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SocialLink Tauranga Moana is a registered charity based at The Kollektive in 17th Avenue, Tauranga. It aims to support “a thriving social and community sector improving Western Bay of Plenty communities” through research, innovation, collaboration, information, networking and advocacy.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Framework

We support the vision and that it is based on Te Tiriti. We appreciate the work to draw a framework together.

Along with many other submitters, our submission identified a range of factors and priorities to inform policy on social cohesion. We hope there will be a summary document of the submissions made available and the submissions continue to inform the work on social cohesion.

We wanted to briefly comment on the following.

We suggest the Framework should more openly and explicitly acknowledge factors that reduce social cohesion. These include the following.

- The impact of the Covid pandemic on widening social divisions as indicated for example by the protests occurring in February in Wellington outside Parliament Buildings. The Covid19 pandemic and responding to it has accentuated existing inequalities as well as led to more social tension.
- The role of social media and the dark web in developing and spreading misinformation and antagonistic, discriminatory rhetoric against the integrity of institutions such as parliament, legal system, government, news media and our health care system and science systems. They obviously are also used proactively in online bullying and incitement against individuals and groups.
- Gender violence (sexual violence/physical violence on women) and violence towards children.
- Colonisation’s impact on Māori
- The role of poverty reducing opportunities in education, employment, social participation, health and a decent standard of living.

In the Social Cohesion consultation pack, many of the initiatives cited under Enablers (see Section 2, Table 4) are quite broad and similar to other Action Plans and Frameworks such as the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. It includes six outcomes which are similar to ones in the Social Cohesion Framework – namely children and young people

- are loved, safe and nurtured
- have what they need,

- are happy and healthy,
- are learning and developing
- are accepted, respected and connected.

We suggest to strengthen the Framework:

- the Social Cohesion Framework reference other relevant strategies and.
- focus more strongly on explicitly highlighting those issues that are not in other strategies but would be expected in one on social cohesion. This should include factors that diminish social cohesion.
- For example the Framework should include how it will ameliorate the impact of social media disinformation and hate speech.

These actions would also support a co-co-ordinated and joined up approach.

Domains and Indicators

The European Union's Eurofound agency (<https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/ga/about-eurofound>) has done work on improving social cohesion and convergence. It has been found that the perception of tension in society and the feeling of social exclusion is associated with low trust in institutions such as government, national parliament, legal system, police and news media.¹ Addressing the quality of public service such as health and care services is the most powerful driver in boosting trust in institutions.

The EU's European Pillar of Social Rights provides some interesting indicators as outlined below for your information. See <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/european-pillar-of-social-rights>

Below are domains that have been included and indicators on Equal Opportunities; Fair Working Conditions and Social Protection and Inclusion:

Equal Opportunities This includes skills development, life-long learning and active support for employment. All these elements are all indispensable to increase employment opportunities, facilitate transitions between different employment statuses and improve the employability of individuals.

Indicators:

- Adult participation in learning during the last 12 months
- Early leavers from education and training
- Individuals who have basic or above basic overall digital skills
- Young people neither in employment nor in education and training (NEETS) (15-29)
- Gender employment gap
- Income quintile share *ratio (S80/S20 ratio – ratio of total income received by the 20% of the population with the highest income (the top quintile) to that received by the 20% of the population with the lowest income (the bottom quintile).*
- Adult participation in learning
- Underachievement in education
- Tertiary education attainment, age group 30-34
- Gender gap in part-time employment

¹ Eurofound, (2022) Promoting social cohesion and convergence in the EU. <https://www.eurofound.europa.eu/ga/about-eurofound>

- Gender pay gap in unadjusted form
- Variation in performance explained by students' socio-economic status

Fair working conditions These are needed to establish an adequate and reliable balance of rights and obligations between workers and employers. They make sure that there is evenness between flexibility and security to facilitate job creation, job take-up and the adaptability of firms, and promoting social dialogue.

Indicators:

- Employment rate
- Unemployment rate
- Long-term unemployment rate
- The real gross disposable income of households per capita
- Activity rate (includes employed and unemployed people but not economically inactive such as children)
- Activation measures
- Youth employment rate
- Employment in current job by duration
- Labour transitions from temporary to permanent contracts (3 year average)
- In-work at-risk-of-poverty rate

Social protection and inclusion This includes access to health, social protection benefits and high quality services, including childcare, healthcare and long-term care, which are essential to ensure a dignified living and protection against life's risks. This enables citizens to participate fully in society.

Indicators:

People at risk of poverty or social exclusion (AROPE)

AROPE components

- At risk of poverty rate
- Severe material and social deprivation rate
- People living in households with very low work intensity (0-64)

At risk of poverty or social exclusion (ASROPE) for children (0-17) components

- Severe material and social deprivation rate for children (0-17)
- Children (0-17) living in households with very low work intensity
- Impact of social transfers (excluding pensions) on poverty reduction
- Disability employment gap
- Housing cost overburden
- Children aged less than 3 years in formal childcare
- Self-reported unmet need for medical care

Social protection and inclusion

- Severe housing deprivation rate by tenure status
- Healthy life years at age 65 for women and men