Pathways, Circuits and Crossroads Conference
Auckland
9 February 2018
What’s Welcoming Communities?

A two-year Immigration-led pilot programme July 2017 - June 2019 that:

• supports communities to become even more welcoming to newcomers – recent migrants, former refugees and international students

• involves local residents in welcoming activities

• recognises that welcoming efforts lead to shared understanding and prosperity – and with that comes social, economic and cultural benefits

• recognises that communities are healthier, happier and more productive when newcomers are welcomed
New Zealand Migrant Settlement and Integration Strategy

Outcome 4: Inclusion
Migrants participate in and have a sense of belonging to their community and to New Zealand.
Outcomes

**Short-term outcomes**
There is increased community capability to welcome newcomers. Newcomers feel included and those who are eligible choose to stay and make the community their home. Communities recognise the benefits of diversity, and negative perceptions towards newcomers are reduced. Community growth is planned for and carefully managed.

**Medium-term outcomes**
Communities have higher levels of social cohesion. Additional newcomers are attracted to accredited communities, and these communities continue to focus on welcoming and including newcomers. Other councils learn from the pilot councils, and improve their practices. Councils continue to progress and embed welcoming practices over time.

**Long-term outcome**
Communities and New Zealand benefit socially, economically and culturally.
Who’s involved?
Welcoming Communities – a cross-agency effort

Enabling New Zealand businesses and communities to succeed through immigration

Promoting the advantages of ethnic diversity for New Zealand
A global welcoming movement, driven by local effort...
How is Welcoming Communities supported?

Knowledge sharing
Supporting local councils and communities to learn from each other, share best practice and facilitate access to international and national resources and case studies. Also a parallel evaluation process.

Standard + Welcoming Plan + Accreditation
Establishing the Welcoming Communities Standard for local government to benchmark their services, policies, activities and programmes for welcoming newcomers.

Celebrating success
Showcasing success in Welcoming Plan activities and shining a light on the programme outcomes. Developing a national award focused on welcoming initiatives.
A standard to ‘benchmark’ welcoming

1. Inclusive Leadership
2. Welcoming Communications
3. Equitable Access
4. Connected and Inclusive Communities
5. Economic Development, Business and Employment
6. Civic Engagement and Participation
7. Welcoming Public Spaces
8. Culture and Identity
Welcoming Communities’ overarching outcomes

1. Inclusive Leadership
Local government, tangata whenua and other community leaders work together to create, advocate for and continue to foster a welcoming and inclusive community. They lead a shared plan to increase connections between newcomers and existing residents.

2. Welcoming Communications
People of all cultures and backgrounds feel included, listened to and well informed through a range of ways that take into account their different communication needs.

3. Equitable Access
Opportunities to access services and activities and to participate in the community are available to all, including newcomers.

4. Connected and Inclusive Communities
People feel safe in their identity and that they are connected with and belong in the community. There are high levels of trust and understanding between members of the receiving community and newcomers.
Welcoming Communities’ overarching outcomes

5. Economic Development, Business and Employment
Communities maximise and harness the economic development opportunities that newcomers can offer. Councils work with business associations to promote the contribution that newcomer business owners and skilled migrants make to the region’s economy.

6. Civic Engagement and Participation
Newcomers feel welcome to fully participate in the community. Newcomers are active in all forms of civic participation.

7. Welcoming Public Spaces
Newcomers and receiving communities feel welcome in and comfortable using public spaces.

8. Culture and Identity
There is a shared sense of pride in being part of a culturally rich and vibrant community. People feel their culture is respected and valued by other members of the community. There are opportunities to learn about each other’s cultures.
Achievements to date

• Funding approved
• Welcoming Communities Standard launched
• Evaluation Plan and Intervention Logic developed
• Resources for councils prepared
• Advisory groups and dedicated Welcoming Communities staff in place
• Stocktake and benchmarking against the standard underway
• Welcoming Plans underway
Next steps

1. Develop Welcoming Plans - completed by April 2018

2. Implement Welcoming Plans - 2018/2019

3. Co-design the accreditation process - by May 2018
Thank you

June.rout@mbie.govt.nz