

## **WHY HAVE A SOCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGY?**

Social inclusion is the ability of all individuals, households, whānau and communities to participate in the economic, social, cultural and political life of the community in which they live. This means people have access to some very basic but important things, including; enough income to sustain an ordinary life; a safe place to live; an education; the opportunity to develop skills that are valued; and services that support their health. Collectively these form the basis of the resources and opportunities to progress through life in a way that creates wellbeing for individuals, families, whānau, households and communities.

However participation is harder for some than others. Social exclusion is often caused by a number of persistent, intergenerational factors that accumulate to exacerbate disadvantage. It can be the result of the actions of other people, organisations, institutions or geographic communities. Social exclusion does not simply reflect a person's history and current circumstances, but also impacts on their future.

In Hawke's Bay, as in communities across New Zealand, disadvantage is unevenly distributed amongst our communities. There are some major groups of people in Hawke's Bay who are excluded, for example, Māori, the disabled, mentally ill, and those whose patterns have been set for generations.

To tackle the issue of social exclusion, work has commenced to develop a Social Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan. 'Matariki – Hawke's Bay Regional Social Inclusion Strategy' is the partner strategy to Matariki – Hawke's Bay Regional Economic Development Strategy and Action Plan 2016. It will set out a conscious and practical approach to social inclusion that benefits every household, whānau and community in Hawke's Bay.

The Vision is that: 'Hawke's Bay is a vibrant, cohesive, diverse and safe community, where every child is given the best start in life and everyone has opportunities that result in equity of outcomes'

Delivering the Vision: 'Matariki - Hawke's Bay Regional Social Inclusion Strategy' proposes not just 'more of the same', but a fundamentally different approach to addressing some of the most difficult issues that we face as a region. Tackling the hardest issues in our communities demands solutions not tried before; a far more collaborative approach; new partnerships in the community, and between the community and our Government and non-government agencies; structural change in our funding models; fresh prioritising; and the breaking down of silos and barriers to effective action.

This is not just about allocating new money or agencies running new programs in traditional ways. Complex issues require co-created and co-funded solutions.

Many agencies already do fine work in Hawke's Bay and we don't want to lose momentum on things that are already working. But we can do better and we must do better if we are to come anywhere near achieving this strategy's ambitious goals and objectives.

We recognise that changing organisational behaviour will be challenging, but doing more of the same will not take us very far. We want Hawke's Bay to be known as the region for standout, innovative, joined up thinking about how better to achieve engaged, inclusive and thriving communities.