



**Decolonised** [dē-kōl'e-nīz'ed]

*verb*

Cities that are equitable places for *all* whānau, reflecting Māori values and identity.

## A SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT OF PORIRUA

The following section provides a snapshot of who makes up the community in Porirua City. This section details elements such as age and population, culture and ethnicity, household and family size. It also looks at themes such as employment, education, housing and crime.

### AGE & POPULATION

The 2013 census highlighted that the population of Porirua City has increased by 6.5% compared with 2006 and as of 2013 the city was home to 51,717 people (Statistics New Zealand, 2013). This growth rate is higher than that of the wider Wellington region, which during the same time frame experienced a population growth of 5%. Nationally population growth was 5.3 % (Statistics New Zealand, 2014a). This increase has been disproportionate with the female population increasing by 1,902 (7.6 % percentage change) and males increasing by 1,272 (5.3%) (Statistics New Zealand 2014). In 2013 there were 26,814 females and 24, 906 males in Porirua City (Statistics New Zealand, 2014b).

Porirua is characterised by a young population. As of 2013, 25% of its population was under 14 years old (Porirua City Council, 2015). This is 5% higher than the national average and is anticipated to remain in the foreseeable future (Porirua City Council, 2015). For Porirua, a young population means that there is likely to be a high youth-dependency ratio – that is, a high number of individuals are dependent on the support of others to fulfil their daily needs in proportion to those who are self-sufficient and can provide support (OECD, 2017). A young population also requires specific services such as specific health care and an increased need for schools, teachers and education institutions (OECD, 2017).

Porirua's high proportion of youth has been addressed by the Porirua City Council as part of their strategic priorities in their long-term plan. This means that the Porirua City Council has made a commitment to consider the needs of their youth and future generations in future planning (Porirua City Council, 2015). For the Council, this means “ensuring [youth] are well educated, healthy, engaged in decisions affecting their future, and are connected to their families, culture and community” (Porirua City Council, 2015, p. 10).

The fertility rate varies dramatically depending on which zone in Porirua City is measured. The lowest fertility rate as of 2013 is 1.03 (births per woman) in Paekakariki Hill-Pauatahanui, followed by 1.15 in Whitby West, while the highest fertility rate is 3.35 in Titahi Bay South-Mana Island (.id: The Population Experts, n.d.). These rates provide an insight into the age makeup of certain areas and where children are most concentrated and can be an important element in planning for these areas (.id: The Population Experts, n.d.).

Conversely, census data also indicates that at the other end of Porirua's age spectrum there is a lower proportion of elderly, with 10% of residents aged 65 and over in comparison to 14% nationwide.

## **CULTURE & ETHNICITY**

Porirua is a very multicultural city and is home to a wide variety of ethnicities and cultures. As of 2013, 60% of its population self-identified as European; those who identified as Māori made up 19.6% of the population, while those who identified as Pacific Peoples made up 24.6% (respondents were able to identify with multiple ethnicities) (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). The next largest self-identified ethnic group was Asian which made up 6% of the Porirua population followed by much smaller groupings: 1.2% New Zealander, 0.7% Middle Eastern/Latin American/African and 0.1% Other (.id: The Population Experts, 2013).

In Porirua City as of 2013, 22.8% of the population was born overseas. This number has increased slightly from 21.6% in 2006 (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). This proportion is comparatively smaller as compared with the wider Wellington region which has 24.0% of its population born overseas (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). The United Kingdom was the most common country of birth for 5.9% of Porirua residents followed by Samoa 5.4% (.id: The Population Experts, 2013).

English is spoken and understood by 88.5% of Porirua's population, however the array of other languages spoken is another indicator of the city's cultural diversity (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). Samoan was the second most common language which as of 2013, was spoken by 9.4% of Porirua's population (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). This was followed by 4.9% of the population who spoke Māori (.id: The Population Experts, 2013).

## **HOUSEHOLD & FAMILY SIZE**

As of 2013, Porirua had 18,069 dwellings, 93.8% of which were private dwellings, 5.8% which were unoccupied private dwellings and 0.4% of non-private dwellings (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). 70.7% of total households in Porirua City were one family households, and 2.2% were group households (.id: The Population Experts, 2013).

Household size in Porirua is relatively large. Porirua has a number of households with 6 or more residents (7.6%) and a small percentage of households with only 1 resident (17.4%) (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). One of the factors that can influence household size is the supply of affordable housing in the area. A lack of affordable housing can push families towards living in housing with extended family, or sharing with other families which pushes usual household size higher (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). It is also common for particular cultural groups to traditionally live with extended family members which significantly influences household size (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). An increasing household size may demonstrate that an area lacks affordable housing opportunities for young people, an increase in the birth rate or an increase in family formation in the area. A declining household size may demonstrate children leaving the area when they reach adulthood, an increase in retirees settling in the area, or an attraction of young singles and couples to the area (.id: The Population Experts, 2013).

45% of families in Porirua were couples with children, and 23.0% were one-parent families (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). When there is a high proportion of families in a particular suburb at the same familial life cycle, it creates a broader suburban life cycle (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). It is important for planners to understand these lifecycles to identify how a suburb's needs may change (.id: The Population Experts, 2013).

## **INCOME, WORK & EDUCATION**

Statistics related to income combined with other sources such as qualifications, occupation, and household income can provide an insight into the region's socio-economic status and its economic opportunities (or lack thereof) (.id: The Population Experts, 2013).

Analysis of individual income levels in Porirua City identified that 15.4% of the population were considered high income earners, while 25.4% fell within the category of low income earners. In comparison to the Greater Wellington region, Porirua had a larger percentage of persons who earned no income (8.3% compared to 7.0%) and a smaller percentage of persons who earned \$100,000 or more (7.2% compared to 8.5%) (.id: The Population Experts, 2013).

In comparison with individual incomes, household incomes painted a different picture. Within Porirua City, 45.5% of households earned a 'high income' (more than \$70,000 per annum) which is similar to the wider Wellington region's 45.6% of 'high income' households (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). Porirua also had proportionately fewer 'low income households' (less than \$30,000 annually); 14.2% compared to the Wellington region's 16.4% (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). This may be due to larger household sizes in Porirua.

The sources of household income provide an indicator of the economic opportunities open to the population of Porirua (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). Income sources for households in Porirua identified in the 2013 census show that 71.5% of households had wages and salaries as a form of their household income, 20.1% of households identified self-employment or business, and 35.5% were reliant on government benefits as income (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). Differences in sources of household income in Porirua City and the wider Wellington Region shows that Porirua, has a higher proportion of people reliant on the Domestic Purposes Benefit (7.4% compared to 4.3%). The percentage of people in Porirua who receive income from interest, dividends, rent, and other investments is lower than that seen in the wider region (25.4% compared to 32.3%), as well as a smaller percentage of NZ superannuation or veterans pension recipients (18.6% compared to 21.4%). A smaller percentage of self-employment or business as an income source is also characteristic of Porirua (20.1% compared to 22.7%) (.id: The Population Experts, 2013).

## **EMPLOYMENT & EMPLOYERS**

As of 2012, 71.7% of Porirua's population was employed full time, 19% were employed part time and 9.3% were unemployed (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). Unemployment has increased since 2006 from 7% of the population to 9.3% (.id: The Population Experts, 2013).

Porirua City Council estimates that 17,700 jobs are filled within Porirua City (Porirua City Council, n.d.-b). The proximity of Wellington, the Hutt and Kāpiti provides job opportunities outside the city (Porirua City Council, n.d.-b). The two main industries within Porirua City are the education and training industry and the construction industry (Porirua City Council, n.d.-b). These industries separately employ 14.9% of the total employed workforce (Porirua City, n.d.-b). Health care and retail assistance follows employing 13.2%, retail trade 12.5%, professional, scientific and technical services 8.1%, Manufacturing 5.4%, Public administration and safety 5.3%, accommodation and food services 5.3%, other services 4.5% and all others 15.9% (Porirua City Council, n.d.-b).

The sectors of employment have changed over time particularly manufacturing. In 2006 7.6% of Porirua's population was employed in the manufacturing sector. However in 2013 this had fallen to 5.9%. This trend was also replicated in the wider Wellington region (6.7% to 5.1%). Similar decreases can be seen within the retail sector, decreasing from 10.4% to 8.7% (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). There has been an increase in those employed in professional, scientific and technical services, from 8.8% to 9.3% (.id: The Population Experts, 2013).

The Porirua City Council highlights successful businesses on their website. These business profiles outline the number of staff they employ from the region. Whitireia Polytechnic is a large employer in Porirua currently employing 496 staff and having the equivalent of 5,030 full time students enrolled in courses (Porirua City Council, n.d.-c). Downer EDI, an engineering and infrastructure company, employ an estimated 600-700 people (Porirua City Council, n.d.-a) while Whittakers employs 80 staff "many of whom live locally" (Porirua City Council, n.d.-d, p. 2).



Over half the working population (52.3% or 12,168 people) work outside of the city (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). Wellington is the most common work destination where 9,612 of Porirua's residents work, followed by 1,608 residents employed in Lower Hutt (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). This is not an uncommon trend for suburban areas which are adjacent to larger cities (.id: The Population Experts, 2013).



*Figure 1: Porirua City Centre as at 2000, reproduced with permission, (Porirua City Council, n.d.-d)*

## **EDUCATION**

Data on education qualifications can provide insight into economic prospects within the city, its socio-economic status and potential skill gaps within the workforce (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). As of 2013, 69.3% of Porirua City's population aged 15 or above had a formal qualification (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). Within this, 11.9% held a Bachelor's degree while 5.7% had obtained higher degrees. The three largest qualification fields in Porirua as of 2013, were management and commerce (7.0%), society and culture (6.3%), and engineering and related technologies (5.4%) (.id: The Population Experts, 2013).

## **SOCIAL DEPRIVATION INDEX**

The social deprivation index is a measurement used to interpret the socioeconomic status of communities using a variety of variables (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). This measurement accounts for variables which represent nine dimensions of socio-economic disadvantage including unemployment or lack of qualifications, access to a car and internet, among others (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). The 2013 results from this index show that there are significant disparities within Porirua City in terms of deprivation (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). Some area units of Porirua have high levels of deprivation while others have low levels. Within Porirua there are no areas which have moderate levels of deprivation (Singh, 2014). The areas of the worst deprivation include Cannons Creek-North, South and East, Waitangirua, Porirua Central and Porirua East. All of these areas scored 10 (the highest on the deprivation index) (Singh, 2014). The lowest scoring areas were Resolution, Endeavour, Pauatahanui, Papakowhai South, Discovery, Mana-Camborne, Papakowhai North, and Paremata Postgate scoring 1 (the lowest on the deprivation index) (Singh, 2014).

## **HOME OWNERSHIP & HOUSE PRICES**

Within Porirua, tenure data is useful for analysing the local housing market, the affordability of housing and identifying the prevalence of social housing (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). The data demonstrates that there was a moderate proportion of households which owned their dwelling (22.2%), a large proportion who had property with a mortgage (36.1%), and a large proportion who were renters (31.7%) (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). Low rental costs can demonstrate areas with a high prevalence of public housing or where low income households may live for a lower cost of living (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). Within Porirua, 11.5% of households had expensive rent payments (\$400+ per week), and 26.6% of households were paying low rent (\$150 or less per week) (.id: The Population Experts, 2013).

## **SOCIAL HOUSING AND HOUSE QUALITY**

For over a century the state has provided rental housing to thousands of New Zealanders who have been unable to afford their own home (New Zealand History, n.d.). The objectives for this state housing were to not only offer affordable homes for citizens to rent, but also to provide an opportunity for residents to be part of their community (New Zealand History, n.d.). The majority of state houses were developed around a park or central area, meaning that families and children could use this area for sports or other social gatherings in order to develop community living (New Zealand History, n.d.). State houses were typically built for smaller nuclear families and the majority were three bedroom dwellings (New Zealand History, n.d.). However, it is common practice for some cultural groups such as Māori and Pacific groups to live in larger family groupings (.id: The Population Experts, 2013), which state houses could not easily accommodate (New Zealand History, n.d.). From 1942, the government recognised the need for state housing options for larger families and culturally appropriate housing (New Zealand History, n.d.). Porirua's eight-member Onasai family benefited from these changes when in 2001 the semi-detached unit next door to their house became vacant (New Zealand History, n.d.). Housing New Zealand removed the dividing wall and refurbished the interior, turning the Onasais' three-bedroom home into a six-bedroom one (New Zealand History, n.d.).

Currently in Porirua there are 2,652 properties owned by Housing New Zealand (Kelly, 2017). Four of these are bedsits, 101 are 1 bedroom houses, 524 are 2 bedroom houses, 1,644 are 3 bedroom, 319 are 4 bedroom and 62 are 5 or more bedroom houses (Kelly, 2017).

Additionally, Housing New Zealand has recently shifted their focus to construct better houses which reflect the cultural diversity within communities (New Zealand History, n.d.). Māori and Pacific design guides, released in 2002, are intended to alert designers to the cultural beliefs and practices which should be considered when building state houses for Māori and Pacific populations (New Zealand History, n.d.).

## **CRIME**

Current crime statistics in Porirua don't account for offences which occurred in dwellings other than burglary (New Zealand Police, 2017). Victim reported crime has been steadily decreasing (New Zealand Police, 2017). Crime in Porirua's city centre has been reported as decreasing by as much as 25% due to the canopies that occupied the North City Plaza walkway being removed (Dando, 2017). As part of a report to Porirua city councillors outlining the second phase of the \$24 million CBD revitalisation project, it was noted that feedback from the public about the work had been positive, and police had reported a drop in instances of crime (Dando, 2017). Assaults and crime committed by the public between 13-19 years of age was significantly down according to police statistics (Dando, 2017). The Kāpiti Mana District included overseeing large government social housing areas such as Porirua which were known for low socio-economic status, poverty and high violent crime rates (O'Connor, 2011). Crime rates have been decreasing in the city.

## **SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS**

There are many social services available in Porirua City, ranging from Child, Youth and Family to Women's Refuge (Healthpoint, n.d.). The Porirua Community Service Centre is centrally located within the city (The Community Trust of Wellington, n.d.). There are 90 services available providing support related to mental health, such as help-lines, drug and alcohol support providers, addiction services and rehabilitation centres (Healthpoint, n.d.). Large Māori and Pasifika communities are located on the periphery of the city,

therefore a range of social services are located in these areas (Pacific Health Services, n.d.).

## **HEALTH SERVICES**

The creation of District Health Boards (DHBs) was a feature under the Labour government's health policy (Glensor, 2004). These were, in part, a return to the Area Health Boards which the previous Labour government had set up in the 1980s (Glensor, 2004). District Health Boards were given the authority to fund and provide healthcare with the added responsibility of improving the health of their given population (Glensor, 2004). A particular focus was on health inequalities between Māori and non-Māori mortality rates (Glensor, 2004). The main instruments of implementing the organisational strategies and objectives are Primary Health Organisations (PHOs) (Glensor, 2004). These are defined in the Primary Health Care Strategy as "local provider organisations funded by a DHB to provide a specified set of essential primary health care services to an enrolled population" (Glensor, 2004).

Compass Health is a Primary Health Organisation (PHO) that provides a wide range of primary care services through 59 General Practice Teams and a number of other health care providers throughout the Wellington, Porirua, Kāpiti and Wairarapa regions (Compass Health, n.d.). Ora Toa, the iwi based health provider have facilities at Takapuwahia marae, Cannons Creek and Mungavin Ave which caters to many Māori and non-Māori whanau.

## **SPORTS & RECREATION**

Porirua has a diverse combination of outdoor, indoor and water sports available to all residents (Porirua City Council, n.d.-h). These range from indoor soccer to mainstream sports like rugby, and cricket to water sports such as waka ama and kayaking (Porirua City Council, n.d.-h). The Porirua City Council currently operates 13 sports grounds, and a large number of courts some of which have floodlights (Porirua City Council, n.d.-h). These parks and fields host Wellington adult sports across all domains as well as college and primary schools competitions (Porirua City Council, n.d.-h). The fields and sports grounds are often booked, however if they are not in use they are available for casual use for everyone (Porirua City Council, n.d.-h).

Aside from sports, there are twelve walking tracks listed on the Porirua City Council website, followed by a variety of cycling and mountain biking tracks (Porirua City Council, n.d.-j). The council recognises that not everyone wants to play sport or walk therefore they have introduced a diverse range of activities such as organic gardening and calligraphy (Tonkin, 1989).

## **TRANSPORT**

The main transport routes connecting Porirua City to the rest of the region are State Highway 1, State Highway 58, the Johnsonville-Porirua Motorway and the North Island main trunk railway (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). The Transmission Gully Motorway (as shown in Figure 2) is also currently under construction and will provide an alternative link from the Kāpiti Coast through to Southern Porirua (.id: The Population Experts, 2013).

The Transmission Gully motorway is anticipated to be completed by 2020 and will provide interchanges connecting the motorway to State Highway 58 and Kenepuru (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). The motorway will also have two adjoining roads from the eastern Porirua suburbs, Whitby and Waitangirua as shown in figure 2. The State Highway 1 road currently running along the Eastern side of the harbour will be reduced to a local road, hence there will be a large tranche of land along that side that can be considered as part of any design proposals for the competition.

Access to transport is a key factor in providing services and access to employment for the Porirua population (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). The number of cars per household within Porirua highlights access to private transport. Car ownership rates can be used to measure socio-economic status, as well as carbon emissions and impact on the environment (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). As of 2013, 9.4% of the population in Porirua had no motor vehicle and 35.2% owned one motor vehicle while 36.3% owned 2 vehicles (.id: The Population Experts, 2013).





**Figure 2: Map of Transmission Gully Motorway, reproduced with permission, (Porirua City Council, n.d.-i).**

Census data from 2013 tell us that there were 2,799 (12%) people who caught public transport to work in Porirua, as opposed to 14,646 (63.0%) who drove in private vehicles (as a driver, or passenger) as their method of travel to work on Census day (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). While the majority of those who are employed in Porirua also live in Porirua, 38.5% live outside of Porirua City with 19.8% of these workers residing in Wellington (.id: The Population Experts, 2013). Statistics indicate a high proportion of workers who commute from outside areas potentially indicating that the local job market is not satisfied by the skillset of local residents and employers must look elsewhere to fulfil these needs (.id: The Population Experts, 2013).

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