Presentation to SSPA October Kai & Körero A fair chance for all: Breaking the cycle of persistent disadvantage

https://www.productivity.govt.nz/inquiries/a-fair-chance-for-all/

17 October 2023





Productivity Commission





Outline

- Inquiry kaupapa
- What we did
- What we found
- A pathway forward
- Discussion





Our kaupapa

- An inquiry into economic inclusion and social mobility, focusing on the drivers and underlying dynamics of persistent disadvantage
- Six referring Ministers
- We did not examine the tax or welfare systems
- Constitutional reform was also out of scope
- Focus on how the public management system (PMS) needs to change.





Our approach focused on 'Mauri ora'





Disadvantage is not simply being income poor

Doing without

(deprived)
arising from lack of
mana āheinga

Income poor

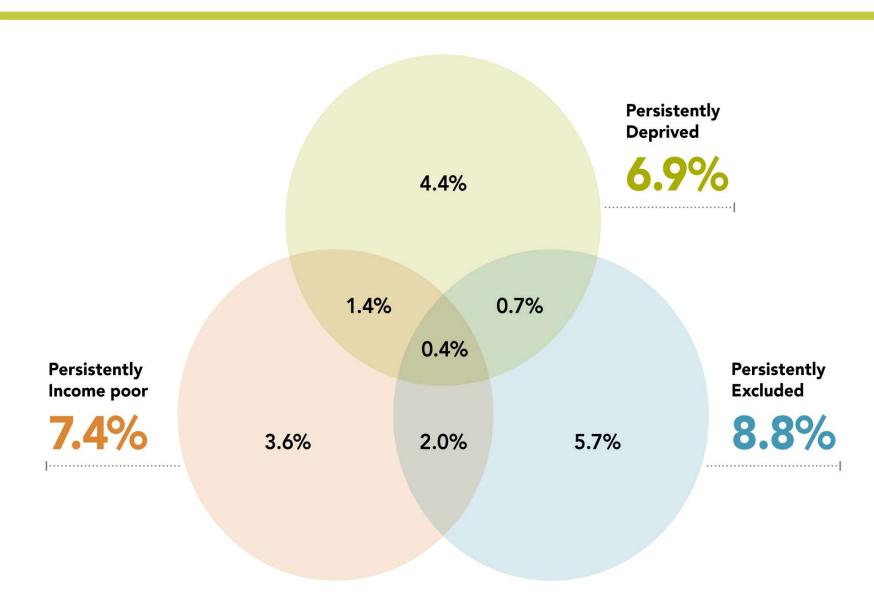
(poverty)
arising from lack of
mana whanake

Left out

(excluded)
arising from lack of
mana tauutuutu and/
or mana tuku iho

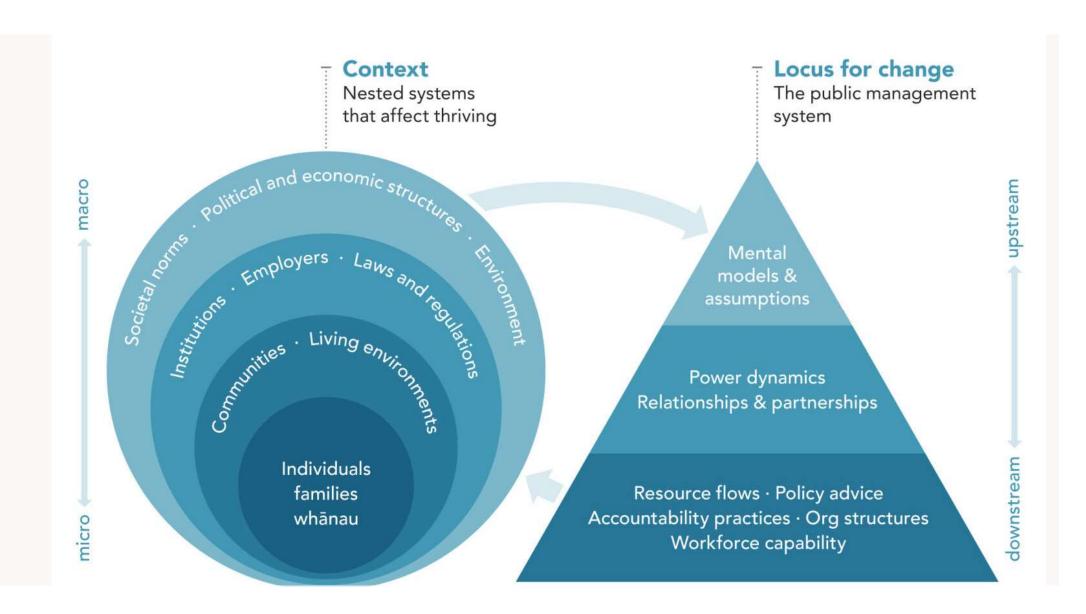
Too many New Zealanders experience persistent disadvantage





NEW ZEALAND PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION TE KÖMIHANA WHAI HUA O AOTEATOA

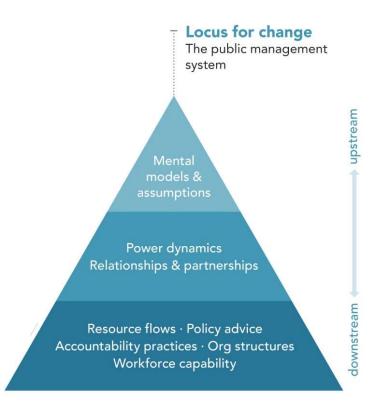
Taking a systems thinking approach



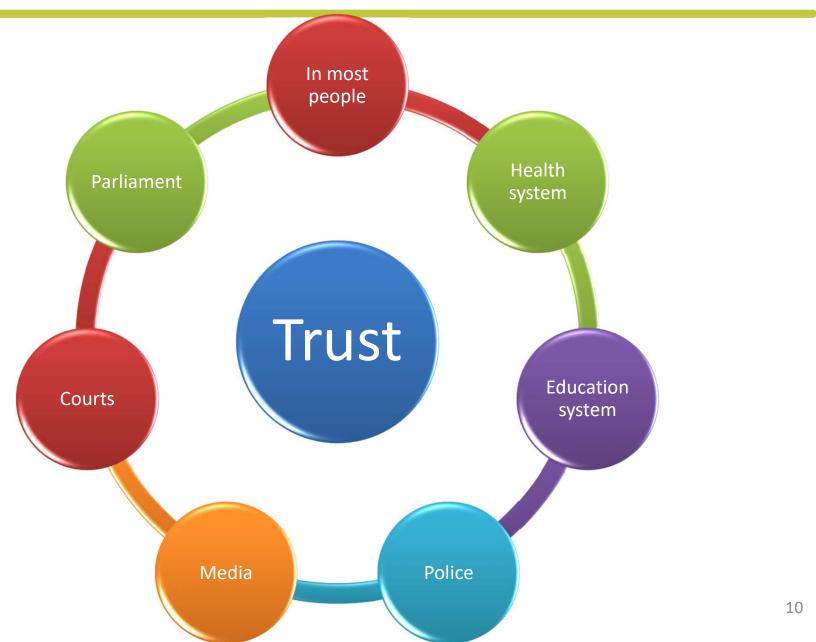


Key findings

- The drivers of disadvantage are systemic.
- Power imbalances create advantage for some and compound disadvantage for others.
- Discrimination and ongoing impacts of colonisation compound disadvantage.
- Being in disadvantage is associated with distrust.
- The settings underpinning NZ's public management system, while evolving, are part of the problem.



Being in disadvantage is associated with ZEALAND TO KOMINANA WHAI HUA O AOIGATOR TO KOMINANA W



Challenges with current policy and public ZEALAND TO KOMINIAN WHAI HUA O ADIORATIVITY COMMISSION TO KOMINIANA WHAI HUA O ADIORATIVITY COMINIANA WHAI HUA O ADIORATIVITY COMINIANA WHAI HUA O ADIORATIVITY COMINIANA WHAI HUA O

- Often a narrow focus on economic and material prosperity.
- Some values are emphasised over others.
- The system struggles to recognise or account for the full range of impacts on wellbeing when making decisions.
- Overly focused on short term outcomes and struggles to consider the future.
- The system often fails to respond to people experiencing multiple challenges at the same time.



Focus areas

Purpose and direction

Future Accountability **State** Learning and voice Current State

What we found Purpose and direction



 NZ was early adopter of wellbeing measurement & budgeting - a good start!

 But key assumptions underlying PMS are hampering the implementation of a fully integrated wellbeing approach

We need a clearer system purpose and direction for wellbeing.

What we found Accountability



A step-change in public accountability settings is required, rather than incremental improvements

- Weak direct accountabilities in addressing persistent disadvantage and needs of future generations.
- The neglect of te Tiriti o Waitangi in accountability settings.
- Settings constrain ongoing learning and locally led and whānau-centred ways of working.

What we found Accountability



Public accountability and funding settings to empower communities

- Based on trust and supporting devolved ways of providing public services.
- Commissioning that builds relationships, as committed to in the Social Sector Commissioning Action Plan.
- Better resourcing existing approaches to meet the level of need and aspirations within communities.

What we found Learning and voice



The public management system needs to listen and learn

- Understanding the lived realities of individuals and whānau experiencing persistent disadvantage and what matters to them.
- Enabling ongoing learning-by-doing to find out what works to reduce persistent disadvantage.
- Supporting the system to learn, decide and act together at different levels.
- Including a strong leadership and stewardship function.



A pathway forward

Purpose and Direction Accountability Future State Wellbeing objectives in Wellbeing of Future Generations the public management Act and Commissioner for Future Social Inclusion Act system Generations Cross-party agreement on generational Clarify the role of strategic objectives the public service in First-principles improving wellbeing review of public **Productivity** accountability Commission to undertake follow-up review Wellbeing Policy Implementation Establish a Plan social floor Strengthen Progress more social sector immediate public commissioning accountability Learning and Voice policy work **Expedite work** related to protective factors Locally led, Governmentwhanau-centred and Give effect to Leadership and wide learning centrally enabled te Tiriti o stewardship function policy initiatives policy Waitangi for learning and programme improvement Invest in capability and Align wellbeing roles capacity of the learning Better and responsibilities Current system Invest in data of local and central community collection engagement State government Keep moving forward Start now Do next To maintain progress For urgent action A second tranche of actions



Questions?

