



**Social Policy &
Parliamentary Unit**

Working for the eradication of poverty in New Zealand

Te Ope Whakaora

STATE of our COMMUNITIES 2022

**SUMMARY
DOCUMENT**

Royal Oak

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We welcome your feedback

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ROYAL OAK

SOOC22 is a snapshot that provides a platform to record and report the stories, challenges, solutions and aspirations of local communities. There were 123 surveys carried out with locals in Royal Oak and three key informant interviews.

Royal Oak’s attributes: What do you like about Royal Oak?

‘...I feel safe enough, people are nice when out for walks, everything is close to each other shopping stores, etc.’

The **people (73%)** are **supportive (39%)**, generous, **friendly (35%)**, and **diverse (18%)**. **Accessibility (68%)** is also a key attribute, with locals highlighting access to **businesses (48%)**—such as local mall, PAK’nSAVE, cafes—local schools, other areas in Auckland and the motorway. Locals also highlighted that they felt **safe (27%)** in their community.

Royal Oak’s challenges: What are some challenges Royal Oak faces?

‘Increase of crime recently and also struggling financially with living costs.’

Cost of living (53%), cost of **food (12%)**, **petrol (10%)** and cost of **housing (49%)**. A key issue locals are facing is in relation to **crime (45%)**—the frequency and seriousness of crime is increasing. Key issues related to crime are **gangs (12%)**, burglary, **theft (11%)**, **drugs (13%)** and violence. **Traffic (30%)** is also a key issue for many.

Investing in Royal Oak: If you were given a billion dollars to invest in Royal Oak, what are three to five areas you would invest it in and why?

‘Invest in a holistic community-based health centre focusing on physical and mental wellbeing.’

Housing (42%), locals want to ensure social housing is available, as well as addressing the quality and cost of rental properties. Make **healthcare (36%)** accessible, such as GPs, counselling and addictions support. Initiatives or supports for children and youth through the schools or the development of a community hub.

Royal Oak aspirations: In five years’ time what changes would you like to see in your community?

‘Better living standards and more children achieving education for their future. Our country will be stronger and skilful if we invest in our kids.’

A healthy, **connected (11%)**, **safer community (23%)**. More affordable **housing (55%)**. The biggest threat to a connected community is the current intensification of housing. Overall, Royal Oak will be a **community (32%)** that is building up and investing in future **generations (29%)**.

The Royal Oak community and my wellbeing: I can find support for my wellbeing in my community.

PHYSICAL	37%	42%	17%		
MENTAL	24%	37%	18%	14%	6%
SPIRITUAL	30%	35%	22%	6%	
SOCIAL	29%	38%	23%	8%	
	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE
					N/A

Physical Wellbeing there is access to Maungakiekie and other fitness activities. Housing is the issue—rent is unaffordable and families are often struggling so there is a growing level of poverty even on a good income. For many who answered in the affirmative for mental wellbeing, they found these supports outside formal mental health services, for example, family. There are many churches active in the Royal Oak area to support spiritual wellbeing. Social wellbeing was often found in family and friendships. There are limited community activities.