

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

This report provides the latest available information on key social trends in the Rotorua district. Measures were selected in consultation with key stakeholders. Data sources include government agencies, community surveys and census results. The census trend data identified below is from 2006. Due to the Canterbury earthquake of February 22 2011, the national census was carried out in March 2013 and will provide more up-to-date information on trends, once the information becomes available.

Positive trends

A range of results in this report illustrate gradual progress towards social wellbeing, including:

- Increase in number of children in ECE
- Decrease in the total number of stand-downs, suspensions and exclusions
- Increase in number of school leavers with a qualification at NCEA Level 1 or above
- More homes with telephone and internet access (Census 2006 results)
- Decrease in notifications to Child, Youth and Family
- Increase in percentage of people who feel the public has at least some influence on Council decisions

Concerning trends

The report also highlights areas in which increased effort and resources are required, including:

- Higher than national rate of infant death rates
- Higher than national rate of early leaving exemptions
- Higher than national rate of people receiving an Unemployment Benefit
- Reducing levels of home ownership (Census 2006)
- A decrease in the number of people voting in local and national elections
- Drop in percentage of people rating community spirit as good or very good

The way forward

In 2003, as part of the 'Bright Future Rotorua' project, eight community outcomes were identified by the community as future priorities for Rotorua. Subsequently the first Community Outcomes Report was produced in 2007, and updated in 2010. The report's purpose is to help inform decision makers about community needs in the district, to promote better co-ordination and application of community resources. As of November 2010, the Local Government Act 2002 no longer requires councils to carry out a process for identifying community outcomes, or monitoring and reporting on community progress. Community outcomes are now council outcomes and each council can determine the outcomes it aims to achieve.