

strengthen the ability of individuals, families and communities to improve the capacity of people to deal with adversity and improve their own situation over time

Social development is seen as involving individuals, households, families, communities, non governmental organisations, and government (local and central), each with specific roles to play in promoting the social well-being of our community.

*“We need strong social institutions, strong families, and strong communities to thrive in a demanding global environment. We have to invest in people as a top priority, so they feel secure and are able and willing to participate in our society and to face the challenge arising from constant change. Communities do not become strong because they are rich; they become rich because they are strong
The Hon Steve Maharey – Minister of Social Development (2004) –
“Opportunities for All New Zealanders” – Ministry of Social Development*

2.0 End State Goals

The expert group has identified the problems of deepening poverty and multi-generational welfare dependency within some communities as being a matter of serious concern. These problems in turn pose broader risks to social cohesion in some parts of Auckland region and subsequently pose the real possibility that social polarisation will become a permanent feature of Auckland’s social landscape.

To address these problems and trends, the expert group has identified three dimensions across which social development has to happen. **People**, their living and social conditions, the opportunities they have, and the way that they are treated, are fairly central to social development. **Social institutions** be they at a family level, community or social level or in market and state organisations are important shapers of the opportunities people have throughout their lives. Social processes happen in real **space** so the physical environment that we create has an impact both on these processes and the lives of people, their families and their communities.

The broad ‘end state goal’ for the social development theme is:

Auckland is a fairer region where strong social institutions support healthy, vibrant and safe communities in places which are liveable attractive and well connected.

This goal is supported by an overall approach which seeks to build links between people, between social institutions and between places. The detailed end state goal is as follows:

A fairer region where

- ◆ People are able to thrive with access to sustainable employment, essential services and affordable housing
- ◆ People are healthy, well educated, well informed, and equipped to fully participate in the social, economic and cultural life of their community
- ◆ People are resilient, well equipped with the core skills, to enable them to adapt and change in an ever-changing world
- ◆ People feel safe in their safe in their homes and communities

- ◆ People acknowledge and respect the values and rights of others and the law of the land.
- ◆ People have aspiration, hope and the opportunity to succeed
- ◆ There is strong social investment and early intervention directed to address disadvantage, and to limit significant disparity and polarisation by reason of social – economic disadvantage

Strong social institutions (families, communities, organisations) which

- ◆ Are effective, responsive, and there when you need them
- ◆ Work well with other social institutions and plan for the longer term in an integrated way, using a strong common knowledge base about what is happening
- ◆ Are resilient and well equipped to adapt and change in an ever-changing world

Healthy, vibrant and safe communities in places which are liveable attractive and well connected by

- ◆ Urban form that actively contributes to safer and more healthy communities, and social and other infrastructure that is equitably distributed and well matched to growth
- ◆ A strengthened social emphasis in land use strategies, infrastructure planning (especially transport), and retrofitting existing communities to positively assist people to access work, essential services and recreation and leisure activities, with a key aim to avoid creating disadvantaged communities.
- ◆ A strengthened sense of responsibility & connectivity within communities (eg inter-generational interaction), and between communities (eg both spatially and across those with differing socio-economic conditions)
- ◆ Strong participation in a broad range of civil and political forums with strong community leadership

The issue of identity and belonging, whilst clearly relevant to the social development theme has been deliberately put aside and left to the cultural diversity and social cohesion theme paper.

3.0 Seeds and Constraints

3.1 Seeds

- ◆ The growing youth population with its vibrancy and potential for innovation
- ◆ The growing elderly population with a wealth of experience and skills to draw upon
- ◆ Auckland's diverse community and the potential point of difference offered by Maori and Pasifika culture
- ◆ The capability to provide early intervention and social investment with a particular focus on key issues like health and education

- ◆ Well established communities structures of support and leadership (eg churches, sport clubs, residents' groups).

3.2 Constraints

- ◆ Persistent and growing inequalities in incomes, education, health and housing with significant pockets of social deprivation leading to increasing risk of polarisation between communities. (These pockets are likely to coincide with population groupings that are likely to constitute the majority of the home-grown workforce of the future)
- ◆ Inter-generational welfare dependency left unchecked leading to lost human potential
- ◆ A tolerance of violence in our communities and in particular high levels of domestic violence against women and children
- ◆ Rising levels of obesity and the resulting health and social problems
- ◆ That inadequacy of resources in some communities to cater for the needs of more disadvantaged migrants while also addressing the needs of existing populations
- ◆ The absence of shared values across our diverse population bases which may increase the vulnerability of the more disadvantaged people and communities

4.0 Impact of the Forces

Six 'Forces of Change for the 21st Century' have been identified as part of the START project, and presented in a series of working papers for debate. These forces have been identified as being likely to impact the Auckland region and its people over the next century. The Forces are seen as having the following potential impacts on the social development theme:

4.1 Demographics

- ◆ By 2050 Auckland will be home to 40% of the NZ population but will be different from anywhere else in NZ in the diversity, mix and age structure of its population
- ◆ Auckland will generally have a younger population than the rest of NZ. Some parts of Auckland will be more youthful (e.g. more than 40% of Manakau's population is aged under 25 years) whilst others will be less so. It will also have a swelling population of elderly who will work and contribute to society for longer, but will also increase demand on health resources
- ◆ Auckland will be less European, more Asian, more Pacific, and possibly less Maori - in the next ten years over half of all Aucklanders will NOT be European. It is expected that the largest ethnic minority will be Asian, then Pasifika, then Maori
- ◆ Immigration will continue to be a dominant force in Auckland's future - approximately 65% of migrants who arrive in New Zealand stay in Auckland

4.2 Globalisation

- ♦ The region will become increasingly socially complex, cosmopolitan and different to the rest of New Zealand. Global trends will increasingly be seen first and felt more strongly in Auckland.

4.3 World views

- ♦ There will be a more diverse range of world views than ever before, with the potential for a real lack of consensus on social and other related issues. The shift to a broader range of institutions, the increasing focus on specific sections of the community, and their more diverse and disparate approaches have accelerated this trend.

4.4 Climate Change

- ♦ Climate change could significantly affect society through a diversity of impacts; rising sea levels could change land use and dislocate existing seaside communities; increases in tropical and waterborne diseases may negatively impact on the health of those living near estuaries

4.5 Technology

- ♦ Technology and familiarity with it can positively change the way society operates (eg work / transport patterns and tele-working), but it can also negatively divide (ie the digital divide between those with access and those without).

4.6 Resource availability

- ♦ Possible depletion and increasing costs of resources (eg paying more for water from the Waikato) may have the greatest impact on the most vulnerable

5.0 Actions

The overall approach to meeting the end state goals is to build links or relationships between people, institutions and places. The absence of these links and relationships is the fundamental reason for the emerging social exclusion and polarisation which the Auckland region faces. It is expected that any catalyst actions developed through the START programme will take this approach and build specific responses around projects or programmes which encompass a number of other themes as well as social development.

5.1 A fairer region

- ♦ Increased focus on social investment, early intervention and prevention work aimed at disadvantage, recognising the potential benefits to the social, economic and cultural life of the community
 - More early childhood interventions (particularly around education, health and housing) that ensures that they are ready to learn and able to attain educationally

- Additional support for teenagers to attain educationally, have the core life skills for adult life, and to successfully transition into employment or training
- Strengthened support for disadvantaged families (particularly those with intergenerational dependency) to break the cycle of poor parenting
- ◆ Breaking down the cycle of intergenerational benefit dependency with an emphasis on moving people into employment, education or training wherever possible
- ◆ Build requirements for developers to make provision for affordable housing into urban growth management policies.
- ◆ Creating opportunities for individuals to participate fully in family, community and civic life, with a specific recognition of the region's youthfulness and diversity

5.2 Strong social institutions

- ◆ Spatial social plans to better coordinate the work of social agencies in defined and prioritised geographical areas
- ◆ Strengthening schools to operate as a key centre for communities (eg Otara Schools project)
- ◆ Expanding the range of community based organisations used to deliver programmes eg churches, sports clubs etc eg Lotumoi campaign against obesity by CMDHB
- ◆ Work with philanthropic funders to assist them to direct their assistance to communities in ways which meet identified social needs and social objectives.
- ◆ Further development of 'One stop shop' to better integrate services (eg Auckland settlement strategy, joint Work and Income / HNZA service centres
- ◆ Establishing a regional social issues forum, which brings together central and local government together with community based organisations

5.3 Strong healthy and vibrant communities

- ◆ Building a social dimension and considerations into the Regional Growth Strategy
- ◆ Undertaking health and social impact assessments for local and central government policy decisions and major infrastructure planning
- ◆ Planning development patterns which fully utilise existing social infrastructure (avoiding underutilisation or overloading of facilities like schools and health facilities
- ◆ Building the capacity and capability of social agencies to understand and input into physical planning processes, and providing a strong evidential base to that input

Expert Groups

The expert group was made up of the following people.

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- ◆ Aireni Tokerangi, Te Whanau o Waipareira Trust
- ◆ Sharon Wilson, Tamaki Ki Raro Trust
- ◆ Margie Fepuleai, Counties-Manakau District Health Board
- ◆ Diane Robertson, Auckland City Mission
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The group convenors were:

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The group navigators were:

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Local and central government officials who provided support were:

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- ◆ Alison Dow, Ministry of Youth Development
- ◆ Bruce Adin, Ministry of Education
- ◆ Greg Mossong, Housing New Zealand Corporation
- ◆ Theresa Fabricius, Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs
- ◆ Kellie Coombes, Ministry of Social Development