



Multicultural New Zealand

Highlights

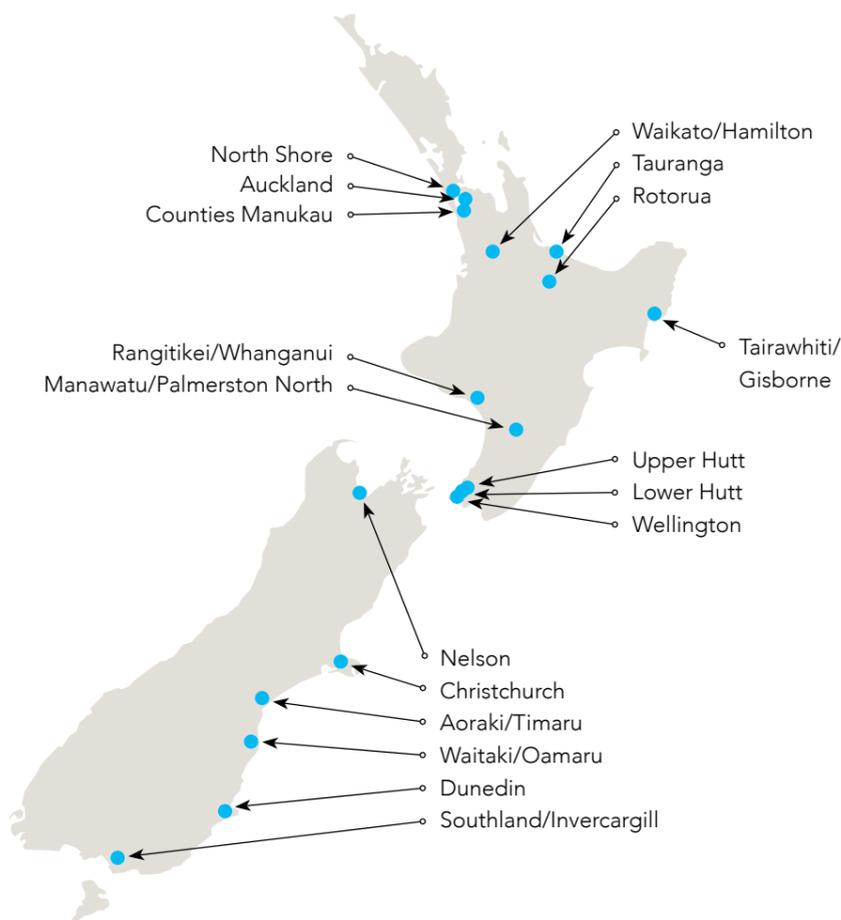
2014-2015



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Our councils

Senior | Women | Youth | Business Advisory Board



I am very pleased to introduce you to the highlights of Multicultural New Zealand's work in 2014-15.

We are proud of our growing role in the promotion and celebration of diversity in New Zealand, and our contribution to the development of policies and programmes to ensure people of all ethnicities, cultures and beliefs feel they belong, are valued, included and able to contribute their diverse talents and skills to our community.

Our strategic plan has a vision of a multicultural New Zealand where people of different cultures and beliefs live safely and in harmony, and a mission to represent and support multicultural councils and ethnic, migrant, and refugee communities through leadership, partnership, capacity building and service delivery.

Our four goals are:

- **Leadership:** to be the recognised collective voice of ethnic, migrant and refugee communities and to inform and advise government, organisations and the general public on multicultural policy and practice;
- **Partnership:** to develop and maintain productive partnerships and relationships with organisations sharing our objectives in order to maximise our impact;
- **Capacity:** to have the sustainable organisational capacity nationally and locally to represent, support and strengthen ethnic, migrant and refugee communities and to foster a genuine multicultural society; and

- **Services:** to deliver products and services to ethnic, migrant and refugee communities, agencies and the general public that will support settlement, integration, safety, well-being, mutual understanding and harmonious relations.

We look forward to working with all our partners and supporters in the coming year towards the further achievement of these goals.

Alexis LewGor
President
Multicultural New Zealand



Multicultural Leadership

Twenty five years of service

The inaugural conference of the New Zealand Federation of Ethnic Councils was held in Christchurch in 1989, and in 2014 Multicultural New Zealand, as the Federation is now known, celebrated its 25th anniversary there. The Federation started with five newly formed regional councils – Auckland, Christchurch, Hamilton, Hutt Valley and Wellington. Today it has 18 regional councils throughout New Zealand and four national advisory councils for women, youth, seniors and business.

A history of the Federation, *Multicultural New Zealand: A 25-year Journey* was launched at the anniversary conference by Mrs Nancy Goh, widow of founding Federation President Professor Kuan Goh. Professor Goh had sadly passed away earlier in the year. A DVD containing interviews with past and present office holders was also shown for the first time and is available on the Multicultural New Zealand website and YouTube.

Talking about multiculturalism

Over 600 people took part in 35 workshops throughout New Zealand to talk about multiculturalism. Organised by Multicultural New Zealand in partnership with the New Zealand National Commission for UNESCO, the workshops focused on a vision for a successful multicultural society and the barriers to achieving it. They were facilitated by former Race Relations Commissioner Joris de Bres. A report with summaries of all the workshops and an analysis of the key issues raised will be published to provide the basis for further consultation on developing a strategic action plan for multiculturalism and multilingualism in New Zealand. Participants included Members of Parliament, Mayors, councillors and staff from local government, academics, public servants, members of multicultural councils, young people, community workers, and representatives of diverse communities.



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Multicultural Leadership

Multicultural participation

Following on from the publication of Multicultural New Zealand's election policy proposals, a number multicultural councils held forums and engaged with candidates in the lead-up to the general election in September. After the election the National Executive met with the new Minister of Ethnic Communities, Hon Sam Lotu-liga, to indicate priorities in multicultural policy.

Multicultural New Zealand regularly makes submissions to government agencies on proposed policy and legislation. This has included input into Statistics New Zealand's plans for the 2016 General Social Survey (on cultural inclusion), New Zealand's reports to the United Nations on compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Auckland Council's proposed by-law on burial and cremation, and the Human Rights Commission's National Plan of Action for Human Rights. We have also raised the lack of ethnic representation on school boards of trustees with the Ministry of Education in advance of next year's triennial trustee elections.

Auckland languages strategy takes shape

A draft languages strategy for Auckland was completed by a working group of the Auckland Community Education Trust (COMET, an Auckland Council Owned Organisation) with the active participation of Multicultural New Zealand. The strategy covers the preservation and maintenance of Māori, Pacific, NZ Sign and community languages and proposes actions to achieve a multilingual Auckland. The strategy has received initial support from the Auckland Council and been endorsed by a number of community organisations including Multicultural New Zealand. Multicultural New Zealand has continued to advocate for a national languages policy and a community languages framework, and has raised these issues with the new Minister of Ethnic Communities.



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The Treaty dimension



Treaty-based multiculturalism

Multicultural New Zealand is a strong advocate of Treaty-based multiculturalism, and has worked with Network Waitangi Ōtautahi to explore and promote this concept. Multicultural councils have developed strong local links with Māori in many regions and marae visits are a common activity. Local councils encourage participation in Waitangi Day, Matariki and Māori Language Week events. In 2014, Rotorua Multicultural Council organised a three hour Māori language and cultural experience for Māori Language Week at Whakarewarewa in conjunction with the Whakarewarewa Charitable Trust. The Nelson Multicultural Council held a workshop on the Treaty of Waitangi, and Upper Hutt Multicultural Council worked with Orongomai Marae to host the Federation's Annual General Meeting in June 2015.

Breakfast at Parliament

Eighty representatives of national community organisations and Members of Parliament gathered in the Grand Hall of Parliament in March 2015 for a breakfast presentation on the Treaty and Multiculturalism. The breakfast, jointly organised by Multicultural New Zealand and CommVoices, was hosted by Hon Peter Dunne, Minister of Internal Affairs, and featured Professor James Liu of Massey University speaking on the topic. Professor Liu was previously Co-Director of the Victoria University Centre for Applied Cross-cultural Research, one of Multicultural New Zealand's strategic partners.

Multicultural events



Race Relations Day

Multicultural councils around the country organised activities for Race Relations Day in March as part of Multicultural New Zealand's partnership with the Human Rights Commission.

Activities included major multicultural festivals attracting thousands of people, such as the Tauranga Multicultural Festival, the Race Unity Day in Nelson, and the Festival of Cultures in Palmerston North, to smaller local festivals such as the Franklin Multicultural Festival in Pukekohe, and multicultural festivals in Upper Hutt and Hutt City. Southland again organised a highly popular Multicultural Food Festival. Other activities included a football tournament

in Rotorua (the U&I Football Cup), Aoraki held a joint event with Te Aitakihi Kapa Haka Roopu in Timaru, Tairāwhiti celebrated Holi in Gisborne, and potluck dinners, multicultural celebrations and seminars were held in Christchurch, Dunedin, Oamaru and Wellington.

Celebrating with communities

Local multicultural councils participate in a wide range of community activities, celebrating national and cultural days, special weeks like Conservation Week and Youth Week, and Christmas parades.

Multicultural education

Tauranga student takes out the Race Unity Speech prize

Kimberly d'Mello, a Year 12 student at Tauranga's Aquinas College, won first prize in the annual Secondary Schools Race Unity Speech Contest in May 2015. Runners up were Louis Paul from Northland's Huanui College and Stephanie Cooper from Auckland's Rangitoto College.

Heats were held in regions throughout New Zealand in March and April, and the finals took place at Mahurehure Marae in Auckland, following the annual Race Unity Youth Conference. Around 500 people attended the national finals, and some 180 students took part in the contest. Conference participants visited Bastion Point to learn about the history of Ngati Whatua's struggle to regain their land, and took part in workshops on racism and talking about multiculturalism.

Multicultural New Zealand is a partner in the speech contest and conference, along with the Baha'i Community, the New Zealand Police, the NZ National Commission for UNESCO, the Human Rights Commission and the Office of Ethnic Communities. This year's theme was "Big things start small", mirroring the theme for Race Relations Day 2015.

Countering family violence

Multicultural New Zealand works with the Ministry of Social Development's E Tu Whanau programme to raise awareness of domestic violence in ethnic communities. A series of workshops have been run at national meetings of multicultural councils, and the issue has been adopted as a priority by the Federation's Women's and Youth Councils. The Women's Council held a national workshop in May 2015, and the Upper Hutt Multicultural Council ran two forums on Men Against Violence ("Simply a Male View" and "Working with the Chinese Community") attended by more than 70 people. All members of the Wellington Multicultural Council together took the White Ribbon pledge. Multicultural Councils throughout the country maintain social support networks for women from ethnic communities and raise the issue of domestic violence in a variety of forums.



Multicultural education

Developing multicultural skills

Twelve people selected from the Regional Multicultural Councils took part in a training course in January 2015 for delivering Multicultural New Zealand's Intercultural Training programme. The programme was developed for Multicultural New Zealand by the Victoria University Centre for Applied Cross-cultural Research (CACR), and is designed for delivery to non-Government organisations. A pilot programme, delivered by CACR on behalf of Multicultural New Zealand, took place for Family Budgeting Services in June 2015. It is hoped to roll the programme out more widely in the coming year.

Professional speaking for migrants

Migrants from a variety of countries received their certificates for completing the Rotorua Multicultural Council Professional Speaking for Migrants course by City Councillor Trevor Maxwell at the Multicultural New Zealand national meeting in Rotorua in February. The free 12 week course was delivered by Dr Margriet Theron as part of a Speech New Zealand partnership with Multicultural New Zealand. A number of other Multicultural Councils, including Upper Hutt and Nelson, are looking to deliver the course in the coming month.



Multicultural business

Multicultural New Zealand's Multicultural Business Advisory Board was launched in Auckland at a well-attended function in Auckland in July 2014 by Trade Minister Hon Tim Grosser. The Board is focused particularly on Small and Medium Ethnic enterprises (SMEEs). It aims to encourage cultural diversity among New Zealand businesses, support the engagement of SMEEs with local and central government and be an advocate for ethnic enterprises.



Multicultural newcomers

Services to new migrants

Providing services to new migrants is a core function of multicultural councils. A number of local councils are members of the New Zealand Newcomers Network, operate local networks and employ a migrant services or newcomers network co-ordinator. Activities include social lunches, morning teas, potluck dinners, walking groups, pre-school playgroups, marae visits, settlement and employment support and educational activities. A number of councils have received funding from the Office of Ethnic Communities Settling In Fund, which has also made a grant to Multicultural New Zealand towards developing a national network of migrant centres. Multicultural Councils also regularly attend mayoral citizenship ceremonies for migrants taking up New Zealand citizenship.



Hon. Chester Burrows MP for Whanganui opening the Whanganui Multicultural Council's office "One Stop Shop" to support migrants and refugees.

Multicultural sport



No entry for Sikhs to Cricket World Cup Match sparks mediation

When India played Zimbabwe in a Cricket World Cup match at Eden Park in March 2015, seven Sikh men were denied entry because they were wearing a kirpan (an article of faith in the Sikh religion). This was deemed to be in breach of a ban on carrying knives at the venue. As a result, Multicultural New Zealand lodged a complaint of discrimination on the grounds of religious belief with the Human Rights Commission, noting that special exemptions had been made at the London Olympic Games and other overseas events. At a mediation hearing in April, also attended by representatives of the Sikh community and one of the men denied entry, agreement was reached with the Organising Committee that they would write to the persons affected expressing their regret at what had happened, raise the matter with the International Cricket Council in their report, and raise the matter with the NZ Government to clarify the situation with regard to future sporting events. Multicultural NZ is hopeful of Government action given the public comments of Prime Minister John Key and the Opposition spokesperson for Ethnic Communities Phil Goff.

Connecting communities through football

Twenty football teams and more than 2000 people converged on Wellington's Wakefield Park in November for the annual New Zealand Communities Football Cup.

The two day event, which has been held for the past seven years, is a partnership between Multicultural New Zealand, the New Zealand Police and the Wellington City Council, supported by New Zealand and Capital Football, Wellington's Phoenix and other organisations. It was the culmination of regional contests throughout New Zealand, organised by regional multicultural councils and local government.

The Somalia Wellington team beat Team Irish from Nelson 2-0 to take the Men's Cup. Two Irish teams from Wellington competed for the inaugural Women's Cup, with Irish Wellington 2 taking the trophy with a score of 3-2.

The tournament aims to connect diverse communities, celebrate success and bring about positive social change, with a particular emphasis on preventing family violence through the White Ribbon campaign.



Partners & Sponsors

Thanks to:

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Human Rights Commission

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