



**Social Policy &
Parliamentary Unit**

Working for the eradication of poverty in New Zealand

Te Ope Whakaora

STATE of our COMMUNITIES 2022

**SUMMARY
DOCUMENT**

Westgate

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We welcome your feedback

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WESTGATE

SOOC22 is a snapshot that provides a platform to record and report the stories, challenges, solutions and aspirations of local communities. There were 91 surveys carried out with locals in Westgate and five key informant interviews.

Westgate's attributes: What do you like about Westgate?

'Westgate has everything you could want: supermarkets, food and clothing outlets, coffee shops, library, restaurants, churches...'

The **people (66%)** are caring, **friendly (21%)** and diverse. Access to so many different **businesses (63%)** and restaurants. Locals enjoyed all the businesses that were in close proximity and the new NorthWest mall. The location of Westgate along the North Western Motorway also meant it is **accessible (46%)**.

Westgate's challenges: What are some challenges Westgate faces?

'No bus way to town. No train to town. Too expensive to catch buses to town. No infrastructure for thousands of new houses built, and suburbs can't cope. No swimming pool.'

Housing (80%), **traffic (76%)**, and **crime (75%)**. The **intensification (32%)** of housing; locals questioned whether these houses were fit for purpose. The **cost of living (61%)** is increasing **poverty (22%)** levels. There is a lack of engagement for **young people (20%)** in education and employment. **Gangs (11%)** and drugs are also widespread in Westgate/Massey. Absence of quality employment and the challenges of accessing efficient **public transport (20%)**.

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

'Accessible and affordable healthcare, eg., GPs, dentist, podiatrist, mental health and addictions services, etc.'

Housing (52%) slow down the current developments and ensure houses are good quality, affordable and purposeful. **Healthcare (44%)**, Westgate needs more doctors, support for **mental wellbeing (24%)** and addictions. Improving the standard of living for **children and youth (28%)**. More green spaces and **parks (25%)**, an **aquatic centre (13%)**, a **community hub (11%)**, and investing in **charities (15%)**. Locals would invest in **public transport (29%)**.

Westgate's aspirations: In five years' time what changes would you like to see in Westgate?

'Everyone is employed in a job they love, there is no crime, everyone has a home and is safe in it...'

Westgate will have **housing (61%)** that is affordable and fit for purpose. The **infrastructure (41%)** would meet the needs of all the new builds in the **community (29%)** and any future new housing to come. There would be adequate **public transport (24%)** options for locals. The community would be **connected (17%)**, **safe (28%)** and rid of gangs, drugs and crime. **Young people (19%)** and **children (20%)** will have a place to belong and to thrive for the future of the community.

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

PHYSICAL	32%	48%	13%	6%		
MENTAL	20%	36%	20%	14%	3%	
SPIRITUAL	39%	39%	10%	8%	4%	
SOCIAL	36%	44%	13%	5%		
	STRONGLY AGREE	AGREE	NEUTRAL	DISAGREE	STRONGLY DISAGREE	N/A

For physical wellbeing, food is available if needed through foodbanks, whereas healthcare and housing are the issues. Mental and emotional support can be accessed for those who can afford it through formal services or in church. There are also many churches in the area for spiritual support. Many found social support among family, friends and church, very little community activity.