



Creating Community in Auckland: Diversity and its Impacts

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National Institute of
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Outline



- The face of diverse Auckland
- Dominant viewpoints of diversity
- Issues and challenges



Auckland – The Big Picture

(Regional Economic Activity Report 2013)



	National	Auckland
Population	4,433,100	1,507,700 (34%)
Population aged 65+	14%	11%
Projected growth	0.8%	1.4%
Household income	\$80,600	\$89,700
Rental cost average per annum	\$17,900	\$22,100
Unemployment rate (% share of labour force)	6.9%	7.7%
Education performance (NCEA 2)	74%	78%



Auckland – Immigrant Dependency 2012

- Overseas born 40%
- Overseas born plus children 56%
- Asian 23%
- Pacific 14%
- Māori 12%

Future Superdiversity

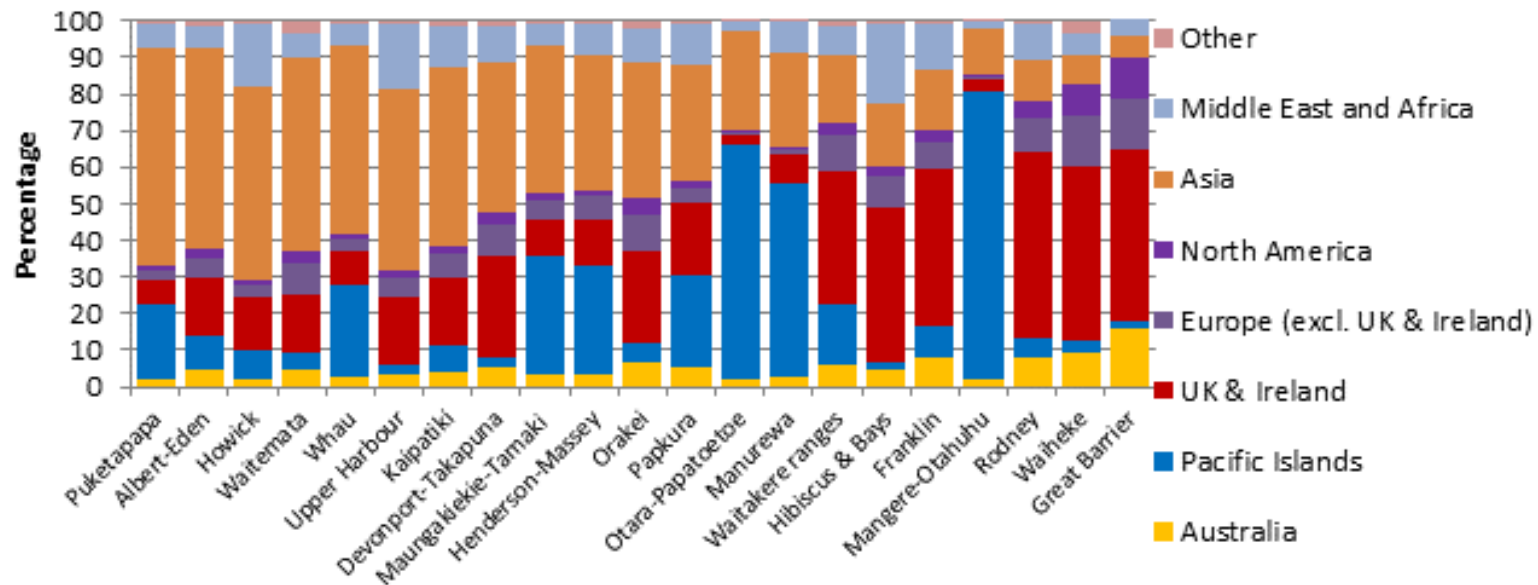


	2006	2021
Asians in Auckland	260,000	453,000

Growth in 15 years = 57% (about 30% of Aucklanders)



Diversity and Local Boards



Source: Author/Statistics New Zealand 2013 Census Regional Summary Tables – Table 2



What does it mean to be an Aucklander in a culturally diverse society?



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What does it mean to be a culturally diverse Auckland?



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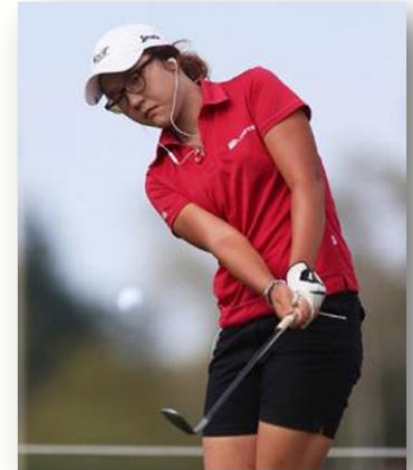
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Visible Diversity



- Sporting arena
- Ethnic precincts
- Festivals and ethnic markets



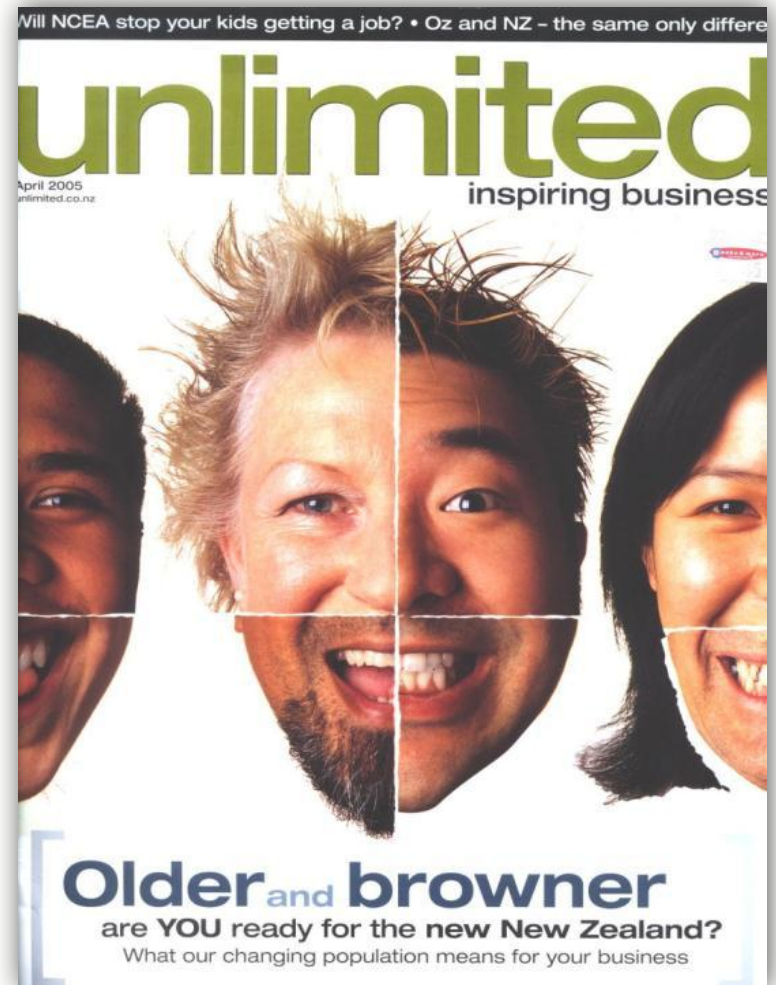
Diverse Auckland



Is Auckland 'superdiverse'?

Is Auckland 'hyperdiverse'?

Does it matter?



Key Questions



- What are the dominant viewpoints of diversity in Auckland?
- How is diversity 'played out' in everyday encounters?



1. More ethnically diverse neighbourhoods
2. Older people relocate to get closer to health-care facilities
3. Reduced sense of safety
4. Different foods are available in my community.
5. Not everyone speaks English well
6. Auckland grows faster than elsewhere
7. Newcomers are often isolated
8. Living alongside people who are different
9. Changing employment opportunities
10. Young people leave to find work
11. Local schools merge or close
12. Cultural festivals
13. Young people leave for tertiary education
14. Non-English speaking children in schools
15. People leave because they have lost their job
16. Visible signage of non-English language
17. Newcomers are helped to settle
18. Restricted housing options
19. New Zealand residency is a stepping stone
20. Gap between the 'rich' and the 'poor' increases
21. Unemployment in the community increases
22. Expression of many religious beliefs
23. Newcomers bring new ideas
24. Māori interests are ignored
25. Businesses recruit skilled workers from overseas
26. People leave for Australia
27. Migrants are valued for their economic contribution
28. Schools acknowledge cultural differences
29. Numbers of newcomers increase
30. Newcomers increase requirements for healthcare, housing and welfare
31. Newcomer children achieve elite status in schools
32. Government sets migration targets
33. Low-skilled newcomers paid below the minimum wage
34. Economic strain in some regional areas
35. The idea of 'New Zealander' changes

The 'Q Concourse' and 'Q Set'



Diversity More ethnically diverse neighbourhoods	Individual or household Different foods are available in my community
Economy Changing employment opportunities	Community or region Local schools merge or close
Mobility Young people leave for tertiary study	National The idea of New Zealander changes

Q Methodology



The participants were asked to sort 35 statements
about the possible effects of population change
that best demonstrate that which is unacceptable
to you and that which is acceptable to you

Participant ID number

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Please sort the 35 statements to best reflect that which is 'unacceptable to you' and that which is 'acceptable to you'.

Completely
Unacceptable
to you

Neutral
(neither unacceptable
nor acceptable)

Completely
acceptable
to you

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
		26	27	28	29	30		
			31	32	33			
				34				
				35				

Research in action ...



- Why did you put these statements at the most extreme ends?
- What do you think are the biggest challenges facing Auckland right now?
- What do you think are the biggest challenges facing Auckland in the future?



The participants



- Convenience sample of 33 households
 - 54 residents (26 women and 28 men)
- Greater Auckland
 - South Auckland (4); West Auckland (7); Eastern Suburbs (2); Central Business District (1); North Shore (16); and Rodney (3)
- Ethnic identification
 - NZ, two of whom identified as Māori (26); England (8); Korea (4); Indonesia (3); China (2); Iran (2); Philippines (2); South Africa (2); Portugal (1); Tonga (1); United States of America (1); Chile (1); and Vietnam (1)

The participants cont.



- Age between late teens and eighties
 - Teenagers (2); twenties (6); thirties (7); Forties (10); Fifties (18); Sixties (5); Seventies (3); and Eighties (3)
- Employment status
 - Paid employment (26); university students (7); retired (2); 'housewives' (2); college students (2); self-employed (6); officially retired but remaining in some paid employment (3); self-employed whilst semi-retired (2); currently retraining (1)
- Occupations
 - manufacturing; education/training; rental, hiring and real estate services; professional, scientific & technical services; health care & social assistance; arts & recreation services; public administration & safety; information media & telecommunications; administrative & support services; retail trade; and construction

Interpreting three factors



1. “Lived Diversity”
2. “Resisting Diversity”
3. “Liberal Diversity”



Lived Diversity



This viewpoint is characterised by a belief that diversity (in all its forms) is fundamentally good for community development, while acknowledging the privileged place of Māori as tangata whenua. Diversity is not an abstract theoretical idea. Rather, this viewpoint represents a desire to *live* in a diverse world, embracing diversity in all its forms.

Lived Diversity ...



- Embody diversity; about being *in* community
- Inclusive and community oriented

“There are different things they [migrants] can get involved in but I think it’s a more community response that’s needed ... we have a responsibility to new settlers to help them settle ... we need to have a long-term vision (AK002A)

- Everyday cultural experiences

“I was really disappointed that it was mainly white because the school he’d started in in England was people from all around the world – Sikhs, Muslims, and they celebrated Diwali and they celebrated the festivals ... so I was really disappointed when he came here and it was predominantly white ... I think it’s really important for children to grow up respecting and understanding other cultures” (AK025A)

- Concerned about disparity in a diverse world

Resisting Diversity



This viewpoint is characterised by resistance toward community diversity. Concerns are expressed about the loss of ‘kiwi’ values and ethnic and religious diversity (or the presence of values other than their own) are experienced as somewhat threatening. Government regulation is crucial for managing the number of migrants and the impact of migrants on public services.

Resisting Diversity ...



- English language privileged

“Some of the shops that I’ve been into and you want to find something and they can’t speak a word of English. I think that’s wrong. If you’re opening up a shop you should be able to speak the language ... how do the Asians get in? Not that I’m discriminating against them but just the fact that you go into some of their shops and they can’t speak a word of English. How do they get in?” (AK015A)

- Challenges to their ‘neighbourhood’

“Should we ever be flooded with, I’m sorry I have to say this, Islamic radicals? See in the UK, the Islamic radicals there are pushing out the Islamic radicalisation type boat causing all sorts of issues and I’d hate to see that sort of thing happening ... I’ve got no problems with that [religion]. I believe in tolerance. If people want to practise their religious beliefs, fine. Where I think the tolerance has got to be closely monitored is where we get the radical element” (AK017B)

- Role of central government
- Some interesting contradictions ...

Liberal Diversity



This viewpoint is characterised by the belief that diversity is 'good' for a community but this doesn't necessarily extend to their own 'lived life'. In a sense, diversity is an abstract idea rather than a reality and, as such, it is the role of government (central and local) and migrants themselves to ensure successful integration and economic outcomes (not the community).

Liberal Diversity ...



- Belief in the value of diversity

“A mix of people is good. Everyone has different things to offer and I think it is good to mix things up where possible” (AK028B)

- Externally oriented ideas about diversity

“Newcomers **do** feel isolated. Communities need to look after each other but who’s going to do it?” (AK009B)

- Role of central and local government

“It’s imperative [that newcomers are helped to settle]. If we’re going to have immigration laws ... then we need all those resources to help our immigrant peoples to be able to establish themselves ... if we’re going to have policies ... then we need to back that up with resources that are accessible for our migrants, especially our new migrants who may not be joining family” (AK001A)

Issues and challenges ...



- What's at stake?
- And for whom?
- What kinds of conversations are needed?
- Who needs to be 'at the table'?
- How do we proceed with difficult conversations?
- ...

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