

# Investing in the Resilience and Recovery of Communities Affected by COVID-19

As part of the COVID-19 Budget package we want to invest in the capability and resilience of communities to safely respond to and recover from the impacts of COVID-19.

## COVID-19 Budget Package 2020

**To strengthen community groups with a focus on enhancing the wellbeing, connectedness and social cohesion of Māori, Pacific, refugee, and migrant communities.**

**Government is investing \$36 million over the next two years to strengthen the resilience and capability of community groups.**

- Community groups and networks have proved themselves vital in the initial response to COVID-19 in the lockdown period.
- The investment will enable communities themselves, through their wide and existing networks, to respond to and more readily recover from the current and anticipated impacts of COVID-19, over the next 12 to 24 months.
- The funding will provide the ability for communities to seek small grants to address their own new needs, where a response doesn't need to be delivered by a provider. This will promote community and regionally lead innovation to effectively meet the diversity of circumstances across the country.
- The fund would enable these groups to focus on community wellbeing and, for example, efforts to help promote social inclusion through:
  - Increasing the use of technology to share community information, important messages and awareness of how to access help, including in language-specific formats
  - running community sessions in smaller groups
  - the provision of accessible spaces to run community activities.
- With the impacts of COVID-19 likely to be felt most acutely by these communities for some time, we need to ensure sufficient support continues to be available and accessible. It is critical that they do not suffer long-term disadvantage that could be prevented with early and effective help and assistance.
- This fund is not for traditional providers, and instead are usually made up of a cross-section of their local community and public/population interest groups. For example, they can be:
  - multicultural councils
  - ethnic community organisations
  - faith based, religious and church groups
  - women's groups and associations
  - community-access radio stations
  - local marae
  - other community-based interest groups.

Costs (operating) \$m				
2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	TOTAL
18.0	18.0	-	-	<b>36.0</b>