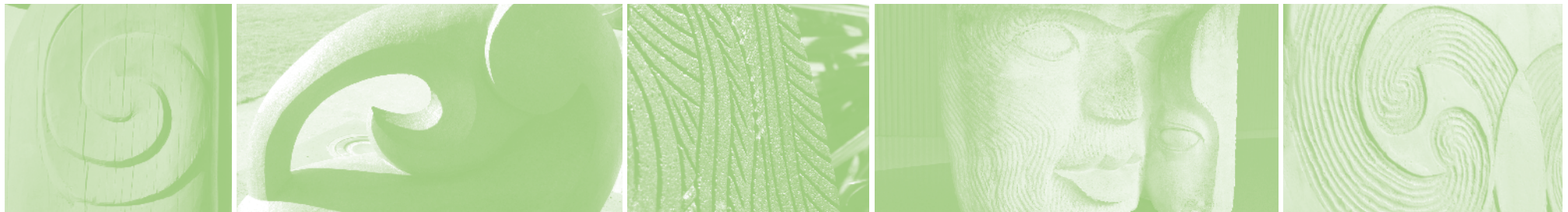


Palmerston North Community Outcomes Monitoring 2009 Update Report



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Councils have to facilitate the process of identifying the community outcomes every six years. The current community outcomes for Palmerston North were identified in 2005. Councils also have to monitor the outcomes at least once every three years.

The Palmerston North City Council has agreed to monitor the outcomes on an annual basis. We prepare a major report every three years and a brief update report in the other two years. We prepared the last major report in 2006. Normally 2009 would be a full report but we have deferred this until October 2010 so it can inform the Council's next 10 Year Plan.

Hence this is an update report that focuses on exceptions or changes from the trends identified in the 2006 report.

The results show that the positive trends in previous years have by and large continued and the City is continuing to move towards achieving the Community Outcomes.

Community spirit is one area where the trends in the past few years have been negative. This is part of the *community is supportive and people and organisations work together* community outcome. Although there are many government agencies and community groups doing very positive work towards this outcome, people feel that Palmerston North people are not friendly enough and there are not enough community events in the City.

There is a mixed picture in the *people feel safe* community outcome. Crime figures have dropped markedly in the City, especially when compared with the national picture, but satisfaction with feelings of safety in public places has dropped in the past few years.

Another area where there is a mixed picture is the *Palmerston North is attractive, clean and green* community outcome. Over the past decades there have been reductions in contaminants from point source discharges (for example from factories and the City's

wastewater treatment plant). However, there are still many sources of non-point discharge (fertilizer, animal effluent and eroded soil) and the Manawatu River is one of the most polluted in the region.

The economic downturn has led to an increase in the number of people without jobs. This is a move away from the *businesses grow here and people have lots of job opportunities* community outcome. However, most commentators agree that an economic recovery is beginning.

More information is in the following pages. There are three columns for each outcome. The middle column shows the current situation - this is a summary of the previous reports. The left-hand column shows any information indicating that Palmerston North has moved away from the community outcomes in the last year (ie, negative trends). The right-hand column shows any information indicating that the City has moved further towards the community outcomes in the last year (ie, positive trends).

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2009 Update – Where the City has moved away from the Community Outcomes	<i>Current Situation (Summary of Previous Years' Information)</i>	2009 Update – Where the City has moved towards the Community Outcomes
	<p>People have lots of fun things to do</p> <p><i><u>2006-8:</u> There is a wide range of leisure facilities and activities in Palmerston North and people are generally satisfied with the opportunities they have to participate in formal and informal leisure activities.</i></p> <p><i>Nationally there has been a drop in the number of people who actively participate in formal sport and recreation; however people in the region are more active when compared with the whole country. There has also been a move from organised sport to more social or informal recreation, rather than people becoming inactive.</i></p> <p><u>2009:</u> No change in current situation.</p>	

2009 Update – Where the City has moved away from the Community Outcomes	Current Situation (Summary of Previous Years' Information)	2009 Update – Where the City has moved towards the Community Outcomes
	<p>People feel safe</p> <p><i>2006-8: Many organisations are involved in safety and they are working together to have a positive impact in Palmerston North.</i></p> <p><i>Most people are satisfied with feelings of safety around their homes and neighbourhoods. Not surprisingly, satisfaction with safety in public places at night is lower - 11% are satisfied or delighted; 39% fairly satisfied; 37% not very satisfied or disappointed and 12% did not know. Satisfaction has increased markedly since the early 2000s when it was around 40%. It peaked in 2005 at 67% and has dropped off in the last few years.</i></p> <p><i>This is probably partly because all the previous improvements - like the City Heart upgrade, installation of CCTV cameras, Liquor Control Bylaws and new policing practices - have raised peoples' expectations. SafeCity Host figures show a significant decline in disorder in the CBD between 2003 and 2004, with a gradual increase in the number of disorder events since then.</i></p> <p><i>The number of violent offences in the City has been steady for the last few years, but they are higher than they were in the years before that. This increase is part of a national trend. Some of the increase is probably due to people being more likely to report family violence.</i></p> <p><u>2009 update:</u> trends for satisfaction with safety, violent offence in the whole City, and CBD disorder offences have continued.</p>	<p>Crime data for the 2008 calendar year shows that 9297 offences were reported in Palmerston North, a 2.5% drop on the previous year. This compares with a 1.2% increase nationally. The difference between local and national figures is even more marked over the previous ten years – crime figures in Palmerston North dropped by 22% compared with a 2% drop nationally.</p>

2009 Update – Where the City has moved away from the Community Outcomes	<i>Current Situation (Summary of Previous Years' Information)</i>	2009 Update – Where the City has moved towards the Community Outcomes
	<p>Palmerston North is attractive, clean and green</p> <p><i><u>2006-8:</u> Most people are happy with the look and feel of the City and there is a large amount of green space in the City.</i></p> <p><i>Air quality in the City is good and poses no environmental risks to public health.</i></p> <p><i>The Manawatu River is one of the most degraded in the Region. There have been improvements in the water quality of the river for contact recreation. This is mostly due to reductions in contaminants from “point source discharge” (where contaminants enter the river through a discharge pipeline from sewer treatment or industrial plant).</i></p> <p><i>Water quality in the river is classified as moderate, with most indicators being satisfactory 40-60% of the time. During the swimming season (November to April) water standards are satisfactory for swimming most (around 75%) of the time. The times they are unsuitable tend to be after heavy rain when the water is dirty with run-off from agricultural land.</i></p> <p><i>While the river may be satisfactory for swimming most of the time, this does not necessarily mean it has the capacity to support fish and invertebrate life.</i></p> <p><i>The major issue is now diffuse or non-point discharge. This is where contaminants such as fertilizer, animal effluent and eroded soil enter the river from run-off over agricultural land. This causes algae to grow, forces out native and other fish and reduces the life supporting capacity of the river.</i></p> <p><i><u>2009:</u> No change in current situation.</i></p>	

2009 Update – Where the City has moved away from the Community Outcomes	Current Situation (Summary of Previous Years' Information)	2009 Update – Where the City has moved towards the Community Outcomes
<p><u>2009 update:</u> the economic downturn has led to an increase in the number of people receiving a benefit through the Palmerston North offices of Work and Income from 5,500 in June 2008 to 6,300 in June 2009. The number of people receiving the unemployment benefit more than doubled to over 900, but is still below the level of June 2004.</p>	<p>Businesses grow here and people have lots of job opportunities</p> <p><u>2006-8:</u> <i>Manawatu-Wanganui had strong economic growth over the past five years. This has led to job and business growth in Palmerston North and the number of people receiving an unemployment benefit has dropped substantially. The number of people on a benefit continues to drop.</i></p> <p><i>Most of the growth was in care and social assistance; construction; retail trade; and wholesale trade. Transport, postage and warehousing; and professional, scientific and technical services also grew strongly. Education sector employment growth was below the average for the city and its share of jobs in the city is likely to decline.</i></p>	
	<p>People have lots of learning opportunities</p> <p><u>2006-8:</u> <i>There is a wide range of formal and informal learning opportunities in Palmerston North and people are taking advantage of these - Palmerston North people have high education participation rates and high levels of qualification. Palmerston North participation rates in early childhood education are particularly high compared to New Zealand for Maori and Pacific Island children.</i></p> <p><i>NCEA achievement levels of Palmerston North pupils are favourable compared with national data, especially for Maori and Pasifika students.</i></p> <p><u>2009:</u> No change in current situation.</p>	

2009 Update – Where the City has moved away from the Community Outcomes	<i>Current Situation (Summary of Previous Years' Information)</i>	2009 Update – Where the City has moved towards the Community Outcomes
	<p>It is easy to move around the Palmerston North</p> <p><u>2006-8:</u> <i>Nearly everybody is happy with the way traffic flows around the City during off-peak times.</i></p> <p><i>Satisfaction with the way traffic flows during peak times is lower, but has been steadily improving over time - about three quarters of people are fairly or very satisfied.</i></p> <p><i>The total number of serious injury and fatal crashes on City roads has been increasing over the past ten years. Most of the crashes are caused by driver fault, especially a lack of care at intersections and losing control on bends. Road factors are a cause in 6% of crashes.</i></p> <p><u>2009:</u> No change in current situation.</p>	
	<p>The City's infrastructure is reliable</p> <p><u>2006-8:</u> <i>Independent audits show that the City's infrastructure has been well maintained and is in good condition. Considerable work has been done to improve the condition of the City's water supply network in order to address the discoloured water problem.</i></p> <p><u>2009:</u> No change in current situation.</p>	

2009 Update – Where the City has moved away from the Community Outcomes	<i>Current Situation (Summary of Previous Years' Information)</i>	2009 Update – Where the City has moved towards the Community Outcomes
	<p>The community is supportive and people and organisations work together</p> <p><i><u>2006-8:</u> Palmerston North has a wide range of organisations and voluntary groups providing social support services.</i></p> <p><i>Satisfaction with community spirit dropped in 2007 to 53%, compared with around 65-70% in previous years. It is lower in Palmerston North than in other cities. Trends show that satisfaction increased steadily from 2001 to 2006, but has now dropped back to 2001 levels.</i></p> <p><u>2009:</u> No change in current situation.</p>	
	<p>People are healthy and well-housed</p> <p><i><u>2006-8:</u> Palmerston North people generally have good health that matches or betters the rest of the MidCentral Health area.</i></p> <p><i>Housing in Palmerston North is less crowded than in other major cities. While prices fluctuate, the City is still a relatively affordable place to buy or rent a house.</i></p> <p><u>2009:</u> No change in current situation.</p>	