

Wellbeing of Maori



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Introduction

Maori wellbeing has been considered from a holistic perspective. In the original Wellbeing Strategy for Waitakere City (2000), Te Taumata Runanga (the Maori standing committee of, Waitakere City Council) put forward the Wairua model as a framework for understanding Maori wellbeing. The model encompassed the following four aspects of holistic wellbeing, all revolving around the core dimension of Wairuatanga (spirituality):

- Taha Ngakau/Emotional Dimension
- Taha Tinana/Physical Dimension
- Taha Hinengaro/Mental Dimension
- Taha Whanau/Spiritual Dimension

This section begins by considering the Maori wellbeing priorities as identified by Te Taumata Runanga. It continues with a summary of Maori statistical data from elsewhere in this report. Finally, Maori specific wellbeing indicators are discussed as a potential tool for future wellbeing research.

Setting the Scene

In Waitakere City there is a wealth of successful Maori organisations over a range of sectors.



Some of these have been leaders in their respective fields. For example, Hoani Waititi Marae have been at the forefront of significant educational developments, such as the Kohanga Reo (Maori early childhood) movement, and establishment of Kura Kaupapa Maori (Maori primary schools). Kakariki Marae at Green Bay High School was the first school based Marae in Aotearoa, and Ruamoko Marae is the only Maori Deaf Marae in the world. Te Whanau o Waipareira Trust is a leading Urban Maori Authority nationally, and has set a major precedent towards addressing the social service needs of urban dwelling Maori in their recent Treaty of Waitangi claim to the Crown, WAI 414.¹ There are many unique features of Maori communities in Waitakere City, and therefore diverse and innovative ways of addressing wellbeing.

Priorities

This section does not attempt to provide a comprehensive overview of Maori wellbeing in Waitakere, but rather a qualitative look at wellbeing trends. Te Taumata Runanga has previously identified the following priorities for Maori wellbeing in Waitakere City:

- Treaty of Waitangi
- Maori Education
- Maori Economic Development
- Services to Kaumatua and Kuia
- Services to Rangatahi
- Awareness of Indigenous Cultures
- Justice
- Housing

- Harvestable Plants
- Special Needs and Cultural Safety

These priority areas encompass issues such as Marae development, retention of Te Reo language and participation in democratic processes. Te Taumata Runanga has outlined a range of strategies whereby each of these priorities may be addressed by Central Government, Local Government and Community sectors. Rather than measure progress against these strategies in detail, the top three priority areas will be discussed briefly in terms of how they are being addressed within Waitakere by a range of organisations. A range of initiatives that address other priority areas are also identified.

Treaty of Waitangi

Settlement of local Waitangi Tribunal Claims will be a step towards re-establishing the Maori asset base. Three claims are of particular relevance to Waitakere City; those of Te Kawerau a Maki, Ngati Whatua, and Te Whanau o Waipareira Trust. Te Kawerau a Maki and Ngati Whatua are iwi with ancestral interests in the Auckland Region. The Te Whanau o Waipareira claim seeks to set a precedent in recognition of the right of urban dwelling Maori to benefit from Treaty assets. The Crown have yet to determine clear settlement dates for the Te Kawerau a Maki and Te Whanau o Waipareira Claims. Ngati Whatua are making progress in their claim, which encompasses areas in Waitakere City.

At a local government level, Waitakere City Council has identified the Treaty of Waitangi as one of the five priorities in the current Long Term

¹ This claim meant that Waipareira Trust could receive Crown funding to deliver social services for local people giving them a similar status to iwi in this regard.

Council Community Plan². The plan states that “People in the City are proud to uphold the Treaty of Waitangi” as a key vision for 2020. Recent research undertaken in partnership between the Council and the University of Auckland, suggests the development of a local framework that encourages a consistent multi-sectoral approach to Treaty issues, including policy, training and raising public awareness, as a possible next step.³

Maori Education

Education continues to be a high priority for the Maori community, whether formal or informal. Maori tend to figure disproportionately in terms of school stand down, suspension and exclusion rates in Waitakere City. A number of Kaupapa Maori influenced initiatives are in place to address issues of educational equity at Secondary School level. These include independent organisations such as the Waipareira Alternative Unit and Te Piataata Trust, and Ministry driven initiatives such as the Suspension Reduction Initiative and Kotahitanga project.⁴

Whare Wananga, including Te Wananga o Aotearoa and the proposed Whare Wananga at Hoani Waititi Marae, have the potential to make significant positive impacts on the number of Maori with qualifications. So does the presence of Unitec and Massey University in the West Auckland area, and an increasing number of Private Training Institutes, particularly if such institutions have strategies for increasing Maori participation.

Recently, two Hui Taumata Matauranga have been held in Waitakere City.⁵ These hui are a local response to a national hui that have been held annually over the past three years. The purpose of the local hui have been to identify Maori education priorities within Waitakere City.

Maori Economic Development

There are a large number of Maori community organisations in Waitakere City, but there is still a disproportionate amount of Maori unemployment. Many of these organisations are Trusts with a social focus, and hence compete for limited community resources. A few established organisations have sufficient capacity to employ large numbers and generate further employment through commercial investment.⁶ The unique partnership between WINZ and Te Whanau o Waipareira provides a focus on securing employment for Maori, as do a range of training schemes offered around the city.

The 1996 Census demonstrated that the top three occupation groups for Maori were:

- Community, Social and Personal Services
- Wholesale, Retail Trade, Restaurant and Hotels
- Manufacturing

Strategies for improving Maori Economic Development should acknowledge that many Maori are not employed by Maori organisations.

² Long Term Council Community Plan incorporating the Annual Plan 2003/04, Waitakere City Council.

³ For more information see www.lpg.org.nz

⁴ The Kotahitanga project is a Ministry of Education project focusing on the student teacher relationship, providing teachers with strategies for engaging with Maori students.

⁵ The initial Hui Taumata Matauranga were held at Taupo, and called by the Tuwharetoa paramount chief, Tumu Te Heuheu. The purpose was to get key Maori figures in education from across the country together to discuss the priorities for Maori education. Recently, a hui with the same kaupapa has been held in Waitakere, to address local education priorities for Maori.

⁶ e.g. Te Whanau o Waipareira.

Further impetus is required in terms of training and investment to encourage development of Maori businesses.

A fact sheet produced by Te Puni Kokiri⁷ summarised the following national Maori Commercial Information for 2001:

Organisation Type	Total Assets (\$ million)
Maori Trusts	1,522
Maori Trustee Land Assets	177
Maori Organisations	1,354
Iwi Treaty Settlements	86
Maori Trust Boards	145
Maori Businesses	5,708
Total Assets	8,992

Interestingly, a high proportion of these assets belong to collectives as opposed to businesses. A number of Maori businesses included above are also certain to be owned by collectives such as Trusts or Runanga. This strongly suggests that strengthening Maori economic development will involve strengthening the way Maori collectives operate.

Innovations

This section briefly examines a range of initiatives in Waitakere City that are addressing other wellbeing priorities.

Te Roopu Puawai: This committee is comprised of rangatahi from around Waitakere City, and is represented on Te Taumata Runanga. Their kaupapa (objective) is growing young Maori leaders, and contributing to Maori and youth development across the city.

Waipareira Housing Project: This partnership between Te Whanau o Waipareira Trust and Housing New Zealand will see a number of new homes constructed with a range of wrap-around services provided to tenants via the Trust, including budgeting and employment services.

Maori Deaf Community Project: based around Ruamoko Marae in Kelston, the outcomes of this project will include a needs assessment of Maori Deaf in the Auckland Region, establishment of a Maori Deaf database, strengthening of relationships between Maori Deaf and other Maori organisations, and the development of a strategic plan for Te Komiti o Ruamoko Marae Inc.

Waitangi Day Celebrations: Four West Auckland Marae, Hoani Waititi, Kakariki, Kotuku and Te Piringatahi o Te Maungarongo, opened their doors to the public to celebrate Waitangi Day in 2004. Feedback on this initiative has been very positive.

Kaitakawaenga Network: An informal committee of Maori Liaison staff from a wide range of government, local government and community organisations. With a current membership of approximately 30, the objective of this network is to support Maori Liaison staff in their positions and to discuss opportunities for collaboration.

⁷ Source: The Maori Asset Base 2001, Te Puni Kokiri, http://www.tpk.govt.nz/publications/docs/economics/maori_asset_factsheet.pdf

Statistics

Statistical data cannot provide a holistic view of Maori wellbeing by itself, however, it can help to identify wellbeing trends, and particularly areas for improvement. Unfortunately the range of data available specifically on Maori in Waitakere is limited, making it difficult to draw strong conclusions.

Some observations include:

- Maori comprise around 13% of the population in Waitakere City.
- In 2002 around 275 children were enrolled in Te Kohanga Reo or Nga Puna Kohungahunga (Maori whanau playgroups).
- On average, Maori and Pacific students leave school with fewer qualifications than Asian or European students. However, between 1999 and 2001, the proportion of Maori students leaving school in Waitakere with no formal qualifications dropped from 32.6% to 29.4%.
- In 2001, Maori had just over 80% of the average personal income of Pakeha. However, the Maori average personal income was considerably higher than the average personal income of Pacific and Asian people.
- Home ownership among Maori is lower than amongst Pakeha. Lower incomes may be making it harder for Maori to own their own homes, especially given rising house prices.
- Maori appear to be doing less well than Pakeha in some health indicators:
 - Maori infant mortality is higher than for other ethnic groups.

- Fewer Maori babies are fully breastfed.
- Maori children are more likely to fail hearing tests than Asian or Pakeha children. However, this improved more than other ethnic groups between 2000 and 2001.
- National trends indicate Maori smoking rates are much higher than for non-Maori.
- Maori life expectancy is lower than the life expectancy of Pakeha, although the gap is beginning to narrow.

While many of the above indicators show no significant increases in Maori wellbeing, there are positive signals in terms of employment and qualifications. There are still obvious 'gaps' between Maori and Pakeha in some wellbeing indicators. The most significant of those identified in this report is in the area of CYFS referrals and youth justice intakes. Though there has been an apparently increased investment of resources towards addressing these gaps, it will take time to show any improvement in trends. Also, the limited range of indicators considered here cannot provide a comprehensive picture of Maori wellbeing. These data should be complemented by 'Maori Specific' indicators, which will provide a more rounded picture of Maori wellbeing. The use of such indicators in future Waitakere Wellbeing research is discussed in the next section.

Other Measures of Maori wellbeing

Some researchers claim that the indicators addressed in this report, although important, do not reflect Maori world views and aspirations.⁸ Mason Durie and others argue that unless Maori development is closely

⁸ Source: M Durie et al, Maori Specific Outcomes and Indicators. A Report prepared for Te Puni Kokiri, June 2002.

aligned with Maori views and Maori aspirations, there is a danger of its being analysed within frameworks that disadvantage Maori.

For example, Durie suggests that, although wellbeing is a denominator common to all groups, Maori wellbeing has connotations of its own. It not only refers to social and economic wellbeing but also to cultural and spiritual wellbeing.

Durie and others suggest that eight specific outcome areas should be used to measure Maori wellbeing and development:⁹

- Maori wellbeing
- Whanau wellbeing
- Culture and cultural identity
- Te Reo Maori
- The Maori asset base
- Tino rangatiratanga (Autonomy)
- Kotahitanga (Unity)
- Treaty settlements

Discussing Te Reo, Durie notes that most participants in his research project identified Te Reo Maori as the single most defining characteristic of being Maori. Four main indicators were identified concerning this outcome:

- Multiple domains of usage¹⁰
- Number of Maori who used te reo

- Retention of dialectic variations
- Usage of te reo among the New Zealand population generally.

Concerning Treaty settlements, Durie suggests that a good outcome for Maori would be one where a large number of Treaty of Waitangi settlements were completed.

Below are discussed some examples of measurable Maori specific indicators that might be used in future research:

- Whanau Wellbeing
 - Increased Maori representation on school Boards of Trustees
 - Provision of kaumatua housing
 - Strengthening of rangatahi focused and led initiatives¹¹
- Culture and Cultural Identity
 - Completion of new Te Atatu and Te Kawerau a Maki Marae
 - Number of iwi and hapu organisations, including tribal trusts, taura here, and iwi service providers
- Te Reo Maori (Maori language)
 - Increased enrolments in Kohanga Reo and Kura Kaupapa Maori

⁹ See above for a discussion of the methodology used to arrive at these outcomes and how they might be applied.

¹⁰ Multiple domains include speaking Maori on marae, at home, at work, with friends, at school, at public events etc. The more widely the reo is spoken, the stronger it is.

¹¹ Youth focused and youth led initiatives.

- Increased number of community classes and tertiary papers in Te Reo offered in Waitakere City
- Maori Asset Base
 - Quantity of Maori land in Waitakere City
 - Performance of leading Maori organisations in Waitakere City as identified through Annual Reports
 - Proportion of contestable community funding provided to Maori community groups
- Tino Rangatiratanga
 - Number of Kaupapa Maori organisations, including Trusts, Incorporated Societies and businesses
 - Increased Maori participation at governance level of public organisations, including local government and Primary Health Organisations
- Kotahitanga
 - Number of Maori collaboration networks, and increasing participation in existing networks
 - Increased participation of Maori in wider community forums and partnerships/relationships with non-Maori organisations
- Treaty Settlements
 - Clear timeframes for settlement of Te Kawerau a Maki, Ngati Whatua and Te Whanau o Waipareira Treaty claims identified by the Crown
 - Number of Crown contracts with Maori providers

It is important to note that given the holistic, collective nature of Maori culture, that success in addressing one area of wellbeing may yield benefits in other areas. Therefore, attempts to measure Maori wellbeing should consider multiple indicators.

The indicators identified here are purely a sample of a wide range of possibilities. Involvement of Maori researchers and input from the community should be sought to develop and validate Maori specific indicators. Further discussion of these outcomes and how they can be used is outside the scope of this report. However, this is an important area that needs further development. Future wellbeing reports in Waitakere City will need to consider adopting such an approach to consider Maori wellbeing.