



- Culture ..... 2
- Ethnic Diversity ..... 2
  - Maori Aucklanders ..... 2
  - NZ European/Pakeha Aucklanders ..... 3
  - Asian Aucklanders ..... 3
  - Pacific Aucklanders ..... 4
- Immigrant Aucklanders ..... 4
  - Refugees ..... 5
- Ethnic Discrimination ..... 5
- Cultural Identity and Expression ..... 6
  - Ethnic Community Activities ..... 6
  - Language ..... 6
- Religions in Auckland ..... 7
- Auckland’s Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community ..... 7
- Appreciating Cultural Diversity ..... 7
  - Celebrating Diversity ..... 8
  - Collective Pride ..... 8
- Arts and Culture ..... 8
  - Appreciating Arts and Culture ..... 8
  - Attendance at Arts and Cultural Events ..... 9
- Heritage in Auckland ..... 9
  - Surveying Auckland’s Heritage ..... 9
  - Cultural Heritage Inventory ..... 9
  - Maori Heritage ..... 10
  - Appreciating Auckland’s Heritage ..... 10
- References ..... 11
- Endnotes ..... 13



## Culture

Culture includes our values, beliefs, traditions, communities, heritage, participation and expression (Fava et al., 2010). This section focuses on Auckland's diverse communities, heritage, and arts and cultural activities.

Diversity is a broad term which includes diversity of age, ability, sexuality, gender, ethnicity, traditions and beliefs. Diversity can be a source of celebration, expression, education and understanding. Sadly, diversity can also be associated with misunderstanding, prejudice and discrimination.

### Ethnic Diversity

There are approximately 190 different ethnic groups residing in the Auckland region, and so understanding the region's ethnic diversity is essential to appreciating Auckland's needs and opportunities (MSD, 2008, p. 3).

Aucklanders are often statistically grouped together in broader ethnic groups for statistical purposes. This creates limitations, because there is much variation within these ethnic groups in terms of country of origin, length of time in New Zealand, beliefs, language and culture. In addition, people may have multiple ethnicities – in the 2006 census, 10.7% of Aucklanders chose more than one ethnic group to identify with (Social and Economic Research and Monitoring Team, 2007, p. 14).

NZ Europeans/Pakeha is the largest ethnic group in the region (57%), followed by Asian (19%), Pacific (14%), and Maori (11%). The remaining 8% of Aucklanders are immigrants from countries outside Asia and the Pacific (MSD, 2008, p. 2). In the 2006 census, 52% of New Zealand's overseas-born population were recorded as living in the Auckland region. In particular, there are high numbers of people born in Tonga, Fiji, India, Samoa, China, Korea and South Africa (Strategic Social Policy Group, 2008, p. 10).

#### **Maori Aucklanders**

At the last census those indicating Maori ethnicity made up 11% of the Auckland population. Although there has been an increase in the number of Aucklanders identifying themselves as Maori, the proportion has remained fairly stable over the 1991–2006 census period (MSD, 2008, pp. 1–2). Medium-range population projections anticipate this trend continuing, with 12% of Auckland's population identifying as Maori in 2021 (Statistics New Zealand, 2010a).

Papakura has the largest relative proportion of Maori (see Appendix table A3) and more than a third of young people in Papakura identify themselves as Maori. However, the actual number of



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Maori youth is higher in Manukau, with more than 30% of the Maori population living there (Department of Labour, 2008, pp. 4, 15).

## Tangata Whenua – Auckland’s Iwi

Mana whenua involves a tribe’s connections to the land through, for example, history, legends based in the land and generations occupying the land. Mana whenua includes territorial rights and power associated with possession and occupation of tribal land (Moorfield, 2011). There are six tribes with mana whenua status in the Auckland region: Ngāti Pāoa on Waiheke Island, Ngāi Tai at Maraetai, Ngāti Whātua at Orakei, Te Wai-o-Hua/Ngā Oho at Mangere, Ngāti Te Ata at Manukau, and Te Kawerau-a-Maki in the Waitakere Ranges (Ministry for Culture and Heritage, 2010) (see Map M1). Due to internal migration, there are many Maori Aucklanders connected to iwi outside the Auckland region.

The Tamaki Makaurau Marae Directory claims to list all marae located in the region. Their current list includes 75 marae. Auckland marae are not distributed evenly across the region: the majority (42 of those listed) are in the south, 14 are in the north (including Great Barrier), 11 are centrally located (several associated with educational facilities), and 8 are in the west (Te Puni Kokiri, 2010).

## ***NZ European/Pakeha Aucklanders***

The percentage of Aucklanders identifying as NZ European/Pakeha has declined by approximate 20% from 1991 to 2006, although some of this change can be attributed to ‘New Zealander’ being presented separately in the results.<sup>1</sup> Compared with other ethnic groups in Auckland, the NZ European/Pakeha population is an aging one, with less than 50% of Auckland region’s youth identifying themselves as NZ European/Pakeha (Department of Labour, 2008, p. 4).

NZ European/Pakeha Aucklanders are most likely to live in the north (71%), followed by the west (61%), central (55%) and then south (44%) (see Appendix table A3).

## ***Asian Aucklanders***

Auckland’s Asian population is the region’s fastest growing ethnic group: in 1991, close to 6% of Aucklanders identified themselves as Asian, and this had risen to 19% in 2006 (MSD, 2008, p. 1). Statistic New Zealand forecasts this to rise to 27% by 2021 (Statistics New Zealand, 2010a). The Asian population is youthful, with approximately 26% of youth in the region identifying themselves as Asian (Department of Labour, 2008, p. 4).

The Asian population includes a huge variety of ethnic groups, with the seven largest being Chinese, Indian, Korean, Filipino, Japanese, Sri Lankan and Cambodian (Statistics New Zealand, 2007). The Chinese and Indian populations are the two Asian groups that have grown most significantly in Auckland: between 1986 and 2006, the Chinese population in the region has increased by 899.4% and the Indian population by 841.6% (Spoonley and Taiapa, 2009, p. 12).





The Asian population is mostly concentrated within 20 kilometres of the central city, with the numbers/proportions decreasing with increased distance from the centre (see Appendix table A3). This is a particularly strong pattern for youth, with over 35% of Asian youth located centrally in Auckland (Department of Labour, 2008, p. 16).

## ***Pacific Aucklanders***

Approximately 180,000 Aucklanders (14%) identify themselves as Pacific Peoples (MSD, 2008, p. 3). Of these, 57% were born outside of New Zealand (Strategic Social Policy Group, 2008, p. 33). Pacific Aucklanders are significantly more likely than other Aucklanders to identify with multiple ethnic groups. This is most dramatic in Rodney, where only 31% of Pacific Aucklanders identify with one single ethnic group (Social and Economic Research and Monitoring Team, 2007, p. 14).

Following historic waves of immigration to New Zealand, during which the Pacific population increased significantly, the proportion of Pacific Aucklanders has increased only slightly in recent years (MSD, 2008, p. 1). Despite this slow in growth, Auckland continues to be New Zealand's most popular destination for Pacific immigrants. For example, 84% of New Zealand's Tongan population live in the region and over 70% of New Zealand's Samoan and Fijian population are also located in Auckland (Strategic Social Policy Group, 2008, p. 33). The proportion of Pacific Peoples across the whole Auckland region is predicted to grow to 17%, and as high as 34% in Manukau, in the next decade (Statistics New Zealand, 2010a).

## **Immigrant Aucklanders**

The majority of Aucklanders were born in New Zealand. However, at 40%, Auckland also has a very high proportion of immigrant citizens (Strategic Social Policy Group, 2008, p. 33) – a proportion significantly higher than in any other city in the OECD (Spoonley and Taiapa, 2009, p. 11). Auckland's immigrants come from Asia (13%), the Pacific Islands (8%), United Kingdom and Ireland (7%), the rest of Europe (2%), Australia (2%), North America (1%) and the rest of the world (Statistics New Zealand, 2010b).

Auckland's immigrant population has different demographic characteristics to Auckland's New Zealand-born population: immigrants are more likely to have a higher median age and are slightly more likely to be female, and recent migrants are more likely to live in households of couples with children or multiple families (Strategic Social Policy Group, 2008, p. 28). However, there is much variation and different migrant groups have different needs and characteristics.

Immigrants often come to Auckland with high expectations. In a recent Longitudinal Immigration Survey, immigrant Aucklanders' hopes and dreams were predominantly centred around lifestyle, environment, a better future for their children, safety, a new start and education and employment opportunities (Meares at al., 2010, p. 31). The realisation of these dreams is associated with where immigrants come from: those who come to Auckland from countries where English is spoken and



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where there are similar systems to New Zealand have more positive settlement experiences, whereas settlement is more challenging for those from countries with diverse cultural and language backgrounds (MSD, 2008, p. 3).

Migrants report challenges around employment (including finding work, underemployment and working too hard), limited social connections and immigration issues; they also have safety concerns (Mearns et al., 2010, p. 66). It appears that the Auckland region is currently retaining immigrants, at least in the short term, with 95.8% of those who had lived in Auckland in 2007 still living in the region in 2009 (Statistics New Zealand and Department of Labour, 2009).

## **Refugees**

New Zealand has an annual quota for 750 refugees (Strategic Social Policy Group, 2008, p. 2). When they first arrive in the country, refugees have a six-week orientation at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre (Grogan, 2008, p. 18). Many then move to Mt Roskill, which has the largest number of refugees nationwide (David et al., 2008, p. 7).

Refugees' experiences are very different from other immigrants': they have often left their home countries suddenly, with little choice about where they are going, and may have experienced persecution and war; often they will have been separated from family members (Strategic Social Policy Group, 2008, p. 4). These events can be highly traumatic. Mental health has been identified as one of the key issues for Auckland's refugees (Grogan, 2008, p. 48). Refugees also express concern about the difficulty in finding work, the cost of health care, the distance from family, and high taxes (Strategic Social Policy Group, 2008, pp. 39-40).

Despite the challenges they face, many refugees are settling well in Auckland. In research with more than 300 refugees, 98% who had been in Auckland for two years said they felt settled and planned to stay in New Zealand (Strategic Social Policy Group, 2008, pp. 39-40).

## **Ethnic Discrimination**

It is difficult to monitor crimes motivated by hatred or discrimination because the police do not keep separate records for these. Discrimination is often perceived to be slightly higher in Auckland (compared with the rest of New Zealand) because of the diversity of the region. However, Aucklanders are more supportive of settlement assistance for immigrants than the rest of the country, agreeing that 'the government should be responsible for helping immigrants for three to five years after their arrival' (Gendall et al., 2007, p. 23)

In the late 1990s, there was some high-profile, adverse media and political attention directed at Auckland's Asian communities (Strategic Social Policy Group, 2008, p. 5). While the climate has changed, there are still issues of discrimination affecting Asian Aucklanders. For example, Korean migrants to Auckland on the 'New Settlers Programme' reported that most New Zealanders



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seemed to be friendly and open to diversity, yet despite an overall positive attitude, most Korean Aucklanders still reported facing harassment. This was mainly based on appearance and language, including both verbal and physical and harassment. Most of those who were being abusive were perceived to be young, less educated, and 'lower class' (Adrienne et al., 2010, pp. 7–9).

Discrimination can be a problem in the workplace too. For example, a study by Massey University and the University Of Waikato found 70% of Chinese employers and employees believing that immigrants faced discrimination at work, and 30% of employers and 55% of employees having experienced discrimination (based on migrant status) personally (Meares et al., 2010, p. 35).

## **Cultural Identity and Expression**

The General Social Survey found that most Aucklanders found it easy (over 45%) or very easy (37.5%) to express their own identity in New Zealand. This was similar to the rest of the country. Less than 3% found it difficult or very difficult to do express their identity (see Appendix table A1).

### ***Ethnic Community Activities***

Participation rates in ethnic community activities can be a useful indicator of cultural identity and expression. Approximately 75% of Aucklanders regard culture and cultural activities as being at least important to New Zealand's sense of national identity (Ministry for Culture and Heritage, 2009, p. 55). Attendance at cultural events is increasing amongst ethnic minorities, with 44% of Indian Aucklanders, 39% of Pacific Aucklanders and 33% of Chinese Aucklanders attending ethnic cultural events (Strategic Social Policy Group, 2008, p. 54).

### ***Language***

The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) considers language retention a useful indicator of cultural identity for people who have English as a second language. The MSD has published figures for Te reo Maori and for ethnic languages (other than Maori) with an established resident population in New Zealand: the percentage of Maori Aucklanders who speak Te reo Maori has remained at around 20% since 1996; language use rates for other ethnic groups are higher. Over 36% of New Zealand-born Aucklanders from ethnic groups other than Maori speak their ethnic language. For those born outside New Zealand, the rate rises to over 78% (MSD, 2009).

### **New Zealand Sign Language**

Another community in Auckland which is united by language is the deaf community. New Zealand sign language (NZSL) is spoken by 6,800 people in Auckland, most of whom are prelingually deaf (Statistics NZ, 2006). As medicine advances, the numbers of deaf people in New Zealand are decreasing; however, there is still a strong community of those who prefer to communicate visually (Fitzgerald & Associates, 2010a, p. 5). Many in the deaf community communicate without New Zealand sign language, and many





deaf or hearing-impaired children are not learning sign as their first language. For example, only 4% of deaf children under the age of five in the Auckland metropolitan area use NZSL and another 12% use both sign and speech – the majority are using spoken language only (Fitzgerald & Associates, 2010b). Speakers of NZSL in Auckland are more likely to live in west or south Auckland and are in areas of high deprivation; there are also significantly more speakers of NZSL living 40 kilometres or more out of the CBD (see Appendix table A3).

## Religions in Auckland

Almost half of Aucklanders identify themselves as Christian (49%), with Anglican (11%), Catholic (13%) and Presbyterian (8%) being the largest denominations. After Christianity, the largest religions are Hinduism (3.4%), Buddhism (2.2%) and Islam (1.8%). Approximately 30% of Aucklanders say they have no religion (see Appendix table A5).

## Auckland's Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community

Many organisations which support Auckland's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities use the term 'queer' to represent sexuality and gender diversity. The term can encompass lesbian, gay, bisexual, intersex, fa'afafine, transgender and takataapui identities (Rainbow Youth, 2011). The Auckland queer community has a range of support organisations, business associations, clubs and bars, and sports and recreation groups. The inner-city area, in particular the areas around Grey Lynn, Western Springs, Westmere and Ponsonby, have become known for their queer communities. Ponsonby has Auckland's highest concentration of queer venues (Weaver, 2007).

The Youth '07 Survey found approximately 4% of secondary school students were attracted to those of the same sex or to both sexes, while 1.8% of students were not sure (Rossen et al., pp. 5, 11). Homophobia and discrimination based on sexuality is one of the main reasons secondary students are bullied (Clark et al., 2009, pp. 18–19).

## Appreciating Cultural Diversity

According to the Big City Quality of Life Survey, a small majority (54%) think that increasing cultural diversity makes Auckland a better place to live in. There are many opportunities that come with living in a diverse region, yet 46% of respondents were ambivalent or disagreed that increasing cultural diversity made Auckland a better place to live (Social and Economic Research and Monitoring Team, 2008, p. 6).



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## ***Celebrating Diversity***

There is an increasing range of events which celebrate diversity in the Auckland region including the Auckland International Cultural Festival, OurFest 2010 (Auckland's new festival for the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender communities), Matariki festivals, Christmas in the Park, and Love Your Body Day (celebrating size diversity). Public cultural events and festivals appear to be an increasingly important way to celebrate diversity in Auckland (see *Arts and Culture Activities* later for more detail).

## ***Collective Pride***

It appears that the cultural expression of other ethnic groups (i.e. groups an individual does not personally identify as belonging to) can also engender pride in a collective Auckland identity. In the Auckland and the Arts Survey, when asked about events which made people proud to be an Aucklander, the Pasifika festival featured highly across non-Pacific ethnic groups; this included 38% of NZ European Aucklanders, 38% of Maori Aucklanders and 22% of Asian Aucklanders (Colmar Brunton, 2009, p. 2).

## **Arts and Culture**

Auckland is offering an increasing range of art and cultural activities and events across the region. Examples include the Diwali Festival, Matariki celebrations, the Auckland Philharmonic Orchestra, film festivals, Waiheke's Sculpture Exhibition, Polyfest, the Smokefree Stage Challenge, the Lantern Festival, the Pasifika Festival, a range of art galleries, Big Day Out, food festivals, concerts by a range of local and international musicians, kapa haka groups and competitions, the Big Gay Out, Auckland Theatre Company, Waitakere Moon Festival, writers' festivals, Mission Bay Jazz Festival, the Music in the Parks series, Semi-permanent, Southside Gig, and Auckland Arts Festival.

## ***Appreciating Arts and Culture***

The Auckland and the Arts Survey indicated that Aucklanders' attitudes to the region's arts and culture were generally very positive, with 86% of Aucklanders feeling that arts events and activities reflect the multicultural diversity of Auckland (Colmar Brunton, 2009, p. 3), and 79% agreeing that 'the arts help define who we are as New Zealanders' (Colmar Brunton, 2009, p. 1).

The Big City Quality of Life Survey considered the arts scene at a more local level. Most respondents (65%) agreed or strongly agreed that their local district has a culturally rich and diverse arts scene. Of all the ethnic groups in Auckland, Pacific Aucklanders were more likely to agree; and by location, those living centrally were more likely to agree, whilst those living in Franklin and Papakura were the least likely to agree (Reid, 2009b, p. 29).



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## ***Attendance at Arts and Cultural Events<sup>ii</sup>***

Overall, attendance at arts and cultural events is higher for Auckland than the rest of New Zealand (Strategic Social Policy Group, 2008, p. 54). The Auckland Festival Trust alone has attracted more than 880,000 people to their past four festivals (Auckland Arts Festival, 2010). More than 80% of Aucklanders surveyed in the Auckland and the Arts Survey had attended an arts event in the past year. For those who had not attended an event, the main reasons were time constraints (55%), a lack of interest (40%), and expense (19%). Those who did not attend were more likely to be Asian Aucklanders, have less than \$20,000 per year as household income, and have no formal education beyond secondary school (Colmar Brunton, 2009, pp. 1, 21).

The survey found no dramatic difference in the overall percentages of people attending arts events across the Auckland region, although there were differences with regard to specific art-forms. The greatest differences were in relation to 'Pacific arts' and 'visual arts and film festivals': 'Pacific arts' were most attended in south Auckland (46%) followed by central (39%), west (38%) and north Auckland (22%), whereas 'visual arts and film festivals' were most attended in central Auckland (62%), followed by north (51%), west (48%) and south Auckland (46%) (Colmar Brunton, 2009, p. 14).

## **Heritage in Auckland**

Auckland's heritage refers to both the natural and built features of Auckland that are of special historical significance. This includes 26 regional parks, Auckland's beaches and coasts, 48 volcanic cones, and more than 15,000 recorded cultural sites (Hastings, 2010). (For more information about Auckland's natural features, see the *Environment* section.)

### ***Surveying Auckland's Heritage***

The State of the Region report found that only 29 % of the Auckland region has been surveyed and assessed for heritage values (ARC, 2010b, p. 276). In 2009, Auckland had one of the highest numbers of heritage sites in New Zealand, but also had the highest number of heritage sites destroyed (more than 70) in that time period (Ministry for Culture and Heritage, 2009, p. 36). One contributing factor is a lack of systematic monitoring of historic sites and comprehensive records with regard to resource consents, modification, destruction and relocation (Auckland Regional Council, 2010, p. 54).

### ***Cultural Heritage Inventory***

In 1997, the Auckland Regional Council began collecting information on heritage sites in the Cultural Heritage Inventory. Auckland now has over 15,000 heritage sites listed in the inventory. The majority are of these sites are archaeological (10,416) or historic buildings and structures (2983) (ARC, 2010a, p. 277).



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## ***Maori Heritage***

Maori heritage includes cultural sites, significant buildings and landscapes that are of historical and cultural importance to Maori people (NZ Historic Places Trust: Pouhere Taonga, 2009, p. 5). There are concerns that Maori heritage is often seen as only important for Maori communities and therefore undervalued (NZ Historic Places Trust, Pouhere Taonga, 2009, p. 5). However, Maori heritage sites have the potential to create a sense of pride for all Aucklanders and to create tourism opportunities for Auckland.

## ***Appreciating Auckland's Heritage***

The vast majority of Aucklanders (over 70%) are concerned about the destruction of Auckland's important historical heritage sites (Reid, 2009a). Heritage is important to people because of the desire to understand cultural origins and the way in which they can enhance and beautify the Auckland environment (Hastings, 2010). An example of Aucklanders celebrating heritage is the Auckland Heritage Festival. The festival aims to help Aucklanders explore the stories, features and sites which are part of Auckland's history (Cooper and Company, 2010).



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## Endnotes

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<sup>i</sup> Statistic New Zealand recommends that the category of 'New Zealander' should not be offered in the Census. Alternatively, they suggest that including the NZer category in the European one would lead to longer term consistency, as over 90% of the growth of 'New Zealander' respondents in 2006 came from people who reported that they were 'New Zealand European' in 2001.

<sup>ii</sup> Definitions of arts and cultural events vary widely. Please see the original reports for full definitions: Colmar Brunton (2009), p. 8; Strategic Social Policy Group (2008), p. 53.

