

Example future scenario for community sport and recreation organisations

Using the four-box approach

**Uncertainties: Approach to wellbeing and
health; Response to diversity and demographic
change**

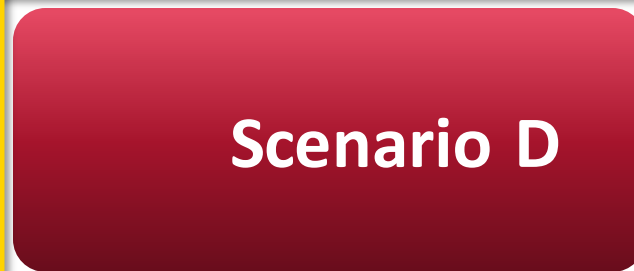
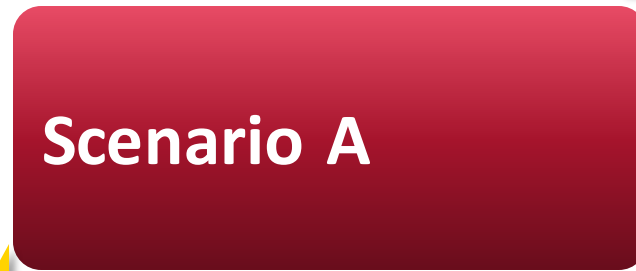
Future Scenarios

A society that takes a broad and multi-layered approach to ensure citizen health and wellbeing. The increasing diversity of society is recognised as a strength for communities.

Holistic Wellbeing
Development of comprehensive approaches that recognise interdependencies of wellbeing drivers.

Social policies and strategy support the underlying sources of health and wellbeing. High levels of diversity have limited acceptance and drive polarisation.

Social Cohesion
Population adapts to its changing face and embraces diversity.



Social Polarisation
Low level of understanding drives confusion and avoidance.

New Zealand has a strong reputation for embracing and building on its diversity. A de-centralised approach to wellbeing leaves communities to develop their own approaches.

Focused Intervention
Fragmented approaches to wellbeing struggle with trade-off's as austerity budgets become the norm.

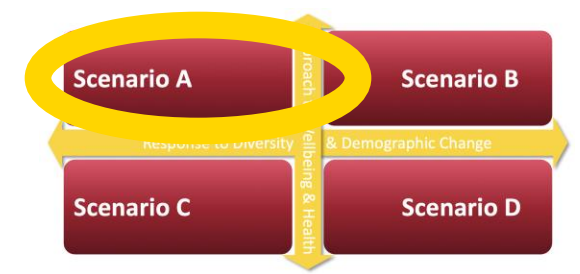
New Zealand is a very diverse society, but social acceptance has failed to keep pace with the trend. Constrained government finances ensure fragmented social wellbeing support.

Approach to Wellbeing & Health

Response to Diversity & Demographic Change

Scenario A

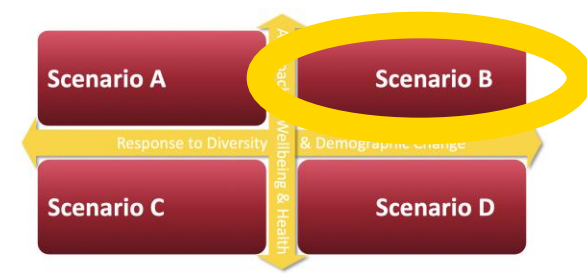
A society that takes a broad and multi-layered approach to ensure citizen health and wellbeing. The increasing diversity of society is recognised as a strength for communities.



- Governments have abandoned the economic orthodoxies of the late 20th century with policies now firmly focused on ensuring the wellbeing of all. Accordingly, achieving social and environmental goals are given equally high priority to financial results and, in many cases, are prioritised above it. Industries have spent the last few years emphasising automation and robotics to remove low-skill, low-paid jobs to increase productivity.
- New Zealand has embraced a new 'Green Revolution' with an economy focused on circular systems of production aimed at protecting and restoring the environment.
- With the older generation expanding, there has been a corresponding focus on the care economy. The pandemic's legacy and heightened environmental awareness have led people to value relationships and community over consumption-based status.
- Multi-generational living arrangements are now common and ensure mutual support. In addition, councils have embraced the '15 minute city concept' that aims to provide people to access all they need within their immediate neighbourhood.
- People naturally gravitate toward leisure activities regarded as beneficial for individual and community wellbeing, especially if participation costs little. However, financial barriers are relatively few, as the new KiwiPay programme (a modest form of basic income) affords individuals the time and resources to pursue ambitions outside the workplace and support community initiatives.
- People are open to new cultural experiences in their communities that offer variety and engagement. Moreover, governments of all political persuasions are highly supportive of activities that contribute to this goal.
- Some grumble that there is less freedom of choice with products and services deemed harmful being heavily taxed or eliminated. Smoking is no longer an option, and alcohol is very costly. Taxes generally have increased sharply to rebalance the economy as previously debt-laden younger generations have become more politically assertive.

Scenario B

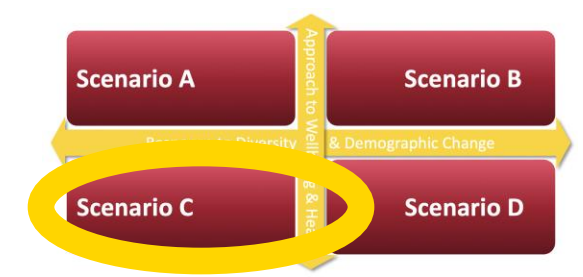
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- The wellness business is booming, with consumers looking for products that improve their health, fitness, nutrition, appearance, sleep, and mindfulness.
- Technology plays a large part in this market, with advanced devices that enable individuals to monitor their health proactively and overcome the challenges of ageing. The options range from basic digital tracking of vital signs to sophisticated soft robotics. However, these tailored devices can be expensive and out of reach for many.
- With the increase in the number of people living alone, the pursuit of health and wellbeing is often a solitary and private activity. Single-person households have outpaced the growth of any other household type. This shift continues to pressure the housing market and is overturning the age-based life-stage generalisations of the past. Many in the burgeoning retired community are physically isolated, with younger generations focused on the daily juggle between home and work life.
- In this context, when New Zealanders socialise, they look to mix with people they feel share their identity and values. New arrivals to the country complain that it can often feel unfriendly and difficult to find community.
- Most Kiwis agree that a broader societal wellbeing goal is essential, but there is little agreement over what it means or how to achieve it. For some, it revolves around an 'ethic of leisure' focusing on enjoying life and ensuring personal wellbeing beyond the routine of work. Universal basic income is often advocated alongside this as a means to unlock this opportunity for all. Others (mainly older generations) argue that the focus needs to remain on ensuring well-paying jobs as the primary goal after which individuals can look after themselves.
- The political arguments reflect this division and have become increasingly fragmented and polarised. The range of community needs and lack of understanding between groups means spending on community projects is often highly contested.

Scenario C

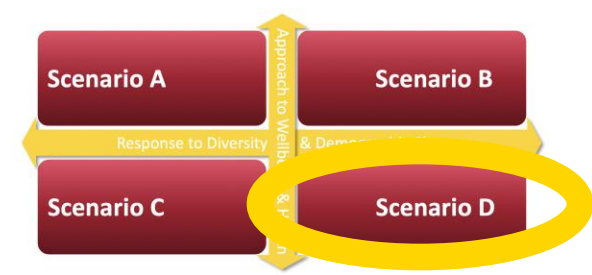
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- Those in work are working longer hours as, despite the economic downturn, there remains a desperate shortage of workers to support critical sectors. The rural sector, in particular, is under significant pressure as global food demand increases, and NZ remains comparatively unaffected by global crises.
- Given NZ's welcoming reputation and the need for more workers, migration's expanded significantly. The country is, therefore, not just a melting pot of people but also of the range of new community activities new arrivals have introduced and strengthened.
- There is evidence of strong support networks within neighbourhood groups that embrace the diversity of local needs. Practice is highly variable, though, and vulnerable groups (e.g. gender diverse, newly-arrived migrants) tend to gravitate to those areas and activities where they find the most support.
- Another economic downturn led the government to introduce austerity measures that have curtailed social and environmental support programmes. The renewed 'back to basics' economic focus has limited financial resources for some communities and led to a level of benign neglect. The needs of communities are acknowledged, but support is very limited. As a result, expectations of government and private organisations are low, and communities look to each other for mutual support.
- The reliance on local resources has led people to look for community in their physical neighbourhoods and move offline where they can. In addition, the ongoing challenges of cyber-attacks, scams and misinformation have encouraged people to be less digitally reliant and support local offline activities.
- The importance of embracing the local community is particularly relevant for those working long hours with the blurring of work and leisure time an ongoing issue. As the boundary between the two has become extremely difficult to detect, it has become more important for individuals to engage in collective leisure pursuits that take advantage of New Zealand's unique outdoor environment. The demand is for those activities that are available close to home for short periods.

Scenario D

New Zealand is a very diverse society, but social acceptance has failed to keep pace with the trend. Constrained government finances ensure fragmented social wellbeing support.



- Automation of jobs is prevalent across industries from agriculture to aged care, as companies look to maintain profit margins in a tough economic market.
- Work has become sporadic for many, typically online and unconstrained by time or place. It's making the distinction between work and leisure increasingly blurred and inhibits the ability to commit to regular activities.
- The demand for jobs is compounded as pressure on government budgets has seen the pension fail to keep pace with inflation. Deteriorating finances has forced an increasing number of people to look for 'un-retirement' and re-enter the workplace to maintain living standards.
- However, global challenges have kept migration high, which is proving to be a source of community friction. Migrants are again being blamed for taking up job opportunities, driving down wages and adding additional pressure to the housing market.
- It's through digital platforms that people now primarily find their community or their 'tribe'. But unfortunately, it's an environment rife with misinformation and mistrust that creates further barriers to understanding between social groups and diverse interests.
- The economic segregation of urban environments has become increasingly extreme as successive governments have been unable to reduce housing demand. In addition, urban density has increased significantly, and pressure on green space is acute. That which remains must demonstrate its utility to a broad section of community needs.
- There has been a steady shift from ownership to access, as those without assets face financial challenges. For example, private ownership of cars has declined as there are more affordable public transport options. This trend has contributed to a reduction in the sense of community as more transient populations struggle to find their place and put roots down.