

Pacific Island Peoples Consultation

Consultation was held in conjunction with the Pacific Island Advisory Board review meetings. The consultation was based on previous consultation from Our Future Today (1999). The key issues identified during that consultation were:

- Access to health and community services especially for low-income families
- Education and skills development
- Economic development for Pacific Peoples
- Caring for youth and elderly
- A multicultural centre
- Proportional representation at the local level of government
- Widespread concern about the impact of user-charges on large lo-income

The results of the current consultation showed these issues as still very relevant, with no new issues raised. The highest priorities in this latest round of consultation were:

- Economic development including the development of the Pacific Island Business and Cultural Centre
- Education and skill development
- Youth issues

It was suggested that Council should assist in the development of economic ability, with education, skill development and increased business support seen as a means of supporting this. There was backing for economic development being culture based and grass roots, with support being voiced for the Pacific Island Business and Cultural Centre. Some Pacific Island Peoples expressed the importance of retaining a strong cultural identity including that of individual Pacific Island nations. However, some concern was expressed regarding the focus on the PIBCC, and that not all people supported it. It was noted that the centre needed to grow slowly and that the entire focus of development should not be on it. Concern was also expressed at the perspective of Pacific Island peoples, i.e. not everyone speaks the language, play the drums and have a low income.

The consultation identified the need to provide opportunities for youth outside of formal education to enable them to develop practical skills. Also it was identified as important to provide opportunities for youth to learn skills from their elders and retain knowledge of their cultures. It was expressed that more needed to be done for youth for example a centre for them to gather and hang out and organising talent quests and festivals to encourage their interests.

Summary of comments below.

Monday 15 July – Tokelau and Tuvalu

Community support

- Communities getting better at knowing where to find information through education, through people, word of mouth
- Tuvalu community having trouble especially in managing public funds
 - board could have a role in sourcing/providing this assistance
- Needs of new migrants – finding help can be very difficult – no system to give advice and help provide community links. Without such support, people withdraw
- More effective communication with communities, use Pacific languages, not just via PIAB Education – PI children at a disadvantage, parents have little help in raising kids, how to educate kids (info in languages, what is available), kids, parents, elders – systems needed to link needy kids with elders
- Groups can access Council assistance via PIAB
- Awareness leaflets etc. via Libraries

- Some PI candidates, but not successful
- Council should look at different ways of charging which are fair on large, low – income families

Education

- Higher education – kids doing courses which are too easy, not confident
 - PI kids have special needs because of the start they get
- Council can play a part in supporting education, identifying gaps, attracting resources especially for community – based and adult education, building up skills, skills to build, run and market community initiatives
- Courses which give kids strength to take life on – not assume defeat
- Support for kids who drop out of formal education, give them practical skills
- Developing sports skills esp. in those who struggle at school
- Education & skills are #1 – if you build skills now, success will come in the future have to force your kids to where they need to be

Economic Development

- Economic development still #1 – incomes v low, need to support families
- Support for multicultural centre
- PI communities need an economic base to build confidence to move forward
 - build self-esteem, hardworking people who need a push to get started
- PI Business and Cultural Centre – still working on this – significant project for PIAB – other economic development initiatives also important
- Council can recruit more PI staff, provide training, also fund capacity building
- Build capacity before embarking on PIBCC, skills to engage in economic development
- Also older people, physically and mentally still strong – upskill and reskill them – money to unlock resources
- Developing skills is important, but society needs to be ready to recognise and embrace
- Council needs to champion economic development that is community based and fills gaps
- Everyone has skills – potential skills – making these realised isn't just a training issue
 - for some people who are already skilled and hardworking, other forms of support needed
- “Filling the Gaps” – building on the skills of communities
- Give people what they need to meet their needs – beyond training, promotion of employment opportunities
- Urge Council to speed process of establishing PI BCC

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Youth

- Youth need to be “kept out of trouble” something established to keep kids off streets
- Ongoing community-based training for youth, also sports facilities (affordable!)
- Some PI kids shy to join other groups – feeling “not good enough”
- Cultural shift needed – takes more than 1 generation – the community needs to bring kids up in a way that fits with a life in NZ

General

- Earlier issues all still relevant
- Ethnic webs via PIAB – empower PIAB to deliver services
- Council and PIAB can bid together for funds
- Council has major role to play alongside tangata whenua community, central govt
- In 50 years time, we shouldn't be at a disadvantage anymore, should have found our own way in this new country – follow in leaders footsteps

- Cultural shift is needed, but cultural values are a huge strength
- Whatever education, economic development outcomes are sought, need to build on strong cultural values
- Support for cultural diversity needs to build on cultural values
- Elderly – communities suffering to look after elderly in the “island way” it’s not a message that, the family doesn’t care, to use rest homes etc.

Tuesday 16 July – Samoa

Education

- Education – skills development – Council should work with Ministry of Education on levels of literacy and achievements of Pacific people – access/lobby for funding to reduce disparity.
- Pacific people in Waitakere endorsed a Programme of Action with Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, which has milestones for Ministry of Education – PIAB is in the community reference group.
- Literacy a problem, adult, functional, where is the Council?
- Bring up the intellectual ability of people in the City.
- Building block approach – capacity building, education, skills development, for example teaching weaving.
- Reading patterns of tivaevae is literacy – take a broad view.
- Vision of parents often differs to youth – a “basket of knowledge”.
- Keep passing it on, story telling.
- Passing knowledge on comes from bottom up.

Economic development

- Multicultural centre.
- Want to push economic development to support lifting incomes, so people can meet their needs.
- Mixed feelings re cultural centre – what will it do for young people, how can we pass traditions and culture down among generations.

Youth

- Caring for youth
- Youth and elderly need support, families.
- Right people culturally need to deliver to youth church based activities; PIAB has looked into developing a youth centre – not enough for youth in Waitakere City.
- The PIAB could run/supports youth/elders groups.
- Need places youth and elders can congregate.
- Youth suicide not reported, lack of resources for early intervention.
- Counsellors for young people lacking (relates to youth centre).
- Youth changing – different attitude to culture, feels like a demand in terms of time and activities, can impact on study (parents have young people doing study/other things than cultural activities). All comes back to educations and skills – all the issues are linked.

General

- Council can support PIAB partnerships.
- Council to lobby for Pacific people with the PIAB.
- Not reaching all older people, activities available but lack of communication.
- Lack of organisations (who are legally registered) for elderly, esp. Pacific.
- What is struggles for funding, ok if registered, but struggle if not.
- People can't afford to get health care – what is Council doing?
- Need to work together on this.
- Council should be down there and look up to community, work alongside.
- Look broadly at networks out there.

- People wear lots of hats – use word of mouth and contacts, not what you know, it's who you know.
- Want more community consultation/informing – target before the Annual Plan, take key people out to consult.
- Council should look at what it already does (e.g. libraries visit language nests, community groups, tap into this.
- Have stats on nests, population.
- Next 10 years for Pacific people – interesting relationship between Pacific & Asian communities.

Wednesday 17 July – Nuie

Education

- Concern re kids having low qualifications, need to cater for kids interests. What about a centre for Pacific education where PI teachers can teach kids the Pacific way, using school curriculum.
- Like Council to support tertiary education institutions coming into the City.

Economic development

- Work draws me out of the City.
- Business and cultural centre a step in the right direction
- Need local employment, need a bigger industrial area like Central Park Drive.
- Encourage businesses like Hubbards to come to Waitakere.
- The centre would help to create employment, talking about a service centre, health, training. Focus on training in the centre, small business/business development.
- Centre would give people a sense of belonging.
- Taha – if Council can get consents through for Hobsonville for industry, the Council and government can do the same for Pacific people.
- Council provide incentives to keep people here and set up businesses.
- Look at what is happening in South Auckland re Pacific eco development and people, pick up on those ideas and make links. Look at other successful models.

Youth

- A centre my children would identify with, sports, centre for Pacific people, with a Nuie corner, a place I feel safe to go to.
- Want children to be able to stay in the City
- Help kids to develop their interests rather than try and stop it, e.g. break dancing, remind that education etc is also important, don't rubbish what they love or do.
- Have festivals and contests for kids, so much talent there.
- Dob in a do-gooder' in Ranui, like Council to promote youth centres in Waitakere City. Community centres too far away (e.g. Massey centre).

General

- Where will families be in 10 years time, how can we keep families here, Pacific people on the move.
- Lower rates
- Employment, so can travel easily for work
- Flash shopping centres and cinemas
- Rubbish bus \$ a big issue.
- In Nuie, we go back to a village, a home.
- No place that makes people feel at home, are trying to do that in Ranui, want a West Auckland place where people can meet.
- Nice to have one centre.
- Older people need a one stop shop, have WINZ & CYFS all spread out, bring all the important service centres together. Multi-purpose for all ages.
- People find it hard to get to places, doctors etc, transport no good.
- Get services going to the people.

- Also like a PI type of retirement place, some units and PI village (like Dutch village in McLeod Rd), everyone shares their food, singalongs.
- Promote units for older people, more Council housing (like Kaumatua housing).
- Lot of older people retire to the Islands, if you could bring what they want here, they could stay here.
- People who go back after spend \$ coming back to NZ for healthcare.
- Create a place for kids to go after school, do art, pursue their interests.
- Bring South Auckland activities out to Waitakere. Auckland full of PI over time why not get a plan in place.
- Council should promote flax on reserves to be looked after by PI/Maori. Promote ability to pick leaves but not take the whole plant from Council reserves. Currently a permit needed. (Great way for Council to develop relationship with Maori/PI communities).

Thursday 18 July 2002 - Tonga

Waitakere is a great place to live

Things that are good now

- Crime rate lower than SA
- Slower paced life
- Good support for env.
- Clean water
- Health Centre
- Council which cares for all peoples
- Cultural sensitivity/tolerance
- Lots of parks
- Safe parks
- Good parties
- More churches – wide variety
- Good place to bring up kids

Things that would make it even better

| | Ranking |
|--|---------|
| Own WC parliament | |
| PI prime minister from WC | 3 |
| PI centres | 1 |
| Better health services/coming to houses/home visits | 6 |
| Facilities on beaches for families: | 3 |
| ▪ Umu sites | |
| ▪ Barbies | |
| ▪ Kava sites | |
| Tertiary education/pre-schools | |
| More PI people as doctors/nurses | |
| Events centre | 1 |
| Special programmes to support low achieving PI students | 1 |
| Free transport | |
| Lower rates | 3 |
| More sporting facilities | 1 |
| More businesses/more local jobs | 4 |
| More PI on Council as elected members | 1 |
| Less red tape | |
| Council taking on Central Government roles – better delivery | 3 |
| Identifying progs to develop youth | 3 |
| Note: combine into more local employment – more businesses, events centre, PI centres | |

Friday 19 July 2002 - Samoa

Economic Development

- Want to see the business and cultural centre running as soon as possible – the people will come to it, many need places now.
- Corban is big enough – want to stay at Corban. Immigration – Cook Island, Tokelau and Nuie okay with dual citizenship, how are other pacific communities supported.
- Put the focus on the cultural centre, go there for information, like a Citizens Advice Bureau.
- We tend to do more manual labour, need to raise our sights, develop businesses.
- The centre may be the focus we need – one centre point
- Like to see Council and PIAB continue focus on education; skills and economic development.
- Centre should start small and grow, worried if throw all resources into the centre the support and other things going on will be forgotten about.
- Revenue from leasing space at Corban, but stall holders can't afford to lease it. Develop smaller structures to sustain the big picture, crawl before you walk, walk before run.
- Like to see more support for markets at Corban, more focus on business development.
- Some PI people afraid to embrace business development, like Council to support PI to develop economically.
- Like to see Council dedicate Corban to Pacific people, to pacific people, to a centre, build facilities and put resources in, paint, carpet, parking, toilet/kitchen facilities.
- If Council willing to resource PI people will do the work.
- Corban Centre for PI.
- Like to see the centre give Manukau a run for its dollar.
- Like to see a regional centre, Council, PIAB and government promote this regional centre internationally, as a 10 year plan.
- Focus on Council supporting Corban's Estate – for older people to gather, dance, arts.
- Use Corban as a springboard, key venue for performing arts.
- 'Kill one cat at a time' – Corban the priority, a home base.
- Cook Islands people ready to move ahead at Corban, especially arts and sports.
- Support for Corban tonight reflects people here, many who are involved with Corban. Other Cook Islands have other priorities.
- Support Corban as PI people helping themselves.
- PIAB can support pacific people to be at ease in the mainstream and in our own cultures.

Youth

- Kids need to be able to compete.
- Want my son to join the mainstream.

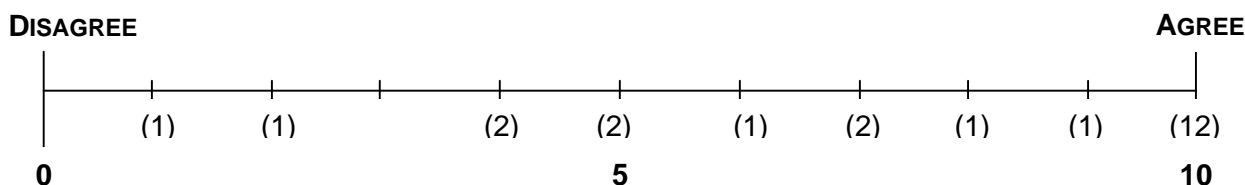
General

- Is there information for new immigrants?
- Need to support each other across Pacific nations.
- Culturally appropriate housing for older people.
- Not enough churches for Cook Islands.
- Many things already happening by government – need info in our languages from Council.
- Going to a library can be hard for Pacific people, talk to each other.
- Got many ideas – need to focus and get things done.
- Need information – use the libraries, want to see more Pacific people.
- More Council help with sports and pacific sports people, improving private club facilities.

- Parking at Te Pai courts.
- Support developing Waitemata Stadium.
- Rent is too high for the quality of the facilities, cheaper rent at Corban.
- Cook Islands not always low income, perspective on PI needs to change, not all speak the language, play drums, into arts.
- Pacific people are diverse.
- Want to see Council help Pacific people into the mainstream; don't need specific services.
- Corban not only priority – access to health and education very important as well.
- Like to see space for Church and religious people.

**COLLECTIVE MEETING – CORBAN ESTATE, THURSDAY 1 AUGUST 2002
(APPROXIMATELY 40 ATTENDED)**

WAITAKERE CITY IS A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE!



(Numbers in brackets represent the number of people who

WHAT LIKE ABOUT WAITAKERE CITY?

- Fresh air
- Easy to get to the motorway, shops, schools and hospitals – convenient
- Like the flavour of the Waitakere Way

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE BETTER?

- Need some Pacific Island MPs
- Waste/rubbish cleaned up
- Youth – there is no counselling call centre
- Old people – no call centre either
- More ethnic BBQs in parks (free) – umu able to be done in parks
- Race relations – need more contact between Pacific Island and other communities and within different Pacific Island groups – more social interaction to learn about each other
- Cultural centre for all Pacific Island groups – to pass on culture/pride
- More collaboration between Pacific Island and education authorities (all levels)
- A place where we can communicate, a place for children/youth so they're not on the streets and for the elderly.
- Cultural seminar for councillors and officers re. protocols and culture.
- Talk more often with Pacific Island peoples – consultation
- Pacific Island in Waitakere who are sick now go to the North Shore – a long way, we need a hospital in Waitakere
- Big rubbish bin – protected from cats and dogs
- More lights on the road (Ranui)
- Extra-curricular activities for youth – stimulating stuff, 'edutainment'
- Need a Pacific Island office
- Language interpreters
- Need huge (warmer than Corban Estate) place for Pacific Island people
- Pacific Island peoples want to become self-sufficient, see cultural centre as way of doing this but there is a long way to making this commercial. Not sure there is a mandate within the Pacific Island people that this is what they want to focus on.