

The Housing Crisis Facing Pasifika People in Aotearoa

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Te Ope Whakaora

Social Policy & Parliamentary Unit

Working for the eradication of poverty in New Zealand

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The full report is available for viewing or download from

www.salvationarmy.org.nz/HousingCrisis19

BACKGROUND

- This Paper looks at the housing challenges facing Pacific people in Aotearoa.
- It is an analysis of the Housing Continuum and details the realities and statistics for Pasifika in each part of this housing spectrum.
- Finally, this Paper makes some specific recommendations moving forward that we contend will improve the housing hardship and deprivation many Pacific people and families face.

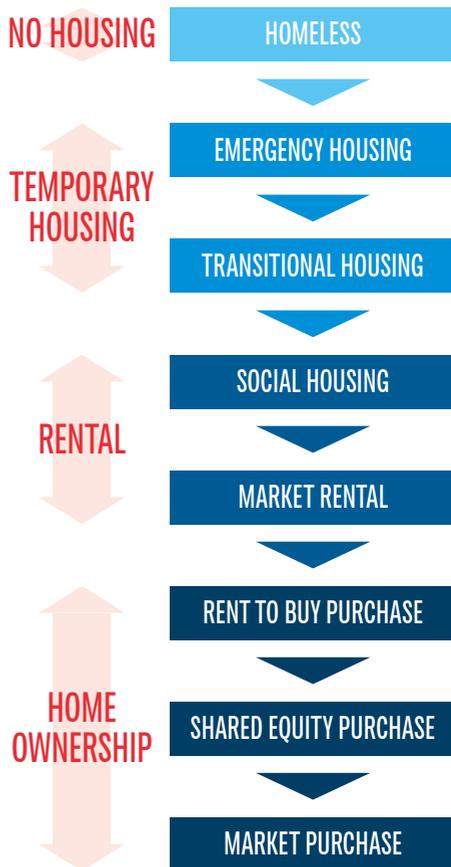
FINDINGS

Pasifika people are facing serious trials right across the housing spectrum. These include:

- **Homelessness**—In 2013, at least 41,000 were counted as homeless or in severe housing deprivation. Pasifika made up 29 percent of this number.
- **Homelessness**—In the first specific point in time count of homeless people in Auckland in 2018, 136 Pacific people (17.7%) were living without any shelter, and over 1100 (39%) Pacific people were living in temporary accommodation.
- **Public Housing Register**—At June 2019, the waiting list (register) was 12,311. Pasifika now make up over 14 percent of this list (but only make up about 8 percent of the overall population).
- **Renting**—More than 64 percent of the Pacific population live in private rental housing, compared to about 32 percent for the rest of New Zealand.
- **Renting**—More than 70 percent of Pacific people in Auckland were renting
- **Home ownership**—In 2013, 81.5 percent of the Pacific population lived in housing they did not own.

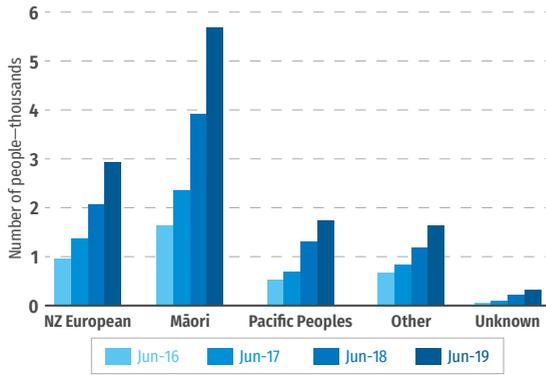
SIMPLIFIED HOUSING CONTINUUM

Developed by Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit in 2019



SELECTED DATA FROM THE DISCUSSION PAPER

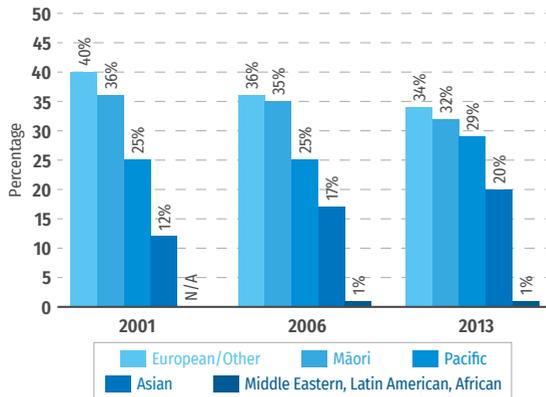
**Ethnicity of main applicant to the Register—
June years 2016–2019**



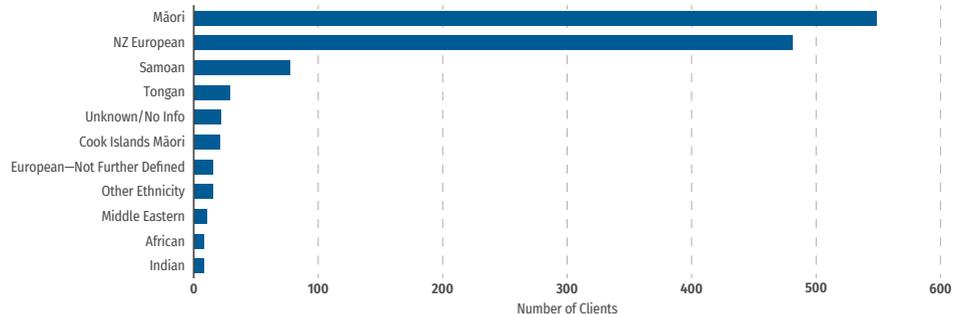
**Percentage of Pacific groups in rental
accommodation (2013 Census)**

Ethnicity	Percent in rental accommodation (N)
Samoaan	63% (82,848)
Cook Islands	64.5% (36,411)
Tongan	66.9% (36,432)
Niuean	63.5% (13,890)
Fijian	59.3% (7,881)
Tokelauan	63.3% (4,209)
Tuvaluan	78.1% (2,424)

**Ethnicity of severe housing deprivation population
—2001, 2006 and 2013 Censuses**



Ethnic breakdown of clients using Te Ope Whakaora transitional houses Jan–Sept 2019



ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In response to the serious issues outlined in this Paper, the SPPU highlighted the following issues and made the following recommendations:

Issue(s)	Recommendation(s)
What is the strategy or overarching plan of action to address this Pacific housing crisis?	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Develop an all-encompassing strategy and action plan across various government and non-government sectors. This could be led by the Minister of Pacific Peoples.2. Review of the Orama Nui Housing New Zealand Strategy 2009–2019.3. Undertake a data project to ensure data is accurate and robust, especially given the 2018 Census debacle. This is important for ethnic-specific data.4. Scope the establishment of a Pasifika Housing Unit.5. Develop a Pasifika-relevant Housing Continuum for Aotearoa.
Innovation in the housing sector that could help address these challenges	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Matanikolo Project—review, evaluate and determine how the lessons from this innovation could inform other projects and possibly be replicated elsewhere.2. Existing innovative home ownership programmes need more resourcing.3. Financial capability at the core of Pacific housing. We submit that financial mentoring and budgeting must be at the core of any action or outcome related to Pacific people and housing.
Urban redevelopment projects taking place in areas with significant Maori and Pacific populations (e.g. Porirua, Mangere, Mt Roskill)	Include community representation in the new Kainga Ora Board, ensure that regeneration not redevelopment is the focus, and mandating a community voice at the strategic level to influence the master planning of these projects.



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