

Putting it all into context: our growing city

Waitakere will undergo significant change in the future - the result of many forces. Demographic change, that is the composition of the population, is one such force. Understanding the extent and nature of such change will help us understand what the communities of Waitakere will look like in the future and what outcomes they may seek. It is projected that the number of residents living in Waitakere will exceed 200,000 before the year 2011 and will reach between 250,000 and 290,000 by 2031. This represents, even under the low scenario, a significant increase in the number of people living in the city.

Table 4: Projected population of Waitakere City⁴ (2006-2031)

	Population at 30 June						Population change 2006-2031	
	2006	2011	2016	2021	2026	2031	Number	Annual Average ⁴ (percent)
High		215,600	235,500	254,800	274,400	294,100	98,700	1.6
Medium	195,300	211,500	227,000	242,200	257,200	271,900	76,600	1.3
Low		207,400	218,700	229,600	240,200	250,200	54,900	1.0

Source: Statistics New Zealand

Most of the projected population growth will be as a result of natural increase (births minus deaths). From 2006 to 2031, the number of deaths in the city is projected to increase by 70% while the number of births by 17%. Migration, often the most volatile component of population change, is also a significant contributor to the projected population growth. Approximately 4,000 people every five years will migrate to live in Waitakere.

Table 5: Components of population growth in Waitakere (2006-2031)

Year	Components of population change, five years ended 30 June				Median age (years) at 30 June
	Births	Deaths	Natural increase	Net migration	
2006	15,800	4,600	11,200	8,000	33.4
2011	17,300	5,100	12,200	4,000	34.2
2016	17,100	5,600	11,500	4,000	34.9
2021	17,400	6,200	11,200	4,000	35.7
2026	18,000	7,000	11,000	4,000	36.6
2031	18,600	7,900	10,700	4,000	37.5

Source: Statistics New Zealand

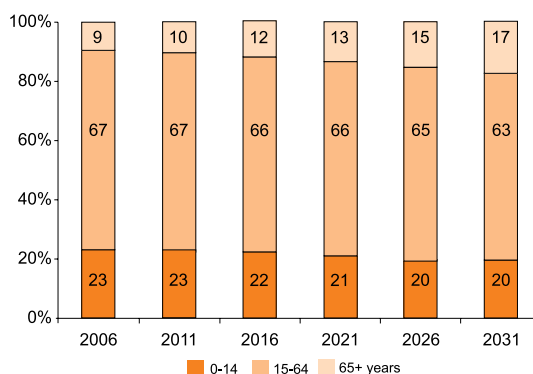
As the city's population grows, it will age. The proportion of people aged 65 years and over in Waitakere is projected to increase significantly from 2006 while those aged 0-14 years, is projected to decline. The growth in residents aged 65 and over is reflected in the increasing median age in Waitakere from 33.4 years in 2006 to a projected 37.5 years in 2031.



"The abundance of greenery and the scenic views all over, are what I like most about Waitakere."

Diana, Western Heights

Figure 3: Projected age breakdown in Waitakere (2006 to 2031)



Source: Statistics New Zealand

Waitakere is projected to become more ethnically diverse. While residents of European ethnicity will remain the largest group in numerical terms, this group is anticipated to grow at a much slower rate compared with the growth of other ethnic groups. For instance the number of residents of Asian ethnicity is projected to increase by over 100% between 2001 and 2016. This change in ethnic composition is likely to be as a result of migration and people identifying with more than one ethnicity.

Table 6: Projected population of ethnic groups in Waitakere (2001-2016)⁵

	2001	2016	Change 2001-2016
European	125,400	129,500	3%
Maori	24,000	32,000	33%
Asian	20,000	47,400	137%
Pacific	26,300	43,700	66%

Source: Statistics New Zealand

The type of families and households in Waitakere is expected to change into the future. The number of one-person households is also projected to grow between 2001 and 2021. The result is that average household size may decline from 2.9 members in 2001 to 2.7 members in 2021.

Table 7: Projected family and household type in Waitakere to 2021⁶

	Family type			Household type		
	Couple w/out children	2 parent	1 parent	Family	Other multi-person	1 person
2001	15,000	22,400	10,200	45,200	3,700	10,800
2006	17,300	24,200	11,800	50,200	4,100	12,600
2011	19,900	24,900	13,100	54,400	4,400	14,600
2016	22,900	25,200	14,400	58,600	4,700	16,700
2021	26,000	25,300	15,600	62,600	5,000	19,100

Source: Statistics New Zealand

In highlighting how Waitakere was in 2006 and how it is projected to change it is clear that Waitakere is a city of diversity. As this diversity increases, it would seem likely that the type of city that people want to live in and the outcomes they would like for themselves, their families and communities, will change.



"What I like about my community is it's such a happy place, it's home."

Margaret, Henderson