



Te Ope Whakaora

Social Policy & Parliamentary Unit

Working for the eradication of poverty in New Zealand

STATE of our COMMUNITIES 2021

**SUMMARY
DOCUMENT**

Invercargill

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We welcome your feedback

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INVERCARGILL

Invercargill locals are described as caring, friendly, hardworking and a community that bands together in a time of crisis. The challenges that locals have identified are very much indicative of a time of crisis. The quality of housing is concerning. The challenges young people face are worrying. The lack of capacity and capability of health and mental health services to meet these demands are dire. But Invercargill locals remain hopeful and aspire for a community with opportunities that meets the needs of its community.

What do you like about Invercargill?

More than half of the locals liked the people—locals were described as supportive, caring, friendly and hardworking. Invercargill is small, and locals attribute the close-knit nature of the community and ease of accessibility to size. The beautiful scenery, the landscape and the available green spaces were some of the attributes locals liked about Invercargill. Other aspects locals liked included: Invercargill is home (a place of belonging), many facilities and activities and parts of the infrastructure.

COMMUNITY (52%)

**SIZE, ACCESSIBILITY,
PROXIMITY (33%)**

ENVIRONMENT (22%)

**INVERCARGILL
IS HOME (19%)**

FACILITIES, ACTIVITIES (14%)

INFRASTRUCTURE (14%)

How did Covid-19 impact you and your family?

More than half of the locals had minimal impacts due to Covid-19. Employment and income for many of these locals were not impacted. Locals also shared that plans and adjustments were made to support family, particularly elderly, so that restrictions had no major impact. A quarter of respondents shared that Covid-19 had created a time of gratitude, rest and rejuvenation. 24 percent of locals shared negative impacts, such as isolation, anxiety, stress and employment and income loss. Locals also shared that whilst the economic impact was not as severe as anticipated, the impact on mental wellbeing has been concerning.

MINIMAL IMPACT (51%)

POSITIVE IMPACT (25%)

NEGATIVE IMPACT (24%)

In my shoes the Prime Minister will see...

With a day in the shoes of a local in Invercargill, the Prime Minister will see hardworking and good-spirited people. In amongst the good

POSITIVE ATTRIBUTES (41%)

CHALLENGES (59%)

The major ones being...

Poverty (31%)

Housing (30%)

Mental health (24%)

Youth (24%)

Education (15%)

in Invercargill, more than almost 60 percent of locals also identified some major challenges. There is a lot of poverty, poverty that is enmeshed in anxiety and stress: the unaffordable cost of housing and the cold and damp houses; young people struggling with mental health issues and a mental health system that is broken; an education system that is under-resourced and needs more support. The accessibility of drugs and increasing levels of addictions were also key challenges locals hoped the Prime Minister would see.

As Prime Minister I would...

If locals in Invercargill had the resources and the mandate of the Prime Minister, they would make mental health services accessible, affordable and effective, particularly

**PROVIDE FREE AND
QUALITY MENTAL HEALTH/
HEALTH SERVICES (38%)**

INVEST IN THE COMMUNITY (15%)

BUILD MORE HOUSES (26%)

SUPPORT LOCAL BUSINESSES (14%)

**SUPPORT AND INVEST
IN SOCIAL SERVICES (15%)**

**RESOURCE AND INVEST
IN THE SCHOOLS (11%)**

for youth and farmers. Locals would build more safe, dry and affordable homes for everyone, including reintegration and for the disabled. Other things locals would do would be to help those that help the community, fund community events and activities and create more facilities for young people. Locals also hoped that as Prime Minister they could inspire hope in the community by enabling the community, collaborating and working together.

What changes would you like to see in Invercargill in five years' time?

An aspirational Invercargill in 2026 would be a stronger, healthier and happier community that looks after the wellbeing of its young people. It would be a place with facilities, activities and events that engage and support youth, children and families. Invercargill would have affordable and quality homes in a regulated housing market. Many locals hoped that Invercargill would have better healthcare and mental health and addiction services to support the needs of the community.