



Waitakere Ethnic Board Inc.

**Tui, tui, tui-tuia nga herenga tangata
Bringing Cultures Together**

P O Box 15 765, New Lynn, Waitakere City

Annual Plan Submission 2008/09

The Waitakere Ethnic Board (WEB) has emerged as an ethnic community initiative, driven by the desire to participate actively in New Zealand's society. The Waitakere Ethnic Board (WEB) appreciates the recognition of the Waitakere City Council (WCC) as the body representing the city's ethnic communities. The WEB has demonstrated to the Council, its membership, and key stakeholders its ability to establish various methods to ensure active participation of ethnic communities in Waitakere. Feedback by hosting forums, meetings, newsletters, discussions via ethnic media, festivals such as the Race Relations Day, Diwali and Moon festivals, have appealed to our diverse community of Waitakere.

The WEB continues its efforts to promoting Waitakere as 'the City of Choice' to the ethnic communities. This has been proved by the significant numbers of migrants at the Citizenship Ceremonies, taking oath and validating their commitments in their new home country and the increase of the migrant population in Waitakere. 34% of the population of Waitakere is born overseas and in settling in Waitakere look forward to be economically, socially and culturally settled in an eco friendly environment.

The WEB advocate on behalf of the Waitakere diverse ethnic communities well-being by making submissions, local/government (recently submitted to the Royal Commission) networking, attending forums and workshops, with various organisations. We would like to mention The Office of Ethnic Affairs, Auckland Regional Migrant Services, Auckland Ethnic Council, The Office of the Commissioner of the Human Rights and Race Relations, NZ Police, WINZ, IRD, Electoral Office, member organisations, media (both mainstream and ethnic) local community networks including NOW, Asian Health, Network4 Communities, Safe Waitakere Injury Prevention,(SWIP), Safer City Waitakere Projects, Violence Free Waitakere, Waitakere On Line, Sports Waitakere, Active Waitakere, NOW, Waitakere Libraries Migrant and Multicultural Services, Early Childhood Education and Unitec. *All Voluntarily...* WEB continues to discuss ways to dialogue with the Tangata Whenua (TTR) and the Pacific Peoples (PAB) of Waitakere in building its strategic alliances and further develop collaborative partnerships in the community.

The signing of the Partnership Agreement with the Waitakere City Council is a testimony of our commitment to working together to achieve social cohesion and strong integrated communities in Waitakere City. The WEB also seeks to be in a consultative position with the WCC in view to further discussions on behalf of the

Page 2..

ethnic communities and to participate in the democratic and transparent processes of Council.

In order to further honour the Memorandum of Understanding we request the Council to consider the following;

- ④ **A fulltime position of a Community Advisor New Migrants be investigated within Council. This position will be an advisory / support role, to Council, liaise with the many ethnic communities, provide direction for development of policy relating to the provision of migrant and refugee services, and research and identify key needs and gaps in Waitakere.**
- ④ **WEB be involved in the strategic planning and consultation on higher issues in the city, i.e., make available one representative from WEB to sit in on the Council meetings, to inform on issues intrinsic to our migrant and refugee population.**
- ④ **Ongoing presentations to the City Development Committee, i.e. in the shared work programme with the City Development.**
- ④ **WEB is offered a seat in the Council's funding/cultures committees.**
- ④ **WEB take lead and own with Waitakere City Council major Ethnic Festivals (e.g. Diwali Festival, Moon Festival, Eid Festival, Race Relations Day) in Waitakere, in collaboration with the representative organisations. We continue to seek funding from Council for organising the various ethnic festivals.**
- ④ **WEB seeks to ensure that ethnic communities are aware of new initiatives, i.e. Project Twin Streams, Eco Days, Rates Rebates, Active Waitakere etc. Effective use of ethnic media to be used to promote release of such information to benefit ethnic communities.**
- ④ **WEB seeks to ensure that all ethnic community groups have equal access to recreation to community facilities such as parks, community resource centres and swimming pools e.g. special provisions are made for use by ladies belonging to the Muslim faith.**
- ④ **WEB seeks to discuss further the recent announcement of a Community Centre and funding allocated by Council for this initiative to provide for ethnic communities a large space for cultural events and weddings etc which currently are being held out of Waitakere.**
- ④ **WEB is keen to establish a one stop shop for all migrants and refugees of Waitakere in its new Railside office and seeks the support of Council in re-sourcing this venue that will provide relevant information to new settler communities.**

- **WEB seeks continued financial and/or practical assistance to continue leadership development of the WEB Board in order that we can effectively meet the needs of and engage with new settler communities/service providers. Training and up-skilling with Council information is also crucial in order that we continue to deliver credible relevant information to stakeholders.**

Thus in conclusion we continue to seek funding to carry out our ongoing commitment to lead community development and build better futures for all ethnic New Zealanders who are resident in Waitakere.

We trust the ongoing partnership is mutually beneficial. Thank you.

Waitakere Ethnic Board Executive Committee.

13th May, 2008