



***New Zealand  
Newcomers Network***

*Connecting People*

# **New Zealand Newcomers Network Initiative**

## **Vision and Mission Statement**

### **January 2018**



## Whakatauki

‘Hutia te rito o te harakeke, Kei whaea  
te kōmako e kō?  
Kī mai ki ahau; He aha te mea nui o te  
Ao? Māku e kī atu.  
He tāngata, he tāngata, he tāngata.’

‘If the heart of harakeke was removed,  
where would the bellbird sing? If I was  
asked ‘What is the most important thing  
in the world? I would say: It is people, it  
is people, it is people’.

## Our Story

The journey of New Zealand Newcomers Network began in 2006, after a series of ‘Settling In’ reports - commissioned by the Settling In team (at that time under the auspices of the Ministry of Social Development) - found that for new migrants to New Zealand, making friends was one of the most difficult issues they faced when settling into a new community. To meet this very real problem, the first NZNN regional network was set up in Nelson, and the inaugural weekly social activities which connected newcomers to each other and their host community began.

Since 2006, NZNN has grown an Alliance of over 35 regional Newcomers Networks, and it is our role to support the establishment of these, supply them with a how to guide and provide ongoing support. These regional networks provide opportunities for social connection for newcomers (from outside of and within New Zealand). The NZNN website [www.newcomers.co.nz](http://www.newcomers.co.nz) which has links into the networks across the country, receives on average 24,000 hits per year to it. We reach many people and help make a difference in many people’s lives, through linking them into activities and communities. The Newcomers Network model is an ideal example of social cohesion and community involvement at a local level.

Since December 2016 is governed by Multicultural New Zealand (The NZ Federation of Multicultural Councils Inc.). This has strengthened the NZNN initiative, has created new and reinforced existing collaboration opportunities and partnerships with affiliated Regional Multicultural Councils and other agencies/organisations.

## Our Vision

Throughout Aotearoa New Zealand there are vibrant and successful Newcomers Networks (regional networks) that welcome, socially connect and integrate newcomers to their new communities

## **Our Mission**

We support and empower regional Newcomers Networks to create informal social networks that provide opportunities for people to connect and make friends

## **Our Values**

### **1 Empowerment**

Support every regional Newcomers Network and facilitate their development and capacity building endeavours

### **2 Professionalism**

Operate competently and with integrity, adhering to professional standards

### **3 Leadership**

Guide regional networks towards a common goal

### **4 Advocacy**

Be an effective voice on a national level for the regional networks and the interests and needs of their members

### **5 Connectedness**

Provide a variety of opportunities for newcomers (individuals and regional networks) to connect regionally, nationally and digitally

## **Our Actions**

The NZNN initiative is unique because it is created by the community for the community, blending together, both New Zealanders moving within our country and immigrants new to New Zealand, who benefit immensely from learning about their new culture from their fellow newcomers.

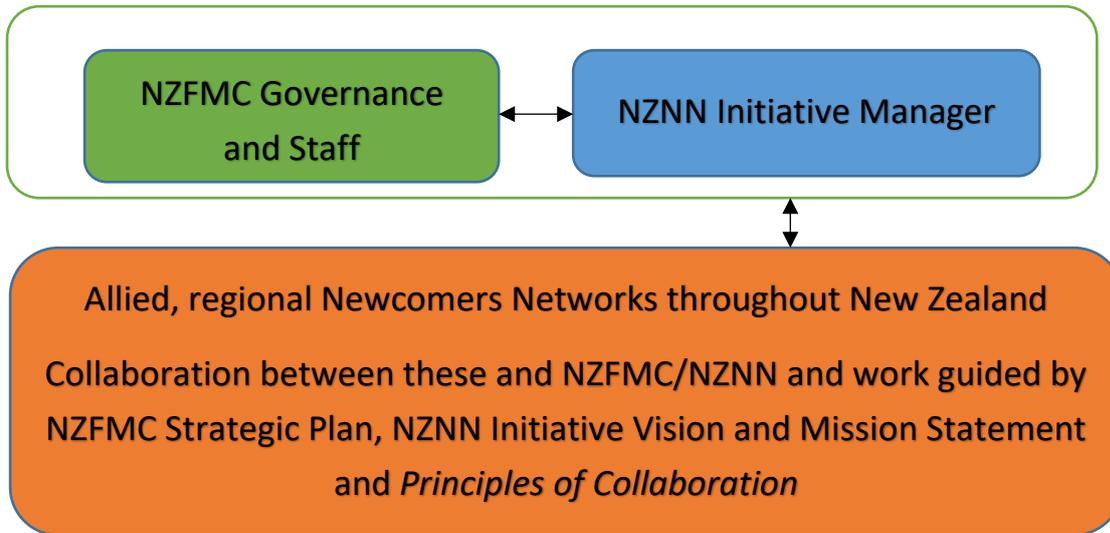
- Any region in Aotearoa New Zealand can establish a regional Newcomers Networks and in doing so they can then join New Zealand Newcomers Network
- We help Newcomers Networks find umbrella organisations from within which they can provide support for newcomers in their region (for example Regional Multicultural Centres).
- We provide advice on how to establish support networks for newcomers, and well as resources, communication tools and training for local coordinators.
- We advocate for newcomers at a regional and national level.
- We look for opportunities to collaborate with other agencies to ensure the best outcomes for newcomers

## **Our Future Focus**

- Identify opportunities to create economic sustainability for NZNN, thereby continuing to support and grow Newcomers Networks
- Further develop our understanding of the needs of newcomers, including collaborating on research opportunities, and sharing any knowledge we acquire with any agency/organisation working in this area to achieve good outcomes for newcomers
- Measure the achievements and successes of NZNN and tell these stories in order to inspire change and support for newcomers
- Build our voice as champions of diversity and the value that newcomers bring to their new communities



## New Zealand Newcomers Network Initiative Structure



### Principles of Collaboration with regional Newcomers Networks

The below *Principles of Collaboration* guide our relationship with the allied regional Newcomers Networks and coordinators, who work alongside a large number of volunteers creating and providing events and activities for thousands of newcomers throughout Aotearoa/New Zealand. To become an allied Network a region must agree to these Principles.

#### 1 Friendship and Support

Newcomers enjoy friendships and can rely on our support and the information we give them

#### 2 Respect

We encourage people to be accepting of others and to recognise their values, cultures and beliefs thereby upholding their dignity and worth

#### 3 Inclusion

Through a variety of activities newcomers are welcomed, included and socially connected

#### 4 Community Connectedness

We empower newcomers to participate in and contribute to their communities

#### 5 Service Integrity

We uphold our values in all that we say and do

