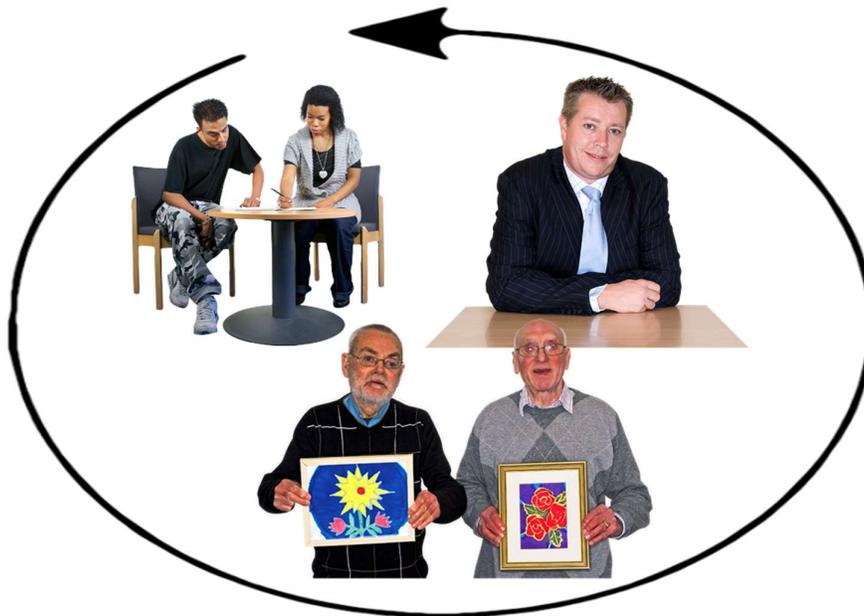




**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA



Making social cohesion better in Aotearoa New Zealand: A guide for businesses and local government and the cultural sector



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What you will find in here

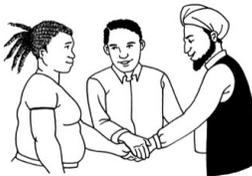
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What is this document about?



This Easy Read document is from the Ministry of Social Development.

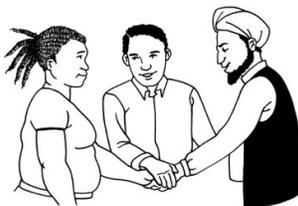


It is the short version of a guide to making **social cohesion** better in Aotearoa New Zealand.



Social cohesion is when people who are part of a community:

- feel like they **belong**
- feel like they are included
- are respected for who they are
- trust each other / public organisations.





We will look more closely at what it means to **belong** on **pages 8 to 10**.



This guide says what can be done to support better social cohesion from:

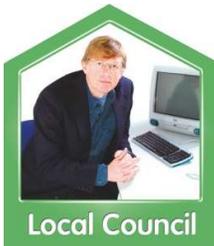
- businesses

- local government like councils

- the cultural sector that supports work in creative areas like:
 - museums

 - libraries

 - art galleries.



Aotearoa New Zealand is a **culturally diverse** country made up of many different communities.



Culturally diverse means a wide range of people who have different:

- **cultures**
- **identities.**



Culture is a way of:

- thinking that a group of people share
- doing things as a group.



Culture can also be:

- the things you believe in
- art that links you to other people who share your culture.





Identity means things like:

- who you are
- what you look like
- how you choose to express yourself.

We know we can make social cohesion better by making sure everyone has the chance to:

- be listened to
- share their ideas with others.

Te Korowai Whetū Social Cohesion



Our **vision** for social inclusion in Aotearoa New Zealand is for everyone to live well together like:



- every person / people
- families / whānau
- communities.



Our **vision** is what we want things to be like in the future.



We have called our plan to make social cohesion better:



Te Korowai Whetū Social Cohesion.

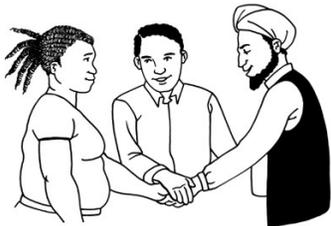


These words are a Māori saying:

Whatua te korowai i ngā tini whetū.

This saying means:

To weave the cloak from the many stars.



Our plan to make social cohesion better in Aotearoa New Zealand will support everyone to:

- work together
- support each other
- be a part of something that is bigger than just them.



Social cohesion means we can be like stars shining together in the sky.

What does it mean to belong?



Our plan to make social cohesion better is focused on **belonging**.



Belonging is when you feel like you:

- fit in with a group of people
- are an important member of a group.



Belonging can mean communities where:

- everyone knows each other
- everyone gets along well with others
- everyone is included.





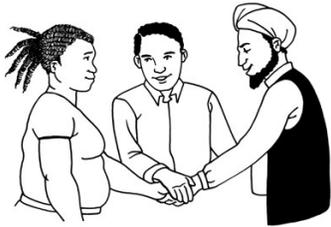
Belonging can also mean:

- you feel safe:
 - talking to people you might not normally talk to
 - sharing information about yourself
- you feel included in the place where you work
- you know where to go to get support when you need it
- children feel like they are a part of the community
- everyone is looked after by others especially during events / times that might be hard.





Our plan looks at 4 key areas that can support people to feel like they belong in a community.



These areas are:

1. Building trust in others
2. Better **diversity** to support people to feel respected
3. Making connections with communities
4. Taking part in things that support a sense of belonging.



Diversity means including lots of different kinds of people.

What can businesses do?



Businesses can support social cohesion by making sure they think about **inclusion** in the workplace.



Inclusion is when everyone has fair access to things like:

- work
- education like school / university
- housing which is a place to live.



Successful workplaces are ones that:



- have different kinds of people who work there
- are inclusive of everybody.



Businesses can support the 4 key areas of belonging by doing things like:



- making the business more accessible to diverse groups of people



- doing things / supporting events that make sure everyone feels included



- looking at ways to bring people together so everyone feels valued



- making sure workers feel supported to get more skills / work experience.

What can local government do?



Local government like councils should speak up for local communities when the people in those communities need support.



Local councils work with communities to support them in areas like:

- housing / not having a home
- support for disabled people
- keeping communities safe
- supporting diverse groups with their needs.





Local councils can support the 4 key areas of belonging by doing things like:



- working with local communities to support the people who need it most



- working with communities to build trust / relationships



- creating accessible places where diverse groups of people can connect with each other



- working to make local councils more inclusive



- giving Māori more opportunities to:

- make decisions about things that affect them
- have roles as leaders.

What can the cultural sector do?



The cultural sector includes:

- the media like newspapers / local news
- the arts like galleries / exhibitions
- the screen industry like television / movies
- performance arts like theatre
- museums.

The cultural sector plays a key role in building good social cohesion.

How people think about inclusion / diversity is often affected by the things the cultural sector makes.



Showing diversity in Aotearoa New Zealand is important to everyone as it shows us ways we can all connect.



The cultural sector can support the 4 key areas of belonging by making important information more accessible to everyone like:



- information about keeping safe / healthy



- information about things that are happening that affect everyone



- creating content like television / news programs that support the needs of diverse groups of people.



The cultural sector can support the 4 key areas of belonging by also doing things like:



- making sure it shows / supports diverse groups of people in:



- art
- television
- museum exhibitions



- running free events that support diverse groups of people to make art / music



- setting up creative spaces for diverse groups of people to meet / make art



- thinking about the kinds of messages it sends out that can help to stop **discrimination**.



Discrimination is when people are treated unfairly because of things like:

- how old they are
- if they are a man / woman / someone of another gender
- if they are disabled.

The cultural sector should also think about ways it can show / support the diverse cultures of Aotearoa New Zealand by including content that shows:

- how things were in the past
- how things have changed.

Where to find more information



You can find more information about this social cohesion work on the Ministry of Social Development website:



www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/community/social-cohesion/index.html



This information has been written by the Ministry of Social Development.



It has been translated into Easy Read by the Make it Easy Kia Māmā Mai service of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



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