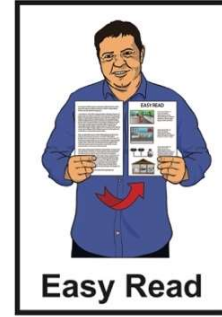




**Te Korowai  
Whetū**  
Social Cohesion

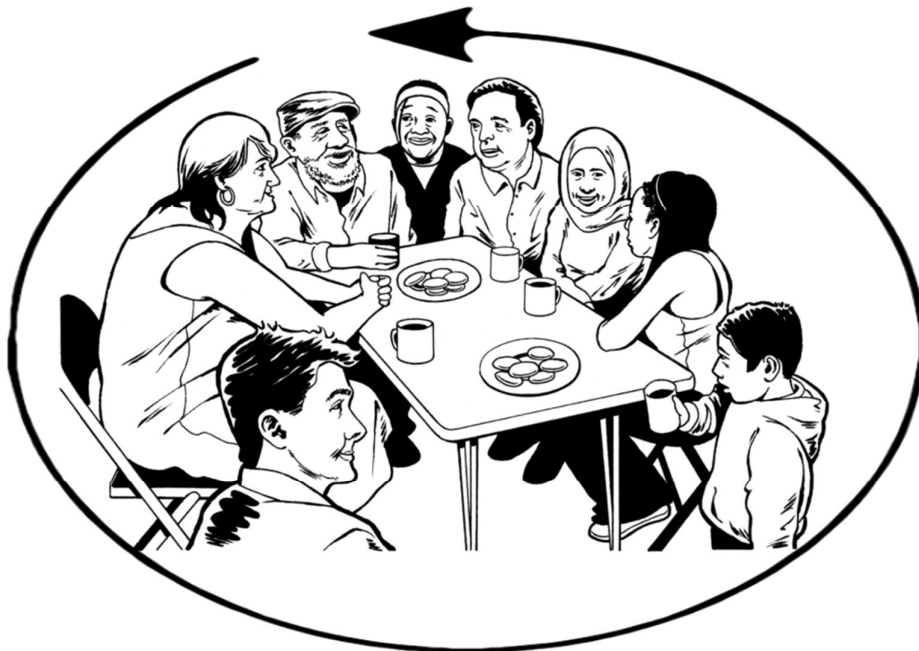


**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL  
DEVELOPMENT**  
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA



**Easy Read**

# **A guide for communities to make social cohesion better in Aotearoa New Zealand**



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# What you will find in here

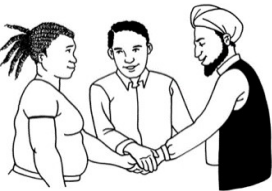
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# What is this document about?



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 9 to 11**.



This guide says what communities can do to support better social cohesion.



**Communities** are when a group of people:

- live close together
- have shared interests.



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** is things like:

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

Social cohesion for Māori includes things like:

- their culture is valued
- they feel like they belong
- there is **manaakitanga**.

**Manaakitanga** means showing other people:

- respect
- care.



We know that some people in Aotearoa New Zealand have experienced **discrimination** from other people.



**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.



We also 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 that might be hard / difficult.



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

These areas mean we will work to:



1. support people with ways to build trust in others



2. support better **diversity** so people feel respected

3. assist people to make good connections in their communities



4. encourage people to take part in things that support a feeling of belonging.



**Diversity** means including lots of different kinds of people from different groups / cultures.

# What can communities do?



Communities can build trust in each other by:

- speaking out if they see someone acting in a way that discriminates against others
- working with other people in ways that encourages them to think about how they act / speak
- talking with people from different cultures to learn more about them / their culture
- holding events where everyone is welcome to share their ideas / experiences
- being involved with making changes that stop discrimination.





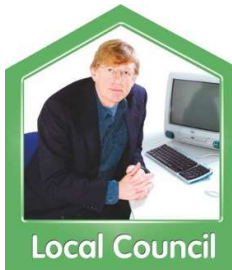
Communities can support diversity so people feel respected by:



- being involved in groups / workshops that work to get rid of discrimination
- supporting people to think about how they think / act towards other people



- supporting people who have experienced discrimination
- getting in touch with people who work in politics to ask them to speak out about discrimination like:



- a local councillor
- a Member of Parliament for your area.





Communities can work to make connections with other people by:

- talking / acting in ways that show other people good ways to act towards others



- making the time to listen to / learn from other people



- thinking about ways to encourage diversity in their community



- holding / going to events that are open to everyone so people can get to know each other



- reaching out to other communities to share ideas / support



- making safe places where groups of people can gather to get to know each other.

Communities can take part in things that support a feeling of belonging by:



- supporting events / celebrations for different cultural groups



- talking to community leaders about programs / groups that could bring people closer together



- learning about the cultural history of Aotearoa New Zealand



- learning about things that are important to Māori like:

- **Te Tiriti o Waitangi**
- **te Reo Māori** which is the Māori language
- **tikanga** Māori.







**Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi** is an important document that was signed in 1840.



It is about Māori and the New Zealand Government:

- making decisions together
- protecting things that are important to Māori.



**Tikanga** means Māori customs which are ways of doing things that are important to Māori.

## 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](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/work-programmes/community/social-cohesion/index.html)**



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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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