

Whau Ethnic Peoples Plan





Whau Ethnic Peoples Plan

The 'Ethnic Peoples Plan (EPP) for the Whau' is an initiative that stems from the Whau Local Board Plan Outcome Two: Great neighbourhoods with strong community connections, capacity and voices.

The outcome has a strong focus to ensure that "our towns and neighbourhood communities are stronger". It is intended that, through the EPP, Ethnic communities will have better access to local services, facilities and programmes. The EPP also provides a foundation to develop the relationship between Ethnic communities, the Whau Local Board and wider council.

The plan was developed over a series of workshops, individual interviews and community-wide surveys. This document details the plan we have developed together and recommendations for moving forward. Through our continued partnership, we hope to create a more inclusive Whau for our diverse ethnic communities.

The recommendations below are to support implementation of the Whau EPP and necessary community activation. The EPP was developed within a community development context. It is intended as a tool to support all council staff, community groups and Local Board members working in the Whau to meet the needs of a growing and increasingly diverse ethnic community.

Short-term recommendations

Convene an ethnic leaders workshop

Through the engagement process, several participants expressed an interest to meet with other ethnic groups to network and discuss the project and next steps. The team responded to this by adding an extra workshop specifically for ethnic leaders. The workshop was well attended.

Plan a "Responding to diversity in the Whau" follow-up workshop

Invite community groups who participated in the project to:

1. hear about the findings of the project;
2. meet the Local Board; and
3. discuss next steps.

This could be held at local board office one evening within the next three months.

Develop a local board and ethnic peoples engagement strategy

Develop an engagement strategy specifically targeting ethnic communities to support ongoing dialogue between and the local board. Specifically, the engagement strategy should include:

1. an emphasis on face to face engagement dialogue between them and the Whau Local Board;
2. opportunities for Local Board members to engage with ethnic communities in their environments and spaces
3. opportunities for ethnic communities to share with Local Board members their skills, talents and programmes.

Initiate an Ethnic Peoples community-led development forum

Establish a regular community-led development forum. This forum is to be established in the Whau Local Board area but could potentially expand to promote cross-border partnership and collaboration. A committee can be established to oversee the creation and governance of this regular forum. Those who participated in the EPP development could be candidates on the committee.

Medium-term recommendations

Develop an ethnic youth identity arts project

Work with local high schools and youth organisations to develop an arts project that aims to increase awareness of the diverse experiences of ethnic youth. The theme could focus on the issue of holding dual or multiple identities. Communication at home with family and with peers was also an important topic for ethnic youth.

Develop a Diversity in Parks Needs Assessment

Throughout the initial survey, and later through the workshops, it became clear that parks play an important role in supporting ethnic communities to access, participate and take ownership of public space. The Parks department engaged with the project team early on to develop a Diversity in Parks Needs Assessment.

Mainstream inter-ethnic exchange activities

It was important for ethnic people to have opportunities to showcase their skills and talents through public performances. There are multiple ways in which this can be supported:

1. Make Future in capitals, future public engagement led by the Local Board or Auckland Council to include opportunities for ethnic communities to perform.
2. Support the mainstreaming of non-traditional sports such as table tennis or badminton. This can be done via council-run or non-council run organisations such as schools.
3. Continue to support and encourage community facilities and hubs to run inter-cultural exchange workshops. Art and food exchange projects was of particular importance.
4. Promote opportunities for intergenerational skill sharing and volunteerism in community facilities and hubs.
5. Identify opportunities for ethnic people to learn about and experience Maori culture in a way that feels culturally safe for them.





Long-term recommendations

Support the development of an inclusion and diversity through sports tool kit

Sport can be an effective tool for inclusion and is important for health and wellbeing. A tool kit would help support local sports clubs and centres to meet the needs of different ethnic groups.

Support the development of an "Inclusion and diversity through sports tool kit"

Develop an information sheet of different options for accessing space.

Many participants said they struggled to find space or funds to pay for hire. However, many participants were unaware of the multiple options available. It would be useful to develop an information sheet on the diverse ways communities can access space. This includes accessing private spaces of religious centers, community houses and hubs, parks, and other community lease buildings.



