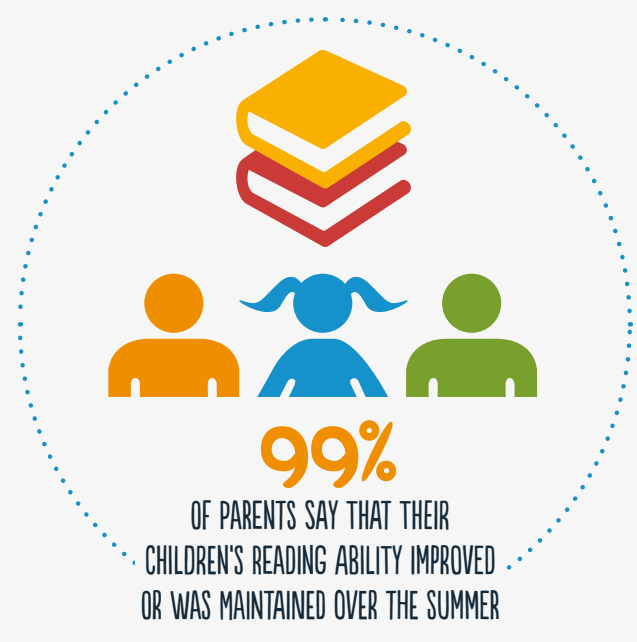
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Dare to Explore has been successful for a number of reasons, including its clear basis in evidence and the regular evaluations which inform the design of the programme, as well as the commitment of Libraries staff and the flexibility of the programme itself.

Dare to Explore responds to feedback and is under continuous evaluation and development. An evaluation of the programme is conducted annually, gathering insight about the process and the effectiveness of the programme from children, parents and staff. The programme has been reviewed and refined every year in response to this feedback, and is constantly being improved to better meet the needs of children and parents.

Dare to Explore is designed with library staff across Auckland and is able to be adapted to meet local need. Staff understand the value of the programme, are committed to it, and see the real difference it makes to children's learning. Their enthusiasm and dedication is reflected in the positive feedback received through the evaluation.

What makes Dare to Explore unique is its inclusiveness and flexibility. Parents have different needs and capacities, and children have different abilities, strengths, interests and levels of literacy. The range of content allows children to find what appeals to them and to complete challenges in the way that best suits them. This flexibility is key to the success of Dare to Explore.





CASE STUDY

CAREER PATHWAYS

On 1 November 2010, eight councils combined to form Auckland Council. This provided an opportunity to review the graduate recruitment programmes of previous councils, and develop a new unified programme for Auckland Council, one of Auckland's largest employers. An aging council workforce and youth unemployment were identified as priority issues. The Career Pathways programme, launched in 2014, was designed to address this and provide a pipeline of young talent into the organisation.

The Career Pathways programme consists of three distinct recruitment programmes which cater to and target the different skills and qualification levels of youth.

WHAT IS CAREER PATHWAYS?

The Career Pathways programme consists of three distinct recruitment programmes which cater to and target the different skills and qualification levels of youth.

- The **cadet programme** is a one-year opportunity for job seekers with minimal qualifications and experience to start their career at Auckland Council.
- The **intern programme** runs for three months over the summer period and is designed for students in their second-to-last year of a

bachelor's degree or post graduate qualification.

- The two-year **graduate programme** is available for students who have completed a university degree within the last two years or who are in their final year of university study.

Each of the programmes provides wrap-around support consisting of an induction, a support team and a tailored learning and development programme. The support team includes a mentor, buddy and peer group of fellow programme participants that meets monthly to celebrate and share experiences.

The recruitment strategy for the graduate and intern programmes involves outreach through tertiary providers, social media and community networks. The cadet programme recruits through selected government agencies and community organisations that are connected with the target audience.

There has been a concerted effort to recruit Māori and Pacific Island youth to better reflect the diverse community Auckland Council serves. To do this, a comprehensive recruitment strategy was developed, that included aspects such as engaging iwi and community networks, and incorporating te reo Māori in advertising and social media marketing.

SUCCESS AND IMPACT

Overall, the Career Pathways programme is achieving its primary objective by providing a youthful talent pipeline into the council. Roughly 80 per cent of cadets and interns, and 62 per cent of graduates are young people between 18 and 24 years old and retention is high. As a result of the

2014 cadet programme, 82 per cent of programme participants went on to permanent positions within the council. In 2015, this figure rose to 89 per cent. The first graduate programme completed this year and had 88 per cent of participants go on to permanent employment with the council.

Career Pathways has also been successful in building ethnic diversity at council. In 2015, the cadet programme had particularly high numbers of young Māori (19 per cent of participants) and young Pasifika (65 per cent). In the graduate programme Māori participant numbers are slowly but steadily increasing with 3 per cent of Māori participants in 2014, 4.7 per cent in 2015 growing to 13.4 per cent in 2016.

By providing three programmes to cater to the different needs of young people, the overall programme is flexible and accessible for a majority of young people.

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

There are several aspects of this programme that have made it a success. The cadet programme was developed through an innovative youth-centric design process, with significant input and engagement from young people and internal stakeholders across the council. Because of this engagement the programme design is more accessible for unemployed youth and includes an enhanced support package for programme participants.

Annual evaluation is another important part of the programme structure. Feedback from programme participants and Auckland Council staff help to shape and further develop the programme. For example, in response to staff feedback, additional training has been created for council staff who are involved in recruitment. Managers are now given unconscious bias training to reduce chances of discrimination and build the council's recruitment capability. As well, to more effectively source Māori candidates, specific competencies were introduced to the recruitment process including knowledge of tikanga Māori, Te Reo and Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

The structure of the programme is also a critical factor in its success. By providing three programmes



to cater to the different needs of young people, the overall programme is flexible and accessible for a majority of young people. The cadet programme is unique in providing entry level roles for youth who are often disadvantaged in finding work due to a lack of work experience or higher qualifications. The training provided throughout the programme creates transferable skills that increase the career prospects of participants.

The development of the programme had strong support from executive and senior leadership within the council. This support in conjunction with the high calibre of participants has increased organisational commitment to the programme. Managers are impressed by the commitment and performance of graduates and cadets. Over time they have opened more vacancies and are offering a broader range of roles to be filled by cadets, interns and graduates.



IN THE 2014 CADET PROGRAMME,

82%

OF PROGRAMME PARTICIPANTS WENT ON TO PERMANENT POSITIONS WITHIN THE COUNCIL.



IN 2015, THIS FIGURE ROSE TO

89%



CASE STUDY

AUCKLAND IS MY PLAYGROUND (#AKLPLAY), YOUNG PEOPLES' SPORT AND RECREATION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2015 - 2020

For Aucklanders to be healthy, they must have opportunities for sport and recreation, delivered in ways that work for them. This is especially true for children and young people, who have rapidly changing needs and interests when it comes to physical activity. The council understands that any plan for embedding sport and recreation in the lives of young people must be flexible, responsive and alert to the views of young people themselves.

Auckland is my Playground is a plan designed to lower the barriers and reduce challenges to getting young people more involved in formal and informal sport and recreation.

Research shows that participation in secondary school sports is declining, and the way sport is delivered to children and young people contributes to drop out, lack of interest or burnout.

Auckland is my Playground, Young Peoples' Sport and Recreation Implementation Plan 2015 - 2020 drew together the objectives of the Auckland Sport and Recreation Strategic Action Plan with *I Am Auckland*, to focus on embedding physical activity in the lives of children and young people and making a real commitment to improving the method of delivery.

To achieve these aims, Auckland is my Playground targets investment toward activities that have the greatest impact on increasing young people's participation in sport and recreation.

WHAT IS AUCKLAND IS MY PLAYGROUND?

Auckland is my Playground is a plan designed to lower the barriers and reduce challenges to getting young people more involved in formal and informal sport and recreation. It is evidence-based and draws on insights from the Sport New Zealand Young People's Survey Auckland Report.

The plan requires significant and on-going engagement with young people – through surveys and contracting providers to co-deliver with young people. Council understands that the best way to let young people buy-in to sport and recreation is by asking them to co-lead and co-develop sport and leisure programmes for themselves and their peers.

One method of ensuring this is through the Youth Speak Sport Summit. This summit is co-led by young people and is an opportunity for them to have their voices heard about what they want to see in their communities. Summits are conducted every three years to keep the projects current and relevant. The council commits to work with youth to scope and prioritise the implementation of the top 10 projects identified at the youth summit.

The council understands that the best way to let young people buy-in to sport and recreation is by asking them to co-lead and co-develop sport and leisure programmes for themselves and their peers.

Auckland is my Playground includes a commitment to measure and monitor the implementation, using the Auckland Plan key strategic measure to 'Increase the number of school-aged children participating in organised sport and informal physical activities by 2040'. This is evaluated through measures in the Sport New Zealand Young People's Survey and the Auckland Council Quality of Life Survey. In addition, council will work with other stakeholders in this sector to gather data about how the implementation is progressing.

The plan also contains guidance for programme implementation which allows providers and programme developers to compare their work against a range of indicators for good practice in the children and youth space.

SUCCESS AND IMPACT

Auckland is my Playground has already demonstrated success in a number of areas. It has provided clear criteria for investment, and clarity on what outcomes the council is trying to achieve.

It has highlighted youth co-design as a priority, and provided tools to measure progress. It is enabling more consistency over funding decisions, and providing greater certainty that the programmes funded are good practice for children and youth.

The council, the wider sector and young people themselves are all involved in getting young people more active more often. As part of achieving this outcome, council measures the performance of its partners on a number of outputs. Investment has criteria for success, including alignment to council priorities, youth involvement in the programmes and evidence of collaborating with the wider sector. Since the introduction of Auckland is my Playground, all of the council's partners have consistently met the goals set for them by the plan.



THE COUNCIL COMMITS TO WORK WITH YOUTH TO SCOPE AND PRIORITISE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TOP

10

PROJECTS IDENTIFIED AT THE YOUTH SUMMIT



Feedback from young people on the plan has been positive. Crucial to this success has been the explicit commitment of council to do everything possible to deliver on the things young people want. There are clear ways for young people to express their opinions and to have them heard at all points in the process.

This emphasis on co-design and co-delivery has changed the way programmes are delivered, making them more youth-focused, youth-friendly and accessible to young people.

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

There are several reasons for the initial success of the plan. Fundamentally it is strategically aligned both to the work of the council and to the sector, it is open to the voices of youth and it is under constant review and revision to respond to those voices.

The plan gives young people opportunities for leadership in a number of contexts. Young people being able to co-lead programmes and deliver them to their peers are key aspects of funding decisions. This co-led approach has been integral to the success of the plan.

Auckland is my Playground is based on the premise that the needs of young people when it comes to sport and recreation are diverse and changing quickly. For that reason, the plan is under constant revision to respond to those changing needs. By measuring the effectiveness of the investment and by regularly seeking the views of young people on how well things are tracking and what could be done better, the council has a plan that delivers on its commitment to young people in a more robust way.



CASE STUDY

YOUTH ADVISORY PANEL

Auckland Council’s Youth Advisory Panel is a formal mechanism through which youth voices can be heard by the council. The Local Government (Auckland Council) Amendment Act 2010 states that it is the role of the mayor to “ensure there is effective engagement between the Auckland Council and the people of Auckland, including those too young to vote”.

In alignment with this, in February 2011 the mayor committed to the establishment of a Foundation Youth Advisory Panel (FYAP) as one of his ‘100 projects’ in his first 100 days. This interim panel worked with the council to develop a sustainable model of youth representation in line with other advisory panels. Council staff and young people worked together to establish the Youth Advisory Panel in 2012.

The panel has helped to bridge the gap between Auckland’s youth and its council.

WHAT IS THE YOUTH ADVISORY PANEL?

The Youth Advisory Panel has a representative aged between 12 and 24 from each of the 21 local board areas. These young people meet regularly to provide advice and feedback to all areas of the council on issues of importance to young people.

The Youth Advisory Panel co-designed with the council *I Am Auckland*, the Strategic Action Plan for Children and Young People. The goals of *I Am Auckland* were

developed through engagement with more than 6,000 children and young people. These goals have informed the work programme of the panel and the work of the council. The panel has also worked alongside the council to co-deliver actions to meet the goals of the plan.

SUCCESS AND IMPACT

The Youth Advisory Panel has provided advice on a large number of issues of importance to youth and been integral in the engagement of the council with young people. The panel’s input has been wide-ranging and the following presents some key examples.

The panel has helped to bridge the gap between Auckland’s youth and its council. The members of the panel have developed advice for communicating with youth. That advice is used extensively within the council. It includes guidance around the sort of language and ways of communicating that young people find the most accessible. In turn this has improved the council’s level and quality of engagement.

In preparing the new Civil Defence Plan, the council was aware that it needed a better understanding of young people’s response in emergency situations. The Youth Advisory Panel provided feedback on how young people respond in crisis and how they can be involved in disaster response. This has been incorporated into the Civil Defence Plan.

The dedication of the panel members has also been instrumental in creating positive engagements between the council and youth, for instance by co-developing



a Long Term Plan youth consultation. The members of the panel have approached these engagements with enthusiasm and have put in the time and energy necessary to make them successful.

The Youth Advisory Panel has committed to being at the forefront of realising the goals of *I Am Auckland*, including Goal 7 – Rangatahi tū rangatira. The panel has identified a gap in rangatahi Māori voices in council and acknowledged the importance of young Māori voices being heard. As a result, the panel supported former members who set up an independent Rangatahi Rōpū and have committed to work with that group to explore the best way of hearing rangatahi voices in the future.

Youth voices are not heard on an ad hoc basis, but as a regular and expected part of the governance process.

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

There are a number of factors that have made the Youth Advisory Panel a success.

The structure of the panel has allowed its members to represent the diverse voices of Auckland’s young people to the council. The Youth Advisory Panel is made up of a member from each of the 21 local board areas. These members have relationships with the local youth groups or voices in their areas. This structure allows the panel to have a regional focus but also have a direct line of sight to the youth issues in their local community.

As a part of the council structure, the panel has a mandate to offer strategic advice on youth issues to the council, and to advise on the council’s engagement with youth. Youth voices are not heard on an ad hoc basis, but as a regular and expected part of the governance process. When heard, the perspectives and voices of youth mean that the council’s work is fuller and more responsive to this rapidly growing demographic.

As young people, the members of the panel are given extra support necessary to enable them to meaningfully contribute in this governance setting. They are given induction training and support throughout their terms of office. Newer members of the panel are mentored by more experienced members and although the meetings are highly structured, the culture of the meetings is kept youth-friendly to enable all members to feel welcome.



DOWNLOAD
ACDEMG PLAN 2011-2016
(ZMB PDF)



CASE STUDY

JOB FEST

In 2012, according to Statistics New Zealand, 29,000 young Aucklanders (aged 15 to 24 years) were not in employment, education or training. This figure was higher for young Māori and young Pacific Island Aucklanders.¹⁹ To address this critical issue, the mayor launched the Mayor's Youth Employment Traction Plan in 2013. Auckland Council and Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development (ATEED) enacted his vision by maintaining youth employment activities already underway in the Youth Connections programme and building a new series of interlocking initiatives designed to increase youth employment. One of these initiatives was JobFest.

JobFest breaks down barriers by bringing young people and employers face to face, and creating a marketplace of roles specifically for youth.

As the programme began, a co-design process was undertaken with youth and businesses to identify barriers for young people gaining employment. One of the key insights was the value in bringing employers and young people face to face. As a result, the council and ATEED piloted a youth employment summit to link unemployed youth to employers with vacancies. Turnout to this event was high, and feedback from youth and employers who attended was very positive. Investment from

the Tindall Foundation, Hugh Green Foundation and the Auckland Airport Community Trust allowed the model to be scaled up and JobFest was launched. To date there have been three JobFest events, each growing in scale and size.

WHAT IS JOBFEST?

JobFest is a free one-day event created to get young people into employment. Young people face significant competition in the labour market, and are often disadvantaged due to a lack of skills and work experience. When applying online they are frequently screened out before they even have a chance to interview. JobFest breaks down these barriers by bringing young people and employers face to face, and creating a marketplace of roles specifically for youth.

JobFest marketing and social media encourages young people to get their CVs critiqued and plan their interview outfits ahead of the day. Young people can attend workshops, talk with business representatives, apply for roles and interview on the day for positions. They also gain a better understanding of career pathways within organisations, and how entry level roles can lead to more exciting careers over time.

Businesses showcase their vacancies and give presentations. Meeting face to face allows employers to get a sense of the energy and attitude of applicants, and to discuss skills and life experience that may be relevant. In this environment, many young people are able to demonstrate work-related skills they have gained through supporting their family, their marae, or their church.

¹⁹ Statistics NZ.

.....
*JobFest is a free one-day event
created to get young people into
employment.*
.....

JobFest attracts three segments of young people: those who are work-ready and motivated to secure a job; those who are beginning to explore the world of work and are seeking information about different job opportunities; and those who have little knowledge of the job market or recruitment process. JobFest caters to each of these groups.

Attendees who are unsuccessful in finding work at JobFest gain knowledge and experience from participating in the recruitment process that prepares them to secure a job in future.

SUCCESS AND IMPACT

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JobFest has increased the commitment and engagement from employers to create more employment opportunities for youth. Employers are becoming more interested in the benefits of employing youth and more intentional about aligning their key recruitment periods to coincide with JobFest.

The first JobFest in 2015 had 40 businesses looking to hire young people, and resulted in 120 young people being employed. The second, in the same year, boasted more than 60 employers and resulted in 150 young people being employed.

In May 2016 JobFest sustained employer numbers and had greater depth of employer engagement. This included employers increasing staff numbers, take-home resources and on-the-day interviews. Although the employment results for the 2016 event are not yet available, the event was attended by more than 2000 young people. This is the largest turnout for JobFest so far.

The economic impact of these events is significant. As a result of the two JobFests in 2015, 270 youth were employed either full-time or part-time. Economic modelling estimates that the average salary for these young people is \$20,800 and that the GDP effect of these jobs is \$10.3 million.

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

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A range of factors contributes to the success of JobFest. Wherever possible, the ATEED and Auckland Council team look for opportunities to collaborate with other businesses and



organisations to deliver JobFest. The Ministry of Social Development, CareersNZ and NZME have sponsored the event, subsidising advertising and venue costs. Auckland Transport provided free public transport to JobFest, allowing young people from across Auckland to attend. This collaboration keeps costs low for companies to have stalls, and keeps JobFest free and accessible for young people.

Staff have worked hard to build relationships with businesses to recruit them to participate in JobFest and the broader Youth Connections programme. They support businesses to get the most out of their JobFest experience. Businesses are getting good recruitment results from JobFest which keeps them returning to events.

Jobfest keeps growing and developing because of on-going reflection and evaluation. Employer feedback is sought through a number of surveys before, during and after the event. Young people are surveyed on the day to collect insights about their experiences of JobFest and their employment aspirations. These survey results inform the on-going development of JobFest and feed into the creation of new tools and initiatives to support youth employment.



270
YOUTH EMPLOYED EITHER
FULL-TIME OR PART-TIME





CASE STUDY

ENVIROSCHOOLS

In 2001, the Enviroschools programme was launched nationwide with support from the Ministry for the Environment and the New Zealand Association for Environmental Education. The purpose of Enviroschools is to grow generations of people who think and act sustainably. In Auckland, the Enviroschools programme is facilitated by the council, and the Auckland, Northern and Counties Manukau Kindergarten Associations.

WHAT IS ENVIROSCHOOLS?

The Enviroschools programme supports early childhood centres and schools (from primary through to secondary) to implement environmental education for sustainability initiatives. The council plays a vital coordinating and facilitation role supporting schools to create a localised programme of action and connecting schools with specialists and local community initiatives. These programmes include practices such as waste minimisation and energy conservation. Over time, the programme aims to embed sustainability action throughout the local curriculum.

There are strong guiding principles that create a consistent structure for the programme but also allow for enough flexibility to suit a range of school environments. This structure is firmly grounded in a te ao Māori perspective which is woven throughout the programme. Schools are supported to strengthen their relationships with local marae, iwi and other community organisations.

Enviroschools is an action-oriented programme that follows a process of exploration, planning, action and reflection about sustainability. Ultimately, the programme creates more sustainable communities by building collaborative relationships between students, schools and the local community.

Each school also grows the depth and breadth of its programme by participating in annual reflection activities, including a survey which tracks progress and assists in goal setting for the following year. Schools often celebrate their achievements at the end of the year and depending on their progress may attain a new Bronze, Silver or Green-Gold Enviroschools status.

The guiding principles of Enviroschools provide a foundation for the programme that empowers children and young people to make meaningful change in their communities.

SUCCESS AND IMPACT

The Enviroschools programme has demonstrated success in a number of areas. There has been widespread interest and uptake of the programme, with 212 Enviroschools currently signed on across Auckland, and 30 schools and early childhood centres on the waiting list to join.



The programme has made a significant impact on the lives of children and young people. The Enviroschools 2015 national survey results indicate that students across Auckland have increased cultural capability as a result of the programme, and 66 per cent of Auckland schools feel that Māori perspectives are evident in the school because of the programme. Health outcomes for children and young people at Enviroschools have also improved across Auckland, with 77 per cent of schools stating that children engage in healthier eating and more physical activity as a result of the programme. In addition to these child-focused outcomes, environmental outcomes were also met with 94 per cent of schools enhancing biodiversity (e.g. through tree planting, pest control, habitat protection).

CRITICAL SUCCESS FACTORS

There are a number of factors that make Enviroschools a success. The first is having dedicated facilitators. Facilitators are critical in establishing and supporting new enviroschools. They help tailor the programme to the needs of the school, connect the school with community organisations and develop relationships of trust with the school. These relationships of mutual trust allow the facilitator to challenge schools to push themselves for greater outcomes and grow their practice.

Secondly, the guiding principles of Enviroschools provide a foundation for the programme that empowers children and young people to make meaningful change in their communities. They shape the goal setting of schools, and provide a consistent framework and reference point for all schools regardless of decile or ecosystem.

Finally, collaboration is an essential part of the Enviroschools programme and a key factor in its success. Enviroschools facilitators work alongside schools, local organisations and specialists to grow knowledge and a sense of community. Relationships are built with local iwi and marae, which honours treaty obligations and actively encourages students to understand te ao Māori. These collaborations create a support network for the school that inspires students to think about their community, and provides students access to specialised knowledge. Enviroschools are encouraged to collaborate with each other across school levels to form clusters. These create a sense of community where knowledge and resources are shared. This allows established Enviroschools to become more independent and less reliant on facilitators, which grows capacity and allows facilitators to support more new schools.

BECAUSE OF THE ENVIROSCHOOL PROGRAMME:



66% OF AUCKLAND SCHOOLS FEEL THAT MĀORI PERSPECTIVES ARE EVIDENT IN THE SCHOOL



77% OF SCHOOLS STATE THAT CHILDREN ENGAGE IN HEALTHIER EATING AND MORE PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AS A RESULT OF THE PROGRAMME



94% OF SCHOOLS HAVE ENHANCED BIODIVERSITY (E.G. THROUGH TREE PLANTING, PEST CONTROL, HABITAT PROTECTION)

FREYBERG SQUARE AND ELLEN MELVILLE CENTRE CHILDREN'S AUDIT

Before



After



Number of children (aged 0-9) living in the CBD

1996	141
2001	219
2006	390
2013	822

(Census regions Auckland Central West, Auckland Central East and Auckland Harbourside) by the last four censuses



GOAL 1 FREYBERG SQUARE AND ELLEN MELVILLE CENTRE CHILDREN'S AUDIT

Auckland's inner city is increasingly home to children. There is a need for spaces in the city where children can play and explore safely. The redevelopment of Freyberg Square in Auckland's central business district, and the adjacent Ellen Melville Centre, provide an ideal opportunity to create more child-friendly spaces.

In the Auckland City Centre Master Plan, the guideline for the redevelopment of Auckland's inner city, 'Inclusiveness and a child-friendly city' is one of the 10 guiding factors for future city development.²⁰

The Waitematā Local Board has also committed to working towards UNICEF Child-Friendly City accreditation, which carries with it obligations for children to have opportunities to influence decisions and shape the future of their city, as well as having spaces and places to play and enjoy themselves. This aligns with the commitment in *I Am Auckland* to implement new models of assessing children's needs.

As part of this commitment, the council conducted a children's audit of Freyberg Square and Ellen Melville Centre to give children the opportunity to contribute to the design and redevelopment of the build environment.

The group of children aged 7-13 years old, most of whom were Waitematā Local Board residents, participated in the children's audit. They explored the space, taking photographs of what interested them, focusing on feeling safe, what they liked and

disliked and where they would play.

The children's feedback greatly helped designers shape the draft concepts for the square²¹. Some specific examples of things the children recommended that have been included in the design include:

- space to play along the plants on the bank and to climb up high
- being able to interact with the water feature
- planting good climbing trees
- access to the statue of Lord Freyberg
- signage explaining the significance of Lord Freyberg
- drinking fountains
- artwork on the side of the Ellen Melville Centre.

The children were invited to a final workshop to review the draft concept plan and provide further advice on what else they would like to see in the square and the centre. They were shown how their advice had been incorporated in the plan and how influential their feedback had been in the design.

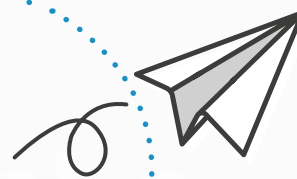
The children themselves were clear that children had a right to be consulted about public spaces around the city. They pointed out that children and adults often had different views, needs and desires for space, and that young people's influence on spaces can make those spaces more attractive to a wide age range of people.

²⁰ Auckland Council. (2012) City Centre Master Plan. Auckland Council.

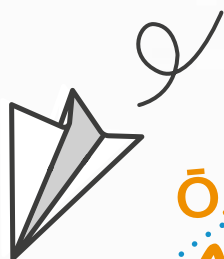
²¹ Z Carroll, P. and Witten, K. (2015) Freyberg Square and Ellen Melville Centre Upgrade: Children's Consultation. SHORE & Whariki Research Centre, Massey University.

YOUTH ZONES AND YOUTH HUBS

Te Oro



Roskill
Youth Zone



Ōtara Music
Arts Centre



Tupu
Youth Library





GOAL 2 YOUTH ZONES AND YOUTH HUBS

Goal 2 seeks to support children and young people by providing safe communities and welcoming places that promote a sense of belonging for their families and whānau. There is a specific action area in this goal focusing on and providing youth zones and hubs.

Youth zones and hubs are safe locations where young people can connect and participate in events and activities that promote growth, creativity and wellbeing. The council family supports the youth hub approach by owning, operating or financially supporting youth hubs and zones across Auckland.

Roskill Youth Zone (RYZ) is the only purpose-built youth facility owned and operated by the council. At RYZ the council partners with community groups and young people to provide events and programmes that meet the needs and aspirations of local young people ranging in age from 12 to 24. A programme example is "In the Zone" - a free, weekly community kickboxing class teaching self-defence, coordination, discipline and wellbeing. RYZ also offers design workshops such as 3D printing and vinyl cutting where youth design and print their own t-shirts.

Tupu Youth Library in Ōtara is also a youth zone owned and managed by the council. Tupu engages young people from their community to develop bespoke library programmes and events such as a 6-week hip hop dance workshop where the participants use library resources to research methods and moves before each practice and then share how the research assisted their performance.

Tupu is the only youth library in New Zealand and most of its resources and services cater specifically for children and youth to enhance their literacy skills.

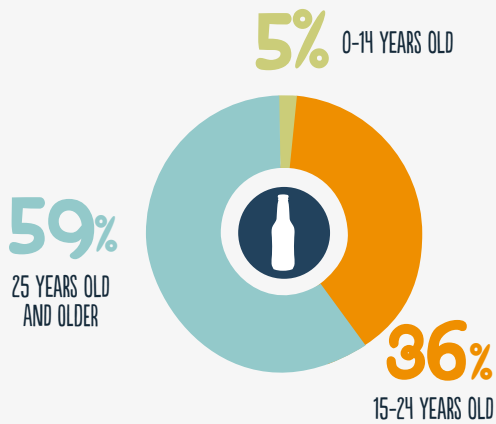
The council also owns and operates youth hubs focusing on the arts, such as Te Oro in Glen Innes and the Ōtara Music Arts Centre (OMAC). Te Oro is a multi-purpose youth-focused facility in Glen Innes where young people can develop their creativity and talents through practice and performance in a community setting.

OMAC offers the Ōtara community a facility especially for young musicians. A primary purpose of OMAC is to nurture, develop and showcase the talent of local youth. The centre helps guide youth to career pathways in the music and performing arts industries.

There are also plans to develop a youth hub in Glenfield. Marlborough Park Hall has been repurposed as a youth-focused centre that will deliver a range of programmes and services to meet the needs of Kaipātiki youth aged 12 to 24 years.

Auckland Council also supports external organisations to run youth hubs through community leases or operating grants. Examples include PHAB Youth Space in Takapuna, Hibiscus Coast Youth Centre, Youthline Manukau, Youthtown East Auckland, Howick Children's & Youth Theatre and ZEAL in Henderson. These organisations provide a variety of youth support activities such as face-to-face counselling, social spaces for young people with disabilities, youth helplines, subsidised sports and arts programmes and drama classes for children and young adults.

THE LOCAL ALCOHOL POLICY



IN 2013 41% OF ALCOHOL-RELATED EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT PRESENTATIONS IN AUCKLAND WERE 0-24 YEAR OLDS



9am - 9pm
HOURS FOR OFF-LICENCE PREMISES

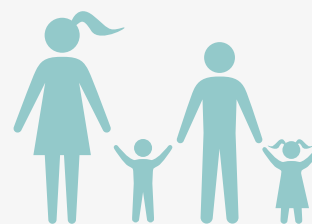
(The provisional local alcohol policy seeks to change these from 7am - 11pm)



16

CONSULTATION ACTIVITIES
FOCUSED ON YOUTH

for the development of the provisional local alcohol policy involved



15

CHILD AND YOUTH FOCUSED GROUPS

submitted on the policy



GOAL 3 THE LOCAL ALCOHOL POLICY

In 2011, research undertaken by the council outlined the type and scale of alcohol related harm in Auckland. In response to this, and to feedback from the community, the council has decided to develop a local alcohol policy under the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012.²²

The Act has two main objectives:

- that the sale, supply, and consumption of alcohol should be undertaken safely and responsibly;
- that the harm caused by the excessive or inappropriate consumption of alcohol should be minimised.

Local alcohol policies set licencing rules for the location, number and trading hours of licenced premises, and must align with the objectives of the Act.

Gaining insights from young people was critical for the development of the policy, as they experience disproportionate harm from alcohol. Youth feedback was sought through engagement with rangatahi, the Youth Advisory Panel, local board youth voice groups, social media, universities, recreation centres and targeted youth events.

Many of those who submitted on the policy considered that harmful drinking practices

(in particular pre-loading and side-loading) and the availability of cheap off-licence alcohol were the main contributors to alcohol-related harm associated with on-licence premises.

The provisional local alcohol policy²³ is focused on reducing alcohol-related harm. Several measures in the policy aim to reduce harm to children and young people. These include:

- changing off-licence premises opening times from 7am to 9am after school starts, to assist in reducing exposure to alcohol for children and young people
- closing times for off-licence premises to change from 11pm to 9pm, which is designed to lessen the harm caused by 'pre-loading'
- development of 'Priority Overlay' areas, which are areas with high incidences of alcohol-related crime and high proportions of groups (such as children and youth) that experience disproportionate harm from alcohol
 - o in these areas, special rules apply to determine the location of new off-licence premises.

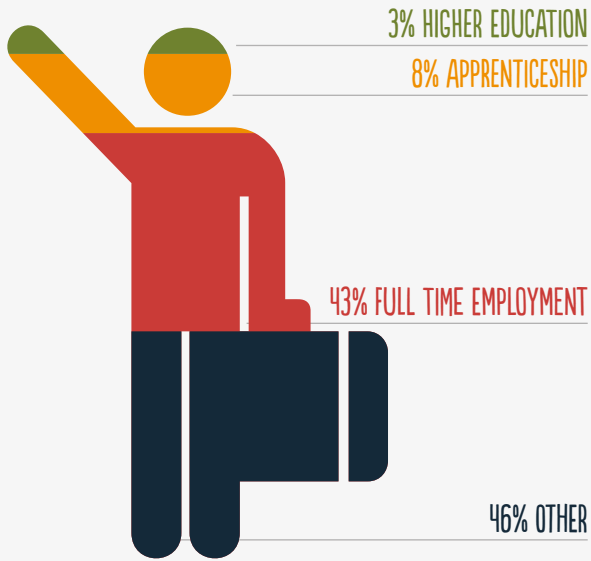
The drafting of the provisional local alcohol policy involved active consultation with young people.

²² Resolution number RDO/2012/78 – "d) That the Regional Development and Operations Committee approves the development of a local alcohol policy, subject to the enactment of the Alcohol Reform Bill."

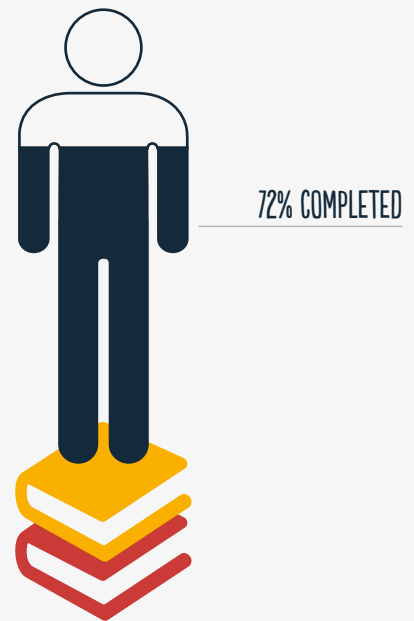
²³ At the time of writing, this snapshot represents provisional policy direction only. Auckland Council publicly notified its provisional local alcohol policy on 19 May 2015. Appeals have been lodged with the Alcohol Regulatory and Licensing Authority, so the provisional policy may be subject to change as a result of the hearings process.

MĀORI AND PASIFIKA TRADES TRAINING

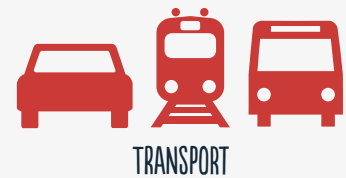
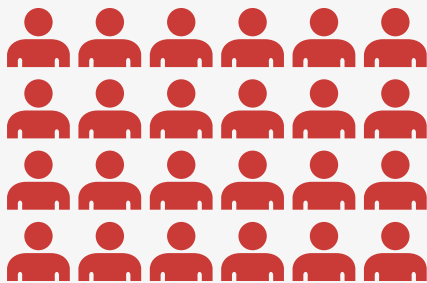
PARTICIPANTS WHO TRANSITION TO



PROPORTION THAT HAVE COMPLETED THE TRAINING



ENGAGED EMPLOYER CONSORTIUM INDUSTRIES





GOAL 4 MĀORI AND PASIFIKA TRADES TRAINING

Auckland Council is committed to lifting outcomes for Māori and Pasifika. Auckland is currently experiencing a demand for skilled tradespeople and that demand is expected to grow.

The Southern Initiative, one of Auckland Council's place-based initiatives, has identified young Māori and Pasifika training and employment as a critical priority. To address this the council is delivering the Māori and Pasifika Trades Training programme.

The programme is a government initiative to assist Māori and Pasifika, aged 16-40, to gain qualifications through training and apprenticeships that will lead to sustainable employment with opportunities for progression.

The Southern Initiative co-ordinates training providers to deliver courses and recruit Māori and Pasifika people to take up trade training. The programme recruits learners through Work and Income, as well as through community organisations, iwi and prisons. There is a focus on recruiting vulnerable young people for the programme. In particular, recruitment efforts are focused on young people not in education, training or employment, who are often challenging to reach and who have difficulty attaining employment.

Many young people are vulnerable and have few options for employment. Māori and Pasifika Trades Training aims to provide pathways to employment through the provision of high-quality training in trade skills and also development of soft skills such as interview skills and drivers licencing training. Much of the pre-employment training has been developed through consultation with an employer consortium established to support the programme.

Young people, who often have limited exposure to work, benefit particularly from the soft skills training that the programme provides. Young people enter into the programme with confidence that they are using their time wisely because a clear path to sustainable employment is part of the programme.

Following the training the participants receive assistance to find jobs. They and their employers receive post-employment support to ensure that any challenges are managed. In 2015, a majority of participants received full-time employment or apprenticeships following their training. Employers are positive about the programme and value the contribution of the participants to their businesses.

Māori and Pasifika Trades Training is an important part of the council's commitment to empower young people and improve outcomes for the city's most vulnerable.

WALKING SCHOOL BUS



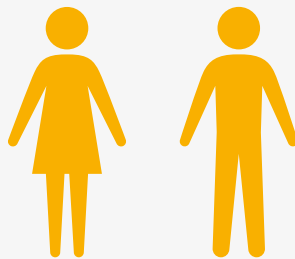
350+

ACTIVE WALKING SCHOOL BUSES



5,000

KIDS INVOLVED



1,800

VOLUNTEERS INVOLVED



GOAL 5 WALKING SCHOOL BUS

The Walking School Bus programme is a part of Auckland Transport's Travelwise programme which seeks to reduce congestion around schools and embed active modes of transport into the lives of children.

Walking school buses are operated by adult volunteers who walk with and supervise children to and from school. The volunteers help children to identify hazards and learn road safety skills. Children are collected from designated 'bus stops', walk a planned route and are dropped off at the school gates.

The programme is supported by Auckland Transport which works with the schools to coordinate walking school bus routes. Auckland Transport carries out safety audits of the routes, identifies safe places to cross roads and helps rectify any safety hazards along the routes by reporting them to appropriate authorities. All adult volunteers are given the option of viewing an online video on road safety or taking a hard copy of the guidelines to help them feel comfortable and safe while walking with groups of children.

Before joining the school bus the children sign a pledge to obey the safety rules and listen to the walking school bus driver at all times. Parents feel secure that their children will arrive safely at school and learn valuable road safety techniques as they walk.

Walking school buses also give children opportunities to socialise and form friendships, often across age groups and with children they might not otherwise meet. Older children are encouraged to take on leadership roles in the buses, taking care of younger walkers and looking out for hazards on their route. Teachers report

that after the early exercise and socialisation afforded by the walking school bus, children arrive at school more energised and ready to learn.

Auckland Transport helps to celebrate the achievements of the children and the volunteers involved in walking school buses. The children have a scheme to incentivise them to earn special bag tags for certain milestones or for exhibiting certain skills, such as road safety consciousness or winter walking. During winter Auckland Transport may arrange for special 'Milo muffin mornings' for walking school bus children.

Volunteers who give their time to walking school buses are also celebrated and acknowledged during National Volunteer Awareness Week. There is a 'Megastars Event' to recognise and acknowledge the commitment of the volunteers who make the programme possible.

Auckland Transport maintains contact with volunteers throughout the year, through regular newsletters and community transport coordinators. Volunteers have channels through which they can provide feedback to Auckland Transport on their particular walking school bus.

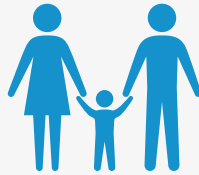
The Walking School Bus programme is made effective through the work of volunteers and the support of Auckland Transport. The success of this collaboration has seen the number of walking school buses increase significantly. Walking school buses contribute to reducing congestion on roads and around schools. Fewer cars waiting to drop off children also means school gates are safer.

WORKSHOPS ON THE WHARF

OVER ONE YEAR APPROXIMATELY..



38,470
PEOPLE ATTENDED



409
PEOPLE (ADULTS AND CHILDREN)
ATTENDED EACH DAY



27,018
CHILDREN ATTENDED



30
CHILDREN ARE GENERALLY
ENGAGED IN A WORKSHOP AT A TIME

JULY 2013 TO JULY 2014
WORKSHOP ATTENDANCE



GOAL 6 WORKSHOPS ON THE WHARF

Panuku Development Auckland leads the regeneration of Auckland's waterfront to create a world-class destination that attracts visitors, residents and businesses and raises the quality of urban living in Auckland.

The Workshops on the Wharf programme was developed as part of this regeneration to transform Wynyard Quarter from a solely-industrial space into a mixed-use area with successful public spaces.

The programme offers free drop-in workshops in Wynyard Quarter where children play, create and problem solve. The purpose of the workshops is to foster rich engagement between children, their peers and their caregivers, and fundamentally to redefine the space as child-friendly and inviting.

The workshops are fun activities that encourage interactive play, learning and creativity between adults and children. They are based on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics) principles that promote dexterity, experimentation, imagination and understanding. These principles enhance learning, but also lead children to be more engaged and attached to their creations. One example was a miniature boat creation activity that included design, building and testing the boat in a nearby fountain. The activities are pitched for an average seven year old to complete within 20 minutes. However, they are also adaptable for all ages, and there is no time limit for play.

The workshops are predominantly held outside, and go ahead rain or shine. This regularity and consistency creates a reliable option for families, helps foster a sense of community, and contributes to a strong profile for the area.

Feedback from families who attend the workshops has been positive and many return regularly. Anne Larnach, the workshop facilitator from 2011-2015, says "We are beginning to see a real community building around the workshops, for many families living in the inner-city, the waterfront is the closest thing to a backyard and we hope they see the workshops as an extension of that."²⁴

Children lead their own learning and are encouraged to use the space to explore the limits of their imaginations and creations. This leads the children to develop a sense of ownership over the space, where they have the freedom to move, make noise and interact with others. A sense of safety and belonging develops through this process. Prior to these workshops, there were few child-friendly activities in city centre public spaces.

Since the profile of the workshops has grown, so have opportunities to collaborate. Workshops are now delivered with the support of other community organisations such as Art at Work, Scribbles, Open Fort and Circability. Staff are currently in discussions with Ngāti Whātua o Ōrākei to explore opportunities to deliver regular Māori specific workshops, and these look set to occur in the 2016/2017 financial year.

²⁴ <https://issuu.com/ponsonbynews/docs/pnewsjuly2012highres4web/8>

MANA WHENUA KAITIAKI RANGERS PILOT



NUMBER OF COUNCIL RANGERS : NUMBER OF DOC RANGERS



7 out of 8
WENT ON TO A ROLE IN THE SECTOR



GOAL 7 MANA WHENUA KAITIAKI RANGERS PILOT

Through the Auckland Plan, the council seeks to give effect to kaitiakitanga (environmental guardianship, stewardship, protection) by mana whenua in Tāmaki Makaurau. Rangatahi have an important part to play in kaitiakitanga.

The Kaitiaki Rangers pilot programme is a way in which mana whenua rangatahi are involved in the practical day-to-day protection of Auckland's natural environment.

Every year the council runs a Student Rangers programme to enable young people to begin their career in rangership. The Kaitiaki Rangers programme grew out of engagement with mana whenua and the shared commitment to collaborate for cultural and environmental outcomes through Project Hunua. Mana whenua decided that their cultural wellbeing would be best served by rangatahi employment in environmental management.

In 2015, four of the Student Ranger positions in the Hunua Ranges were ring-fenced for mana whenua rangatahi. The Department of Conservation also ring-fenced four positions in the Hauraki Gulf Islands, an environmentally contiguous territory. These eight positions together constituted the pilot Mana Whenua Kaitiaki Rangers programme.

The Mana Whenua Kaitiaki Rangers received normal ranger training, as well as specialist Department of Conservation technical biodiversity training.

Mana whenua also provided marae-based Māori language and customs training and an insight into history and environmental perspectives of te Ao Māori. This additional training was provided for the rangatahi in order to build their kaitiakitanga skills to protect Auckland's biodiversity. The training also empowers them to work effectively in co-management arrangements with local and central government agencies.

Following the Kaitiaki Rangers programme, seven of the eight participants achieved positions in ecological management.²⁵ These rangatahi have not only achieved positive employment outcomes for themselves in a highly competitive field, but also help to ensure that mana whenua have a voice in on-the-ground environmental management of their region.

As a result of the Kaitiaki Rangers pilot programme, a number of cadetships for rangatahi mana whenua are being rolled out regionally. These cadetships will build on the success of the Mana Whenua Kaitiaki Rangers programme, and provide a channel for rangatahi mana whenua into a career in rangership. This new cadetship programme demonstrates the council's continued commitment to kaitiakitanga and working with mana whenua to protect the natural environment.

The council acknowledges Ngāti Paoa, Ngāti Whanaunga and Ngāti Tamaoho for their drive and support of this programme.

²⁵ The concept of rangatahi in te Ao Māori does not correspond exactly to council definitions of youth (age 12-24). To that end, only one of the eight rangatahi involved in the Kaitiaki Rangers programme was under the age of 25.



CONCLUSION

Auckland is full of creative, energetic and insightful young people. Many of these young people are thriving and engaging in the design and leadership of their city. However, many young Aucklanders still face challenges in terms of their health and wellbeing, school achievement, access to good employment opportunities and having their voices heard on issues that affect their lives. *I Am Auckland* aims to focus the council family's efforts and to ensure that children and young people have the tools and opportunities that they deserve to prosper.

Over the last three years the council family has shown a strong commitment to young people, delivering more than 200 discrete actions, policies and programmes. The council supports youth facilities and child and youth focused programmes that explore the world through big ideas like environmental guardianship, disaster response, social connection, getting active and navigating school and employment.

The council family has delivered well on Goal 4 particularly in the skills and employment space. The Career Pathways Programme and JobFest are just two examples of the great strides that have been made to create new employment avenues for young people. Although the proportion of young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEETs) has reduced over the last few years, the continued high unemployment rates among Auckland's young people suggest that they are still

in need of skill development, training opportunities and employment support.

Goal 6 has also been an area of prolific delivery. Bespoke arts and culture activities and innovative recreational programmes are creating a vibrant landscape that supports the growth of happy, healthy children and young people. This is an area where the council family can continue to make a difference to the lives of young Aucklanders.

Much of what has been successful across all the goals has been co-designed and co-developed by young people themselves. Over the next three years, this approach can be expanded. By engaging with children and youth, they become equal partners in crafting their present and their future. Better outcomes are achieved when young people are informed, engaged and empowered to share their voice and their vision.

While there is much to be applauded, there are still opportunities to improve and to harness the potential of all of Auckland's young people to deliver on the promise of *I Am Auckland*. This includes looking at ways to address the current gaps in delivery particularly in relation to Goal 7, "Rangatahi tū rangatira" (All rangatahi will thrive). Over the next few years, the council family could seek new ways to engage with tamariki and rangatahi particularly to develop leadership and action. This could be realised either through new discrete actions or woven through activities.

Māori and Pacific young people make up more than a third of Auckland's young people and continue to experience higher levels of disparity in health, education and employment outcomes than others. The goals of *I Am Auckland* could be further realised through increasing strategic focus on creating positive outcomes for Māori and Pacific young people, particularly in education and employment.

In some parts of the council family there has been good strategic alignment to *I Am Auckland*, but this could be enhanced. Where council groups have aligned their strategic documents to *I Am Auckland* there has been more explicit child and youth focused activity achieving one or more of the seven goals. Incorporating *I Am Auckland* goals into more grant funding criteria could also result in increased investment in child and youth outcomes.

Measurement and evaluation are other areas for improvement. To date, this has been limited. To better understand the impact of activities on young people, it will be important for the council and CCOs to assess the effectiveness of their initiatives. Further, to better understand the overall success of *I Am Auckland*, the council could develop an evaluation framework with appropriate monitoring tools and measures closely linked to activities. This status report could serve as a baseline from which to measure the council family's future progress.

There is some great practice happening across the council family and the six case studies and seven snapshots profiled in Part Two provide examples of this best practice. Some common factors shared among these successful initiatives are their intentional co-design with young people, a collaborative approach, well-structured programmes, strong feedback and evaluation methods, combined with political and senior leadership support. These initiatives also tend to have a degree of flexibility coupled with a clear purpose, objectives and strong guiding principles that underpin the approach and delivery.

The snapshots profile examples of the breadth of good work happening in all the goal areas of *I Am Auckland*, including innovative projects and the piloting of new approaches. These novel approaches include child's audits, mana whenua rangatahi engagement and focusing on health and employment issues affecting Auckland's most vulnerable young people.

To keep up this best practice, the council family must continue to deliver what works well, discard what does not work and be brave enough to try new approaches to meet the goals of *I Am Auckland*.

Together the council family and empowered young people can build on the vision of *I Am Auckland* and create a sustainable future for all Aucklanders.

