



**healthy  
families**  
New Zealand  
He oranga whānau

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT IMPACT REPORT**  
CREATING THRIVING COMMUNITIES

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## MIHI

Kei ngā iti, kei ngā rahi, tēnā koutou. E tuku ana i ngā tauwhirotaanga o te wāhi ngaro ki a tātou katoa, te hunga pānui, te hunga whai mātauranga, te hunga e whai nei i te iti kaurangi. He mihi nui tēnei ki te rahi o ngā tangata i whakapeto ngoi ki te tutuki i tēnei kaupapa. Mai nga kaimahi o He Oranga Whānau, tēnei mātou e mihi ana ki ngā rau kaupapa huri noa i te motu e whawhai nei te whaiwhai roa, te whawhai tika. Mauri ora ki a tātou!

On behalf of the Healthy Families NZ Local Government Community of Practice, we would like to acknowledge all movements across New Zealand that strive for improved local governance and a decrease in preventable chronic disease. This impact report is a small snippet of the work we do at Healthy Families NZ, but it's going to take all of us to create better health in the places we live, learn, work and play.

Kaihau Paitai  
Māori Systems Innovator  
Ngāti Porou ki Harataunga  
Healthy Families Hutt Valley





**Healthy Families NZ is a large-scale prevention that brings community leadership together in a united effort for better health. It aims to improve people's health where they live, learn, work and play by taking a systems approach to preventing the rise of chronic disease.** Healthy Families NZ has an explicit focus on equity, improving health for Māori and reducing inequities for groups at increased risk of preventable chronic disease. The Healthy Families NZ locations around the country work collaboratively with local leaders and organisations to identify, design and implement changes to help people make healthier choices and live healthier lives. Through active community participation, Healthy Families NZ builds on existing action underway in the community to create an integrated, community-wide "prevention system" for good health.

## WE ARE ONLY AS HEALTHY AS OUR LEAST HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT

## HEALTHY FAMILIES NZ PRINCIPLES



### **Implementation at Scale**

Strategies are delivered at a scale that impacts a large number of the population, in their places and spaces



### **Collaboration for impact**

Impact through long term commitment by multiple partners, from different sectors, at multiple levels



### **Equity of Outcome**

An explicit focus on improving Māori health and reducing inequalities for groups at increased risk



### **Adaptation**

Constant reflection, learning and adaptation to ensure strategies are timely, relevant and sustainable



### **Experimentation**

Innovation underpinned by evidence and experience, then growing activities that prove effective



### **Line of Sight**

Providing a transparent view on how every Healthy Families NZ location impacts community wellbeing



### **Leadership**

Leadership is supported at all levels within our communities, in all sectors and spaces.

### **Te Tiriti o Waitangi**

Healthy Families NZ is committed to fulfilling the special relationship between Māori and the Crown under Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Healthy Families NZ prioritises the inclusion and protection of mātauranga Māori as an important enabler of Māori health and wellbeing. We collaborate with partners across our communities to improve Māori health outcomes and achieve pae ora. Māori participation and decision-making at all levels of planning and implementation is critical.

### **Workforce**

A dedicated prevention workforce who are embedded within their local community, driving and supporting systems change. Healthy Families NZ kaimahi are skilled in systems thinking, creating adaptive responses to complex issues in local and cultural settings, and are able to identify prevention activity with potential for sustainable outcomes.

# CONTEXT

**When it comes to better health outcomes for people across Aotearoa, local government has an important role to play in making healthier choices easier for people where they live, learn, work and play in their regions.**

## The role of local government

Local government is in the unique position to influence the health and wellbeing of whole populations through the services, infrastructure and facilities they provide. The vision and leadership local government shows has an impact on the lives of the communities they serve every single day.

Best practice evidence tells us that if local government and communities work together to create dynamic systems change, we can address the rise of preventable chronic disease. Through changing our environments to support improved mental wellbeing and resilience, nutrition, increased physical activity, more people being smokefree and reducing harm from alcohol, our communities will thrive.

## Opportunities for transformational change

This report has been written to highlight two transformational opportunities for local government and the wider health system to interact to improve health and wellbeing for our communities. These opportunities include:

- The review into the Future for Local Government
- Health system reforms and the locality approach

The interim report into the future of local government – *Ārewa ake te Kaupapa: Raising the platform*, articulates many of the capacity and capability aspirations that resonate with the Healthy Families NZ systems change approach, including:

- designing a system of local governance that is built on relationships;
- has the right mix of scale and community voice;
- harnesses the collective strength of government, iwi, business, communities and others;
- maximises common benefit and wellbeing and creates the conditions in which communities can thrive into future generations.

The current health system reforms and locality approach include a new national approach to improve how healthcare is delivered in our communities. The localities approach will focus on supporting and enabling whānau stay well, give iwi and communities a strong voice in deciding what's needed in their local area, and get different health and wellbeing organisations working better together to improve people's experiences of healthcare.

## Our Vision

Healthy Families NZ is actively engaged and working alongside local government across the motu, influencing and enabling Councils' approach to key decision-making processes with the hauora of whānau at the forefront.

Lead providers comprise of local councils (Auckland Council and Hutt City Council), iwi, Whānau Ora, Pacific social change organisations and regional sportstrusts. Healthy Families NZ lead providers were chosen on the basis that they are best placed to lead transformational change in their communities.

Local government as a lead provider for Healthy Families NZ provides opportunities to influence Council levers, policies, remits and processes to accelerate progress and reorient priorities to ensure sustainable improvements across communities and regions.

Our own vision is for local government to work collectively with whānau to create environments that enable people to thrive, making healthier choices easier for its citizens and those that spend time in their regions.

Quality urban and community design can unlock the potential for more walking, cycling, and other modes of active travel, social connectedness, access to healthy food and quality drinking water while limiting the impact of harm from smoking and alcohol use.

Healthy Families NZ is an example of building capacity and capability into both the local government and health systems, to accelerate collective impact for wellbeing. The following case studies and insights show the effect that our Healthy Families NZ locations have had working in partnership with local government.

## IMPACT STATEMENT

**Reshaping the future is one of the most urgent challenges that local government face, which is dependent on organisational leadership, structure, mindsets, and context.**

There is an opportunity for local government to become an anchor institution for social, economic, environmental, and cultural wellbeing as part of its business as usual. There is also opportunity for local government to fulfil its Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations by proactively leaning into new approaches, frameworks and capabilities that enable decision making and commitment to transformative action by:

- Building its people's capability and capacity, confidence and cultural competence.
- Ensuring policies, strategies and plans, have and will effectively consider and support the council obligations and strategic commitments to Māori.
- Ensuring processes and systems are frequently reviewed and improved to enable the council to achieve outcomes more effectively and efficiently.



## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**Local government is the founder of public health. Since the 19th century the provision of clean drinking water and the removal and safe disposal of rubbish and wastewater have contributed to more lives saved than any other public health practice, or any health treatment.**

The Health Act 1956 states that it is the duty of every territorial authority to improve, promote and protect public health within its district. According to the Local Government Act 2002, the purpose of local government is:

- to enable democratic local decision-making and action by, and on behalf of, communities; and
- to promote the social, economic, environmental, and cultural well-being of communities in the present and for the future.

The role that local government has in public health and wellbeing is extensive including resource management, the provision of drainage, sewerage works, water supply, food safety, housing, safety, transport, recreation facilities and areas, the retail environment, rubbish collection, social integration, place-making, democratic and civic participation, regulation of alcohol, smokefree policies, gambling policies and hazardous substances.

The environments that local government controls and influences have a direct impact on preventable chronic disease such as obesity, diabetes, heart disease, some cancers, strokes and respiratory illness. These environments also impact people's mental, emotional, cultural and social wellbeing.

On the largest scale, our relationship with the environment impacts the ultimate determinant of health – the whenua which nourishes and sustains us.



# SIX CONDITIONS OF SYSTEMS CHANGE

Healthy Families NZ enables community-led change through the lens of the Six Conditions of Systems Change. These six interdependent Conditions are what hold problems in place, and also what enable a problem to be resolved through systemic disruption.

Some Conditions are explicit and obvious, and some are more implicit and harder to see. Each provides a focus area that can inform the development of change strategies and system interventions.

The stories that follow in this Impact Report highlight change within these different and interconnected Conditions of Systems Change. We recognise that successful change requires focus and movement within all of these Conditions, and these stories are shared to highlight what this movement can look like around Aotearoa.

[https://www.fsg.org/resource/water\\_of\\_systems\\_change](https://www.fsg.org/resource/water_of_systems_change)

## **POLICIES**

Rules, regulations and priorities (informal and formal) that guide action. What are the rules that influence this issue?

## **PRACTICES**

Activities, procedures, guidelines targeted at addressing issues and making progress. What are the activities that perpetuate this issue?

## **RESOURCE FLOWS**

How money, people, knowledge and information are allocated and distributed. How do resources move around this issue?

## **RELATIONSHIPS & CONNECTIONS**

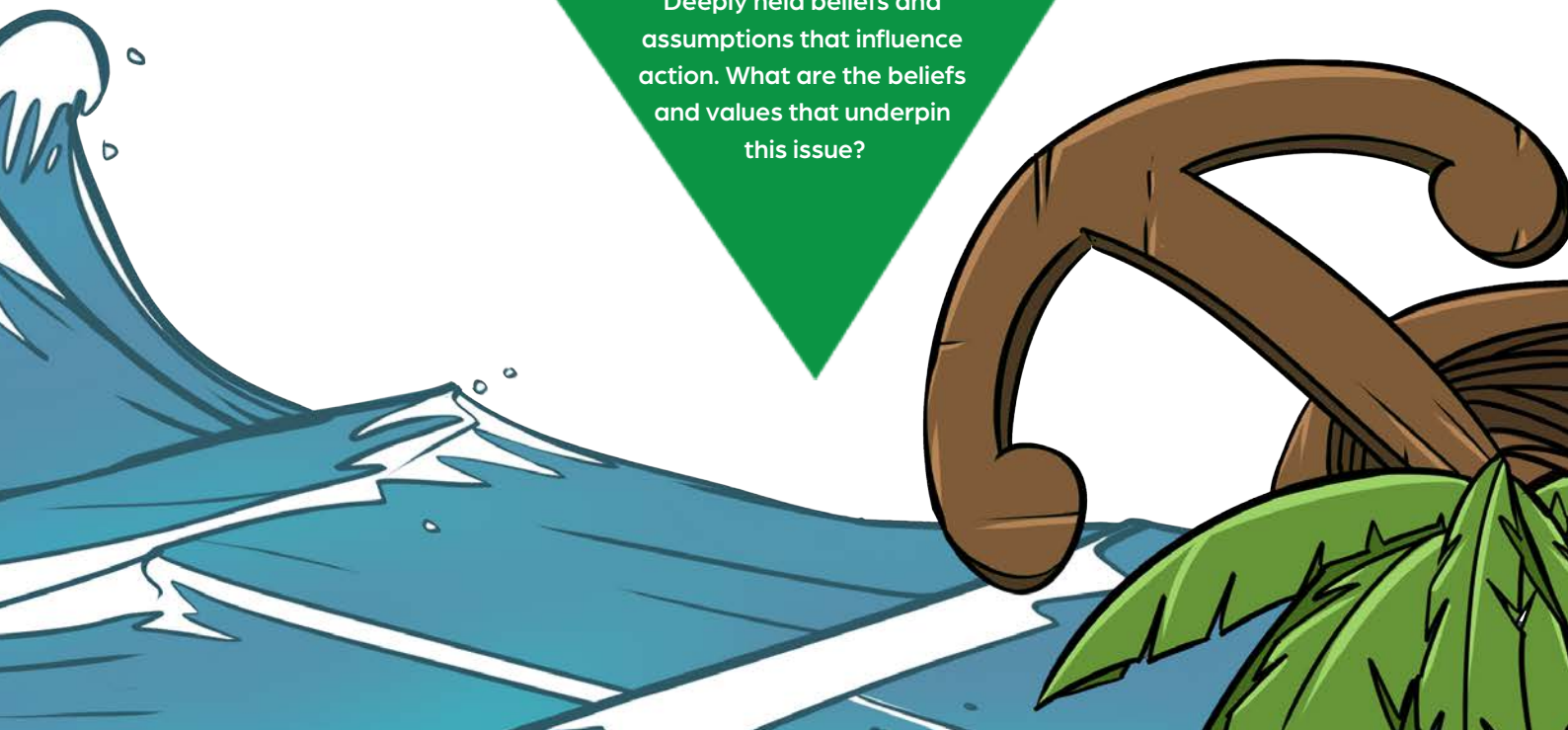
Quality of connections and communication occurring between actors. How are the relationships between social groups influencing/affected by this issue?

## **POWER DYNAMICS**

Decision-making power, authority, and influence (formal and informal). Who is making the decisions that influence this issue?

## **MENTAL MODELS**

Deeply held beliefs and assumptions that influence action. What are the beliefs and values that underpin this issue?



# STORIES OF CHANGE

In the following pages we share inspiring stories from around Aotearoa. Some are brief snapshots of local activity, and some are deeper examples of change on the ground.

Communities are in the best position to understand the challenges their people face as well as the opportunities that can lead to positive change. Valuing lived experience as evidence and grounding our mahi in community insights, ensures we balance our national intentions with local aspirations.





## ACTIVE TRANSPORT WORKFORCE INVESTMENT HEALTHY FAMILIES INVERCARGILL

**Southlanders could soon be swapping their cars and utes for more pedal and foot power, thanks to investment in an Active Transport Innovator.**

The role is a joint initiative between Healthy Families Invercargill and the Invercargill City and Southland District Councils. It is the first time such a position has been created in the South, with Invercargill identified as an ideal location to have an active transport network.

The role has been formed largely as a coordinated approach, to promote active modes of transport within the scope of Invercargill's changing physical environment. The Active Transport Innovator takes an overview of the active transport system in Southland – using physically active ways to travel around and between our towns and cities (cycling, walking, and scooting) and how our towns and cities are connected.

While collaboration is a major part of the work undertaken by the Healthy Families Invercargill team, this is the first time a shared position has been created.

Having someone on the team dedicated to supporting high level changes in the way the region looks at and thinks about active transport goes a long way in changing perceptions and improving the region's use of active transport.

Physical activity is vital for our physical and mental wellbeing. Across Aotearoa, motorised transport to school is widespread and on the increase, with Southland's rate higher than the national average. But many of these journeys are within walking distance, with active transport an inexpensive and convenient way to incorporate physical activity into a young person's day.



Through working with councils, decision makers and stakeholders in active transport, the way we get around and how we view physical activity will be at the forefront when planning and decision making. This is informed by working with the community to understand the barriers, needs and wants when it comes to making active transport easier and more accessible.

Having better governance and leadership in place will also drive opportunities for people to walk, cycle, or scoot safely around our towns and cities, and was all part of a commitment to ensuring the region was a fantastic place for families and individuals to live, learn, work, and play.

The organisations behind this initiative are looking forward to seeing progress from working together, to ensure as many positive outcomes are met as possible. They acknowledge it will be a challenge changing mindsets, but are committed to doing it for the good of our community.

## SIX CONDITIONS OF SYSTEMS CHANGE

HEALTHY FAMILIES INVERCARGILL

### **POLICIES**

Change was created by influencing funding streams

### **PRACTICES**

Community design and insights, Strategic relationships, Collaboration with Councils, Cross district initiatives, Innovative workshops, Activating workshops

### **RESOURCE FLOWS**

Leveraging existing resources to increase investment:

- new role
- workshops
- community consultation
- co-design challenges

### **RELATIONSHIPS & CONNECTIONS**

Strategic relationships, Led to systems change - new role, joint initiative

### **POWER DYNAMICS**

Collective leadership, Community and operational staff as the experts

### **MENTAL MODELS**

Challenge status quo, Collaborative approach, Challenging perceptions



# TIMELINE

## 2016/2017:

- Insights gathered from Southland Cycling Strategy reveals active transport is a valuable and important aspect of the community.
- Invercargill identified as an ideal location to have an active transport network.
- Gaps recognised within organisations that could drive and foster developments.
- Healthy Families Invercargill explore options for funding a role based around active transport.
- Play Systems Innovator role created with elements of active transport.

## 2018/2019:

- Collaboration with Invercargill City Council and Southland District Council to explore the creation of a new role and activating leadership to use Waka Kotahi funding to enable this.
- Strategic relationship built with the Invercargill City Council Rooding Manager to discuss options around active transport.
- Recommendations outlined in Southland Cycling Strategy are carried out, but with no clear driver of strategy – there is an indication and agreement that an active transport role is needed.
- Meetings are held with the Invercargill City Council to shape the active transport role.
- Cross-district initiatives commence, including collaboration with Southland District Council.

## 2020/2022:

- Active Transport job description finalised with position filled by end of 2020.
- Active Transport Systems Innovator commences January 2021 – The role sits with Healthy Families Invercargill but is jointly funded by two councils and Waka Kotahi.

### Active Transport Innovator article (HealthyFamiliesInvercargill.org.nz)

- Healthy Families Invercargill initiates discussions around applying for Innovating Streets funding through Waka Kotahi and the potential to collaborate as part of the working group to implement projects. With support from Healthy Families Invercargill two applications developed, the second application successful – Invercargill City Council receive funding from the Waka Kotahi Innovating Streets fund for three special temporary projects.
- With support from Healthy Families Invercargill, two applications are developed, the second successful – Invercargill City Council receive funding from the Waka Kotahi Innovating Streets Fund for three special temporary projects.

City Centre Masterplan article  
(HealthyFamiliesInvercargill.org.nz).

- Community voice is gathered on how the community wants city streets to look and feel through a series of Innovating Streets work shops and Activating Streets workshops.
- A pilot project, the Deveron Street Activated Cycle Route, is launched – This is a temporary cycle route for the community to try out a new way of travelling into and through the city with out the risk and cost of permanent infrastructure.
- Healthy Families Invercargill support community and council for improved cycling connections across the city, linking city parks and green spaces.
- Invercargill City Council allocated Innovating Streets funds, resourcing an Innovating Streets Consultant to oversee this work.
- Healthy Families Invercargill collaborates with the Invercargill City Council and working groups on the design of the City Centre Master Plan – a guiding document setting out the framework for future projects aimed at creating a welcoming city centre. \$20 million is set aside to carry out projects and improvements identified in Masterplan, with opportunities in the active transport space.

City Centre Plan (Invercargill City Council) and Guiding Principles (Invercargill City Council).

## THE HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT APPROACH HEALTHY FAMILIES SOUTH AUCKLAND AND THE SOUTHERN INITIATIVE

**Built environments have a significant impact on community health and wellbeing (hauora). Local government are responsible to provide spaces in the community that facilitate social, economic, environmental, and cultural outcomes, including hauora.**

Auckland Council, The Southern Initiative and Healthy Families South Auckland (TSI/HFSA) understand the need to balance freedom of choice with offering healthy opportunities and sought to achieve the right balance that allows a common-sense approach. TSI/HFSA believe that our spaces enable and promote active, healthy, and flourishing communities by putting community health and wellbeing outcomes at the core of key decision-making processes at Auckland Council.

To facilitate this, local government must play a deeper and wider role in public health by providing a mandate for social innovation to challenge existing council processes. The Southern Initiative's mandate to focus on South Auckland does help to prioritise the work, but it is the thinking and leadership in TSI that helps navigate in different waters within the council and the local community. It is a different approach altogether and our team has been influenced positively by the fact that we are a social innovation unit inside the council. TSI/HFSA are driven by these very essential values, innovation and systems change and by being placed within council creates a huge potential to influence many stakeholders at different levels.

The Healthy Environment Approach (HEA) intends to support Auckland Council staff, local boards, and community to increase healthy choices and options through the availability and accessibility of healthy food and drink choices, reduce smoking and AoD related harm, and increase opportunities that encourage movement.

This requires collaborative leadership that encourages transformative thinking and practice behaviours to drive outcomes clearly enacting hauora and influencing resource flow for equitable outcomes. Also weaving kaupapa Māori principles and co-design methodology to create a whānau centric approach in order to gather lived experience of people to explore, imagine and test new ideas and involve the people closest to the issues to determine the scope of the Healthy Environment Approach.

Implementation matters and without TSI/HFSA activities such as community-led prototyping to make systemic change would not occur, as departments do not have the capacity to develop, test, refine, and embed. TSI/HFSA are often the first to introduce systems thinking for our council colleagues, and we have seen the impact it has on them understanding their role within wider systems change i.e., embedding hauora into practice, policy, and resource flow. This collaboration also builds relationships and connections, manifesting in practice, trust, confidence, and willingness to do things differently.



## SIX CONDITIONS OF SYSTEMS CHANGE

HEALTHY FAMILIES SOUTH AUCKLAND AND THE SOUTHERN INITIATIVE

### **POLICIES**

Events/Community Grants policy change influencing funding areas like Sport and Recreation and Arts and Culture. This ensures sustainability, accountability, and measurable outcomes through the HEA principles.

HEA embedded into Community Places settings, Venue Hire and Community Facilities (leases) through their various processes.

### **PRACTICES**

Developed a process weaving tikanga Māori principles and co-design methodology to create a whānau centric approach. Now embedding whānau centric approach across Auckland Council to improve engaging with whānau, building organisational capability to respond effectively as part of community development practice (i.e. improving quality control, staff efficiency and increasing access to nutritious food).

### **RESOURCE FLOWS**

Leveraging existing resources like the community grants system. HEA principles are now embedded into the application process. Transforming procurement systems have led to increasing investment to enable access to good kai across Active Recreation leisure programming. Up from 15 cents per child per day to 75 cents per child per day, a budget increase from \$9,000 p/a to \$45,000 p/a.

### **RELATIONSHIPS & CONNECTIONS**

Strategic relationships led to systems change with partners improving their understanding of community aspirations and responding in practical ways, thus promoting social equity by listening to the voices, understanding the needs, and acting.

### **POWER DYNAMICS**

Collective leaders enabling both community and operational staff to be the experts. Doing so empowers more participation in decision making, providing diverse voices to achieve collective impact (example – Active Recreation team more responsive to community and operational staff aspirations, evident by achieving equitable outcomes).

### **MENTAL MODELS**

Normalising culture change relating to a minimum expectation for better health. Challenging the status quo regarding a collaborative approach that provides more effective participation practices. Enable communities and operational staff to shape aspects of decision-making, and supporting local spaces, programmes, and events.





## TIMELINE

### 2018/2019:

- Wai and kai testing events/insight gathering.
- Strategic relationship, Events Production Team and Local Board Services.
- Insights from events testing generate HEA principles through 'whānau centric approach' tikanga principles and co-design workshops.
- Auckland Council Events Production Team adopt HEA into process & practice.
- Strategic partners provide quality advice at Local Board workshops.
- Local Board adoption HEA principles.

### 2020/2021:

- HEA testing into North Leisure systems.
- HEA embedded into North Leisure systems (scale across network).
- Strategic relationship established with Community Places (Community-led, Council-led, Arts Facilities, Venue Hire).
- Testing HEA Art Facilities, Nathan Homestead event and holiday programme.
- HEA embedded Community-led Places Service Agreement KPIs.
- HEA embedded Community-led 'Sustainability Framework' (scale across network).

### 2019/2020:

- Strategic relationship established with Community Grants.
- Strategic partners provide quality advice at Local Board Grants Programme Business meetings.
- Adoption of HEA via Community Grant programmes 2019-2020 (scale across network).
- Strategic relationship, Active Recreation (Parks, Sport & Recreation).
- Whānau interviews, environmental scans, testing South Auckland Leisure programmes.
- Strategic relationship established with Community Facilities, Deed to Lease and Cafe Lease Agreement.
- Whānau centric approach and HEA principles embedded into South, East & West Leisure systems.

### 2021/2022:

- Ongoing strategic relationships with Community Places (Council-led, Arts facilities, Venue Hire).
- Testing and embedded HEA into Venue Hire (customer facing) Whare Ako process (scale across network).

#### In progress;

- Council-led Places & Art Facilities 'Programming Framework'.
- Community Facilities (Leases) 'Community Occupancy Guidelines'.

## CREATING A SMOKEFREE HUTT VALLEY HEALTHY FAMILIES HUTT VALLEY

A strength of the Healthy Families NZ approach in the Hutt Valley has been the reach and influence of Hutt City Council as the lead provider, supported by the Healthy Families Hutt Valley Strategic Leadership Group that includes a wide variety of voices and influencers in the community.

Local government has considerable influence on the built, social and natural environment as well as having direct relationships with the people that live, learn, work and play in its territory. Embedding a systems approach to population health in local government, which act in partnership with the health and social sector, is a model that can bring significant benefit to our communities.

The reinstatement of the four wellbeing into the local government legislation recognises the benefit of and provides the mandate for the important role it has in enabling communities to thrive beyond delivering core services. An example of the levers that local government has is the reach and impact of creating smokefree public places. Led by Healthy Families Hutt Valley, Hutt City Council and Upper Hutt City Council now have two of the most comprehensive smokefree policies across Aotearoa.

Smokefree public places enable our communities to be liveable, family-friendly spaces and bring benefits for the whole community including reducing exposure to harmful second-hand smoke, supporting smokers to quit, reducing the environmental impact of cigarette litter, providing an opportunity for healthy role modelling to our tamariki, and supporting people to lead smokefree lives by targeting where people spend their time.

By using their leadership and the levers available to local government, Healthy Families Hutt Valley has taken action to support the Government's goal of a Smokefree Aotearoa 2025.

Imagine if our public places and spaces were all smokefree and vape-free and smoking isn't visible to our tamariki.



## PLAY STREETS HEALTHY FAMILIES WAITĀKERE

Healthy Families Waitākere has been supporting West Auckland neighbourhoods to prioritise playing outside through opening up their streets for play.

Play Streets are resident-led events helping to temporarily restrict vehicle traffic on small and quiet residential streets for all neighbours and local tamariki to play. The events are normally designed and planned by the residents to be low-cost and low-stress so everyone can have fun.

Healthy Families Waitākere, with other Healthy Families NZ locations, saw the opportunity to be part of the pilots to ensure that Play Streets were carried out in neighbourhoods that wouldn't normally have this kind of opportunity. Within Tāmaki Makaurau, the initiative was a collaboration between Healthy Families Waitākere and various stakeholders such as Auckland Council, Auckland Transport, Waka Kotahi and Healthy Families South Auckland. We set out to test approaches at eight different West and South Auckland communities to easily open up their streets for play events.

Prior to the play street pilots, the process to run a play street in Auckland can be lengthy and potentially expensive which is a barrier for community led events.

The original approach for communities was to apply for an event permit with a six week wait time and contract a traffic engineer to create \$7000 traffic plans for a play street to happen. This small low-cost event required the same process as closing Auckland's Queen street for a Santa Parade. The collaboration between the partners and community local champions aimed to improve and simplify the process for the community.

With a mandate to work in collaboration with local partners and community, carry out innovations, learn by doing and look for opportunities to scale, Healthy Families Waitākere dedicated time and resource to co-design each event with the respective families in the streets, as well as linking in with local community organisations to be involved. Working alongside champions and gathering ideas on what the neighbours wanted to see at their event was crucial to the success on the day as communities could see their ideas brought to life.

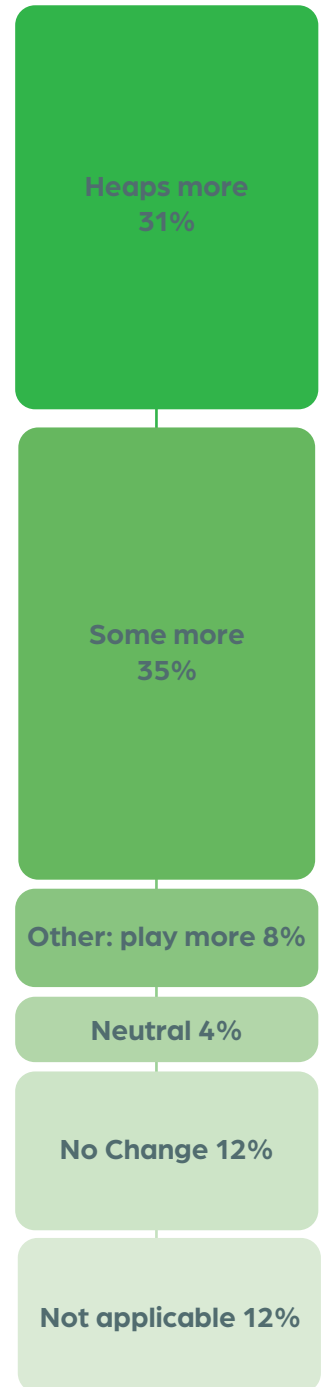


Figure 3: 74% of adult play street participants perceive that children have "played out more on the street" since the Play Street.



Anything that didn't go well at one event was taken on as a learning for the next, or a learning overall that could be provided as feedback to Waka Kotahi and their draft guidance for Play Streets. Major outcomes apart from a simplified process to close off a street included an increase of children's playful active behaviour, more ownership of public space, enhanced neighbourhood cohesion and other actionable community-led initiatives such as advocating for changes to their built environment and resource sharing over covid-19 lockdowns.

Waka Kotahi's Guidelines for the temporary restriction of traffic for play street events was published in late 2021, and Auckland Council staff have drawn on it to gain a mandate from councillors and the mayor to work with Auckland Transport to develop long term local play streets guidance. This is scheduled to launch in summer 2022/23, and Healthy Families Waitākere will continue to work with its partners to roll out play streets in local neighbourhoods. These influential changes will hopefully create a ripple effect in other regions for where Play Streets could start popping up all over the motu for years to come.

## SIX CONDITIONS OF SYSTEMS CHANGE

HEALTHY FAMILIES WAITĀKERE

### POLICIES

Pending inclusion of street closure process in CoPTTM, Ongoing development of all the Auckland regional strategy to support temporary street closures for short-term community use

### PRACTICES

More community-friendly application process to close roads for play, DIY Play Streets Toolkit, Option of Local Boards supporting community residents in navigating temporary street closure processes

### RESOURCE FLOWS

Allocation of NZTA Innovating Streets for People Fund to Play Streets Initiative

### RELATIONSHIPS & CONNECTIONS

Connections between neighbours and children in each area  
Connections between residents and AT/Local Board who can support Play Streets  
Strengthened Connections between project stakeholders


### POWER DYNAMICS

Champions as local experts driving Play Street design  
Champions/residents taking ongoing actions to enable outdoor play spaces

### MENTAL MODELS

Parents increased confidence in the street as a possible safe option for children to play, Neighbourhoods gaining a stronger sense of owning their streets as places to play, Shift in perceptions of streets as shared spaces in general





"I was new to the community and this has fast-tracked my connection to the people in the street. As a single parent that is gold! My daughter feels connected with the children and we both feel safe."

- AVONDALE PLAY STREET PARTICIPANT

"This time on a Sunday afternoon [my] kids would normally be on their devices."

- MUM, PARTICIPANT MASSEY PLAY STREET

## REFLECTIONS ON WORKING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

There are opportunities for local government to prioritise community wellbeing and a preventative approach to chronic disease.

Understanding this means ensuring communities have access to health promoting built and natural environments.

Ensuring different parts of the community have access to decision-making processes as well as realising current barriers to participation and working to reduce and/or remove them. Understanding a rebalance of priorities away from short-term economic interests, and towards long-term community and environmental health.

Accepting that this is not a trade-off in the long-term as the health of our economic system depends on the health of people and ecosystems. Adapting equity in everything they do, especially in setting priorities and allocating resources.

### WHERE TO FROM HERE?

The stories in this report illustrate the leadership role that local government can take to create healthier physical and social environments and has profiled how Healthy Families NZ can successfully partner to achieve collective impact and implementation at scale.

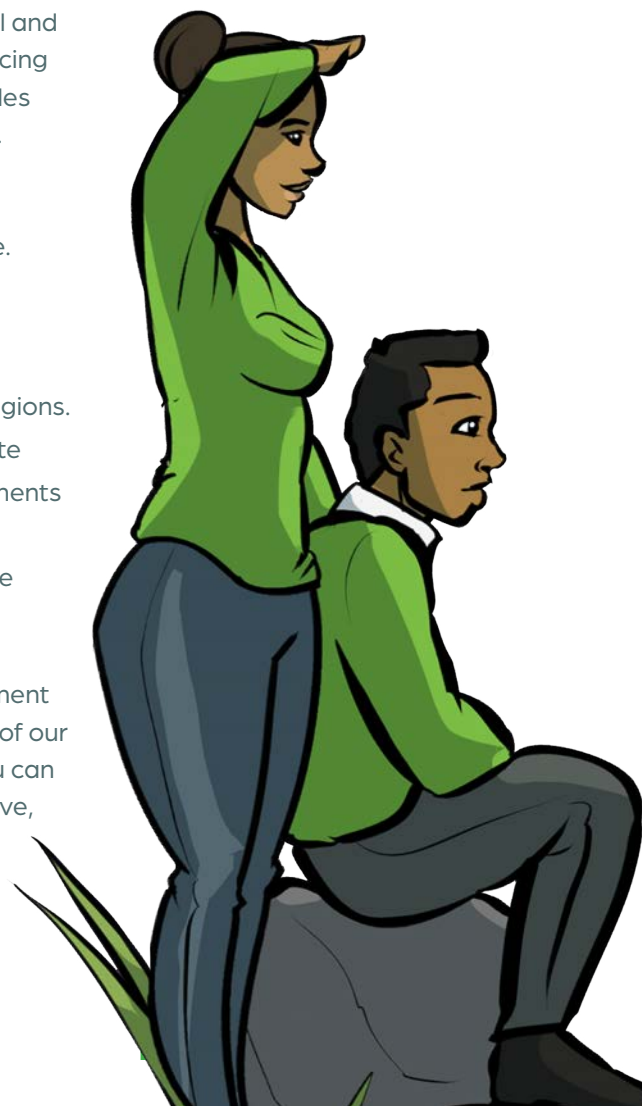
Knowing that our health and wellbeing is determined by complex social and physical environments, means we need to take an environmental and systems approach to make change. Systems change is about advancing equity by shifting the conditions that hold a problem in place. It includes being willing and able to change our own ways of thinking and acting.

The movement now requires strategic support, policy change, and substantial investment to deliver positive long-term systemic change.

Together we can:

- Leverage the learnings, insights and approaches of innovative Healthy Families NZ and local government initiatives in other regions.
- Use local government levers, remits and processes to accelerate progress and reorient priorities to ensure sustainable improvements across sectors and regions.
- Broaden the capability and mandate of regional leaders to take action to improve health equity in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Healthy Families NZ is committed to working alongside local government to bring about transformational change for the health and wellbeing of our communities. We invite you to consider your role and what action you can take to create healthier physical and social environments where we live, learn, work and play.







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[healthyfamiliesnz.org](http://healthyfamiliesnz.org)