

# People



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## Introduction

Waitakere City has been growing steadily over the last 10 years and is currently the fifth largest city in New Zealand. From a population of 155,565 in 1996, the number of residents grew at an average annual rate of 1.7% over the following five years to 168,750 (2001 census). The population as at 30 June 2003 was estimated to be 185,600.

Waitakere City is growing at a faster rate than previously anticipated. The growth rate is expected to remain steady to reach a population of 303,000 in the year 2050.

Waitakere has a strong local identity. Its people are generally seen to have a 'can do' attitude, are down to earth, and community-minded.

"There is something magical about the West. If you talk to people who live here you will find they all say that. We're proud to be Westies. We're no nonsense people, we just get in and do things." Waitakere Partnerships Research Project Social Development in the West, 2003.

In addition to providing a profile of people in Waitakere City, the information in this chapter can help us to understand our community and how it is changing. These changes will result in changing community needs and associated demands for social and community services and support.

## Key Issues

- The Auckland Region's growth rate continues to be high with attendant pressures on infrastructure and services.
- Waitakere City is also continuing to grow at a faster rate than anticipated. This growth will have significant implications for the way the Council provides services and facilities for the community. In response to this issue Council has introduced a Development Contribution policy to recoup some of the costs of new developments from developers e.g. some of the costs of infrastructure such as roads and water and the costs of providing services such as community centres.
- Relative housing affordability is a contributing "push factor" for migrants moving West.
- Waitakere is experiencing an increased number and diversity of refugees which has implications for services and support.
- Accommodating development and growth within the existing Regional Metropolitan Urban Limit (MUL) means changes in housing choices and lifestyle options.
- Pacific and Asian communities have a younger age profile relative to Pakeha, and the needs of these younger populations and the impact on the make up of communities and on service provision will need to be addressed as they move through their life cycle.
- A number of key government agencies have transferred to regional offices out of the city, e.g. the Inland Revenue Department.
- The needs of new migrant families are only now emerging as key issues.
- The high costs of city living, especially housing costs, puts a strain on household finances.

- The ability of community and government agencies to respond to capacity building, community development and the social services required by new and growing ethnic communities.

"We face the challenge of inspiring people to accept and work with change." City Councillors Wellbeing Discussion, 15 March 2004

## Some Highlights

- The establishment of the Office of Ethnic Affairs provides a voice for migrants and refugees inside the machinery of government.
- The opening of a NZ Immigration Service branch in Waitakere City has improved the accessibility of services.
- The formation of the migrant services umbrella group New Out West has provided a platform for launching projects that will meet the needs of migrants and refugees settling in Waitakere.
- The establishment of the Waitakere Ethnic Board has been a successful project of New Out West. WEB creates a vehicle for influencing and voicing the migrant and refugee view -point within Waitakere City.
- Waitakere City Council has established a new migrant partnership position on staff.
- A Regional Migrant settlement strategy is now underway as part of the regional sustainable Auckland process.

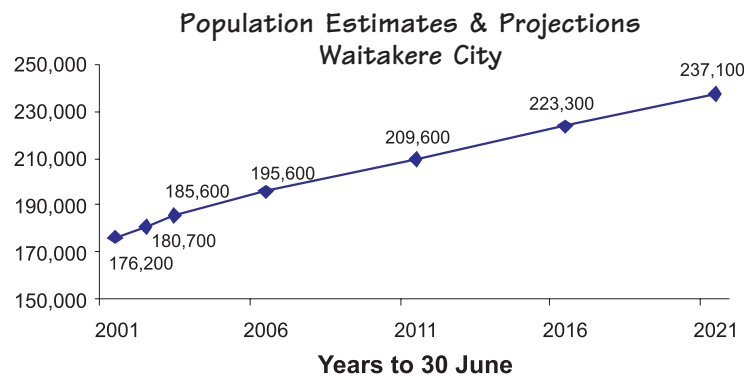
## Population & Household Growth & Projections

In 2003 there were estimated to be 185,600 people living in Waitakere City, up from 164,200 in 1997.

The population in Waitakere City is predicted to continue growing over the next few decades. This will affect the adequacy and availability of social services, infrastructure, the natural environment, and economic vitality.

Understanding the extent and the areas of growth will help to identify where the pressures are and how future planning can accommodate this growth to have a positive impact for the communities of Waitakere City.

- Waitakere City is expected to have around 51,500 more people by 2021.
- This is in part because of natural increase, particularly within ethnic groups such as Maori and Pacific Island people.
- The Waitakere ward is the fastest growing ward, both in population and the number of households. However the Massey ward is the ward in the city with the largest population. In 2002 it is estimated that Massey had a population of 55,300 people.



Source: Statistics NZ Population Estimates and Projections

## Growth within Waitakere City

The areas within Waitakere City that are likely to have very high population increases in the short term are the town centres and selected suburban locations that have recently been developed e.g. Te Atatu Peninsula, Sturges Valley and Sunnyvale.

Waitakere City Council has a policy of directing growth into the three primary areas (nodes) identified in the Regional Growth Strategy:

- New Lynn
- Henderson and
- Westgate.

In these town centres residential development will be in the form of medium to high density housing. Having a wide range of services and facilities nearby will increase people's ability to access them easily.

This type of land use is supportive of public transport and so has an indirect effect of reducing dependence on cars and on motorway congestion.

In addition to New Lynn, Henderson and Westgate, there have been other areas around train stations and along major arterial roads (e.g. bus route corridors such as Great North Road) that have also been identified for growth.

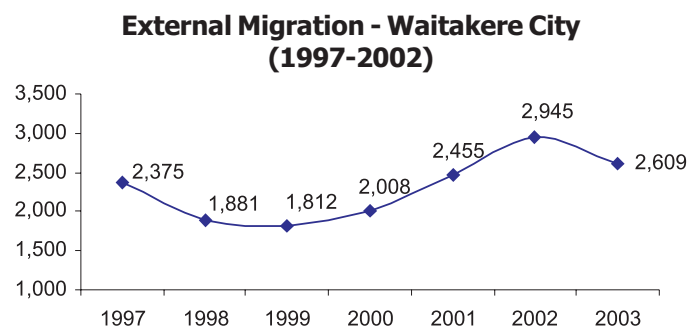
In the medium term (over the next 5 – 10 years) the Council recognises that there will be pressure to accommodate growth in the Northern Strategic Growth Area (NorSGA) in the North West part of the city which is currently outside the existing metropolitan urban limit.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> E.g. from Westgate north to Hobsonville.

## External Migration

External migration measures the number of people from overseas coming into the city each year. This is a key factor in population growth in Waitakere City and has an influence on social infrastructure such as social services and social integration.

- Waitakere City has seen a gradual increase in external migrants, peaking in 2002 and becoming home to 2,609 migrants during 2003.
- On average, one third of permanent and long-term migrants are New Zealanders returning home.<sup>2</sup>



Source: Statistics New Zealand

“More migrants and refugees are now coming into this area. Waitakere City Council understands and accepts the diversity here. I think we will get more diversity and more services being established by ethnic groups for their own people and to support other ethnic groups. Organisations also need bi-cultural or cross-cultural training to understand more about the migrant community for the well-being of society.” Hassan Hosseini, Coordinator, NZ Ethnic Social Services Trust.

## Ethnicity

The ethnic make-up of Waitakere City has changed dramatically over the past 10 years. Waitakere City is attracting migrants from around the world. In 2003 the highest number of migrants to Waitakere were from China, the United Kingdom, India, Fiji, Korea and Australia.

- In particular, there has been a significant increase in those arriving from Fiji, Korea and India.
- In 2001, Waitakere’s population was made up of:<sup>3</sup>

– European	114,867	71.9%
– Maori	21,390	13.4%
– Pacific	23,241	14.6%
– Asian	17,514	11.0%
– Other	1,632	1%
- The number of Asian people living in Waitakere City increased by 12,054 people between 1991 and 2001.
- The number of Pacific people living in Waitakere City increased by 8,826 over the same period.

<sup>2</sup> In 2003, 30.1% of migrants were New Zealand nationals, i.e. New Zealanders returning home. Source: Statistics NZ Migration Data, 2003.

<sup>3</sup> Note: People could choose more than one ethnicity so percentages will not add to up to 100. 5.3% did not specify an ethnicity. Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census 2001.

### Growth in Ethnicity between 1991 and 2001

Ethnicity	Increase	Percentage Increase
European	5,970	5.5
Maori	5,916	38.2
Pacific	8,826	61.2
Asian	12,054	220.9
Other	1,287	373.0

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census 1991 – 2001.

- The Massey ward is more ethnically diverse than other wards in Waitakere City. The Waitakere ward has the highest percentage of Europeans.

“We all want to live together in harmony so it is important to integrate communities so that we can share each other’s culture and respect each other and our protocols.” Praveen Chandra, Chair Waitakere Ethnic Board.

### Age

Waitakere is still a relatively youthful city with over one-third of its population under the age of 25 years. This is an important issue for the future of Waitakere City, for example in terms of services to youth, education and employment.

In 2001:

- 38% were under 25 years

- The median age was 32
- 9% were over 65 years
- The Massey ward had the highest percentage of people aged 24 years and under.
- The Henderson ward had the highest percentage of older adults.

The median age in Waitakere City varies between ethnic groups.

- Just under half of all new migrants are under the age of 25 years.

### Median Age by Ethnicity 2001

Ethnicity	Median Age
European	34
Maori	21
Pacific peoples	21
Other ethnicities	27

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census 2001.

The median age of the population is rising both in Waitakere City and nationally.

- In Waitakere City the median age is expected to rise to:
  - 34.5 years in 2011 compared with 38 years for New Zealand as a whole.
  - 36.6 years in 2021 compared with 40 for New Zealand as a whole.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census 2001.

- The percentage of Waitakere residents aged 65 years and over has already started to rise from 8.3% in 1996 to 8.8% in 2001.

## Households

The number of households in Waitakere City is continuing to grow.

- In 2001 there were 55,653 households in Waitakere City, an increase of 10,827 (24.2%) from 1991.
- The growth in the number of households means that proportionally more dwellings and services will be required in the future.
- Households in Waitakere City are mostly made up of one family. However, one person households are increasing.
- The average number of household members in Waitakere City households (3) is slightly higher than the national average (2.7).

### Household Type by Percentage in 1991 and 2001

Household Type	Percentage in 1991	Percentage in 2001
1 person	14.8	17.9
1 family	77.7	70.4
2 or more families	2.7	3.9
Other types eg non family <sup>5</sup>	4.8	7.8

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census 1991 and 2001

"I don't know where young people learn how to become parents these days in an age where small families are the norm." Ray Clarke, Coordinator, Waitakere City Effective Practice (Strengthening Families).

## Family Types

There, were 43,644 families in Waitakere City in 2001, up from 37,296 in 1991.<sup>6</sup>

The types of families in Waitakere City are changing, with one parent families, blended families (e.g. new combined families, step children etc.), step children and multi family or extended family households becoming more common. Between 1991 and 2001 there was a fall in the percentage of couples with children and a rise in one parent families with children.

In 2001 there were:

- 47% couples with children, down from 51% in 1991
- 32% couples without children, up from 31% in 1991
- 22% one parent families with children, up from 18% in 1991.

"Issues which frequently arise in Effective Practice meetings focus on home constancy for children and young people. This includes:

- stability as to who is parenting
- stability of parenting practice
- stability of location, and

<sup>5</sup> Includes flatting situations.

<sup>6</sup> Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census 1991 and 2001.

- stability as to how both parents will relate to a child - in particular when there has been a family break up.” Ray Clarke, Coordinator, Waitakere City Effective Practice (Strengthening Families).

## Languages

Communication is a key factor that contributes to a sense of wellbeing. The ability to communicate with others reduces feelings of isolation, increases employment opportunities and a sense of belonging.

- Most people in Waitakere City (71.1%) speak one language.
- 17.3% speak two languages and a small percentage (3.4%) speak three or more.

The Waitakere Employment and Skills Project is mapping the provision of “English speakers of another Language” classes with a view to identifying gaps and opportunities.

### The Most Common Languages in Waitakere City

The most common languages spoken in Waitakere City are:

- English (149,577)
- Samoan (9,021)
- Maori (5,346)
- Yue (Cantonese) (2,592)

- Hindi (2,073)
- Other Chinese languages (1,752)
- French (1,725)
- German (1,617)
- Northern Chinese (1,608)
- Dutch (1,566)
- Tongan (1,545)
- Korean (1,539)
- New Zealand sign language (1,515)
- Japanese (711)<sup>7</sup>

“A lot of service providers and organisations have provided a lot of basic information but it is in English. Migrants and refugees sometimes need more general information in their own language - especially new arrivals with language barriers.” Hassan Hosseini, Coordinator, NZ Ethnic Social Services Trust.

### Maori who speak Te Reo Maori

The percentage of Maori speakers in Waitakere City’s Maori population has increased from:

- 18.4% in 1996, to
- 19.9% in 2001.

<sup>7</sup> Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census 2001.

Between 1996 and 2001 the percentage of Maori speakers increased in every age group for those aged under 45 years.

In 2001 around half of those aged 60 years and over spoke Maori.<sup>8</sup>

**Percent of Maori in each age group who spoke Te Reo Maori**

<b>Age</b>	<b>1996</b>	<b>2001</b>
0-4 Years	10.5	10.6
5-9 Years	13.7	14.5
10-14 Years	16.4	17.9
15-19 Years	17.1	19.8
20-24 Years	16.6	18.8
25-29 Years	15.3	20.2
30-34 Years	18.6	20.4
35-39 Years	18.8	20.9
40-44 Years	21.7	22.2
45-49 Years	28.3	25.1
50-54 Years	37.1	29.2
55-59 Years	47.5	38.6
60-64 Years	46.7	50.9
65 Year+	44.9	49.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>18.4</b>	<b>19.9</b>

Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census 1996 and 2001.

“Kohanga reo has been one of the most important initiatives in revitalising Maori language.”<sup>9</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census, 1996 and 2001.

<sup>9</sup> Source: Te Puni Kokiri, 2004, [www.tpk.govt.nz/maori/language/default.asp](http://www.tpk.govt.nz/maori/language/default.asp)