



**Tui tui tui-tuia nga harenga tangata  
Bringing Cultures Together**

**WAITAKERE ETHNIC BOARD (WEB) SUBMISSION  
TO THE ANNUAL PLAN 2009-2010**

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## WAITAKERE ETHNIC BOARD SUBMISSION TO THE ANNUAL PLAN 2009-2010

### Background

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Launched in September 2003, the mission of the WEB is to represent and promote the interests of all ethnic communities who reside within the Waitakere City Council (WCC) boundaries. This is a growing population, both in numbers and diversity. WEB is now an incorporated society with an elected Board that consists of community leaders representing different ethnic groups with developed networks established with the diverse ethnic communities. Working together is seen to give added strength when lobbying to be heard as a migrant community integrated within New Zealand society.

In the 2006 census, for example, Waitakere City included 178 different ethnic groups, with 34 per cent of the total city population born overseas. This represents an increase in overseas born residents of 1.5 percent since 2001 and this increase is particularly noticeable amongst Pacific and Asian peoples.

"...WEB is a quilted patchwork of luxurious fabric and awesome colours. By bringing cultures together WEB brings people of diversity together!!"

WEB is particularly active in advocating for the views of migrants and refugees to both local and central government and speaks on behalf of these communities on issues of concern to ensure settlement in Waitakere is enhanced. WEB has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Council and is a key stakeholder in promoting well-being including economic, social, cultural, health and safety issues.

The WEB is currently represented on boards and has a voice on:

- Safe Waitakere
- Waitakere On Line
- New Out West
- WEST Education
- Unitec Tertiary Education
- Active Waitakere
- Community Waitakere
- Waitakere Police
- Violence Free Waitakere
- WAPA Group

The Board is a 14 volunteer member board, represented from the many ethnic diversities that reside in Waitakere. The Board has continued to collaborate and act as a catalyst with the Office of Ethnic Affairs, The Race Relations Commissioner and many NGO's and relevant migrant and refugee service. The Board demonstrates effective governance and best practices. The membership of the board is well over 250 with Board friends and supporters all over the Auckland region.

Recommendation: The WEB is the lead agency in promoting and collaborating with Ethnic Organisations/Service Providers in New Zealand, and that current funding to the value of \$55K be retained.

#### Management

The Board seeks funding for a WEB Liaison Officer position in future to support the board and members and liaise further with council, service providers and other migrant service agencies. Secured ongoing retention of Council funding is critical to achieving outcomes and office refit. The office is used by other community groups at a nominal fee. The office is based at 15 Rainside Road, Waitakere.

Recommendation: That a part time WEB Liaison Officer funding be made available to the amount of \$35K.

#### Strong Communities/Safe Spaces

WEB works collaboratively and across sectors, aligning with strategic partners who either deliver or advocate for migrant and refugee people to help raise and address issues pertinent to migrants and to enhance the settlement of migrants and refugees in the city. As well as building capacity and leadership opportunities for migrants living in Waitakere City to meet their own needs, WEB forums create safe space for different ethnic groups to meet and exchange ideas and retain information while maintaining own identity. WEB also runs training and workshops on governance and leadership and organises popular community events that celebrate diversity; including the Intercultural Festival to celebrate Race Relations Day, the Moon Festival celebrations and Diwali. A Migrant Expo, other diverse cultural events is also on the events calendar for 2009/10. WEB is a Diversity Partner with the Office of the Race Relations and the Human Rights Commission. The WEB also collaborates with Te Taumata Runanga and the Pacific Advisory Board in achieving 'strong communities' strategy.

Recommendation: Retention of current Funding for ongoing advocacy and capacity building work on behalf of the Ethnic Communities.

#### Auckland Super City Structure

The WEB has made two submissions to the Waitakere City Council thus far to the 10 year LTCCP.

Should the Waitakere City fade away in the Super City Structure as presently indicated by the Government, the WEB must continue to be a role in an advisory capacity or as contributors to the elected or nominated processes of the Government procedures yet to be identified. As representatives of the 'settler communities' and of those 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation migrant born in NZ we need to have a voice on behalf of our community.

Ann Pala QSM

On behalf of the Waitakere Ethnic Board