

towards 2060



think of the possibilities



A record of a Design the Future workshop held on 16 July, 2010.

Disability Community

Short Version

Design the Future



SHORT VERSION

This report, written by Valerie Proud, is a short record of a Design the Future workshop held in Manukau on 16 July 2010, for the Disability Community.

The full report is a more accurate reflection of the workshop. This version is simpler and shorter. Many words and ideas have been changed to make it accessible for those with intellectual disabilities. Such readers may need help in reading this report.

Flipcharts and photos from this and other Design the Future Workshops are available at www.towards2060.org.nz/outputs/

Background information can also be found on the above website.

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Introduction to Towards 2060

Towards 2060 is a project for the communities of Manukau, where we look out to the future - when the date will be 2060. That is, in fifty years' time.

In this project, Manukau City Council and other organisations have been holding workshops called Design the Future. At these, Manukau community group talk about this long term future. At each workshop, we think about big changes happening in the world, as well as close to home.

A few of the likely changes are:

- rising population (more people)
- scarce natural resources (oil and minerals running out)
- pollution (rubbish or poisons in our air, land and water)
- climate change (more storms, flooding or droughts)

Many other changes could happen too. At these workshops, people talk about these issues, and learn things to do, to prepare for these changes.

If you and your family and friends do act on these things, you will be better prepared for the future. Now is also a good time for communities to tell the new Auckland Council and Local Boards what you want for the long term.

Talks like this are happening in many parts of the world between people and their governments. We use a framework known as *The Natural Step* (TNS). See the full report for more information on this framework, and the tools used. The communities of Manukau, including the Disability Community, are now a part of that global network.

The Disability Community

This report is about the Towards 2060 Design the Future workshop held on 16 July 2010 for 'the Disability Community'. Many people who came to the workshop had a disability. Some didn't, but they work or live with people who have a disability.

Some people face barriers in doing things that most New Zealanders take for granted. The most difficult barriers come from the attitudes of other people.

The Workshop

Deputy Mayor Gary Troup opened the workshop. He talked about how important disabled people are to our city. He also encouraged the Disability Community to tell the new Auckland Council what future they want, when the Auckland "supercity" is in place, after 1 November 2010.

Current Concerns of People at the Workshop

People were asked to note down things that concerned them about the future. Most people at the workshop were worried about their own wellbeing, or the health of family and friends. They wrote down other things too:

1. The Disability Community wants these things

- **Policy** - To have a say, so our needs are heard.
- **Partnership** - the government to work together with us.
- **Access** - to buildings, services, resources, and information.
- **Transport** - easy to use and affordable.
- **Technology** - tools and medicines must be 'sustainable', that is good for the planet as well as the person.
- **Affordability** - most disabled people can't afford the special equipment they need.
- **Communication** - things like sign language and subtitles on TV can help disabled people be more independent, and reduce isolation.
- **Realistic expectations** - as pressures increase, we may miss out and will be even more at risk - we need to make sure the Disability Community is not forgotten.

2. We also care about world issues too

The group were worried about big changes going on:

- **Safety issues** - war, bombings, and rising violence and murder
- **Environment changes** - disasters such as the Mexican Gulf oil spill; plants and trees not growing, and people dying, due to lack of water
- **Resources running out** - "we need to buy local New Zealand products, and increase recycling of materials". "We are worried that community concerns about environmental risks are being ignored, like

gold-mining in the Coromandel”; “We want to protect our resources for future generations.”

The group went on to look at what ‘sustainability’ means. This diagram was used to show how money (the ‘economy’), and people (‘society’) both depend on having healthy plants, animals, air, land and water (the ‘environment’). We need all three of these to be in good health.

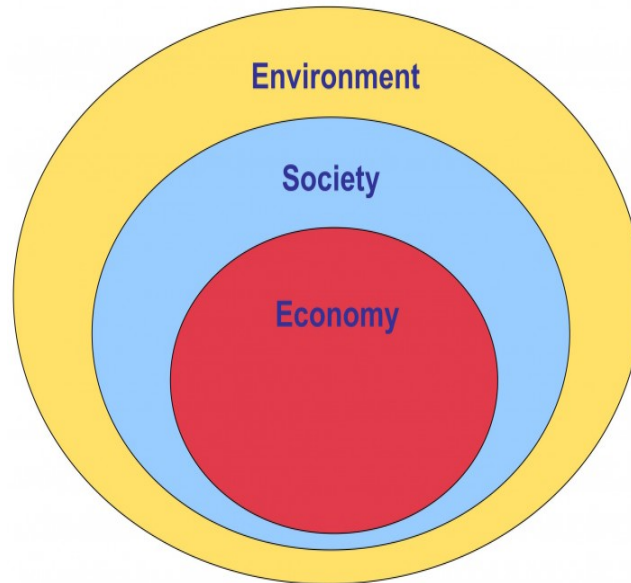


Figure 1 : What is Sustainability?

The group talked about the role of government, and “things that ordinary people can change”. Someone said “We can have our say, and we should”.



Figure 2 : We learned about our world

We watched a short video on how the population of the world has grown and is still growing. This means there are more and more people in the world.

This is one of the big problems for the future. The video is at:

<http://www.towards2060.org.nz/world-population-growth/>. People said:

“That’s scary”

“I found that really fascinating”

“Modern medicine has a lot to answer for”

“Technology has sped everything up”

“It’s not just population, but the effect of how we live”.

Next we looked at other world problems, like climate change, and ‘peak oil’, the point when supplies of fuels begin to go down. We watched another video: <http://www.thegreatsqueeze.com/Trailer.html>.

What does it mean for the disabled?

In groups, everyone thought about all the information, and talked about “What does it mean for the Disability Community?”



Figure 3 : Groups talking about the future

Risks and Issues:

More and more people (Population Growth)

- There are more people and they are living longer
- There are more people with disabilities too
- People who are both old and disabled are more at risk.

Rising costs and resources running out

- If global challenges continue, costs will go up.
- We cannot continue to damage our world.
- As water, fuel or food become scarce, some people might get less than they need.
- Even medicines use oil and other minerals. If these and other things run out or become very costly, it would affect the Disability Community strongly.

Public transport

- Many disabled people depend on cars, or other people, to get around.
- Public transport will be important, but may be more difficult for disabled people.

Technology

- Tools, like wheelchairs, computers or hearing aids, can help the disabled. Many of these are expensive or use a lot of resources.
- We need to find ways to do these things more cheaply, and use resources more wisely.
- We can help by sharing, re-using and recycling items.
- Solutions must be energy efficient, sustainable, and recyclable e.g. aids and equipment that use the sun's energy. 'Mother Nature' can be used with windmills, solar power, and other kinds of energy.
- Growing our own food close to town will help.

Disabled people can suffer if the world economy gets worse

- Disabled people already face high costs for basic items.
- This could get worse.
- Cut-backs in funding also impact Disability Community providers.

Legislation, Policy and Treaty Issues

- Many disabled people need others to protect them, by rules and laws. Disabled people need to have a say in these rules, or 'policy'.

Next, the group viewed a cartoon video about sustainability. See

<http://www.youtube.com/naturalsteponline#p/u/0/FFCNCQleCuk>

The group learned about the 'Four Care Instructions for our Planet'.

<http://www.towards2060.org.nz/the-sustainability-system-conditions/>

What we need for a Sustainable Future

The group talked about nine things we all need for a good, sustainable future.

Here is what people said:

Food, clothes and houses

Food

"Enough food for the world population to live a healthy life". Teach about sustainable living, and how to grow and use foods.

Use renewable transport, like bicycles, trains and buses. Grow food close to where the people live, to reduce costs and waste.

Look after water and waste better. Clean up rivers and the sea so watercress and flounder can be gathered again.

Clothes

Make clothes from natural fibres - wool, bamboo, hemp, linen and flax.

Housing

Design and build better houses.

Protection

[No group discussed this. But many disabled people need other people to help and protect them.]

Leisure

Disabled people need leisure and sports activities, and want access to the same things that other people do.

People who build things like gyms, pools and libraries, movie theatres, concerts, and adventure sports, need to keep asking disabled people what they need.

There also needs to be enough seats and parking for disabled people..

Taking part

Disabled people want to take part in all aspects of our community. We can all work together. Better education and information must be available. As humans, we all need to be needed.

Families and Churches can help to include disabled people.

Disabled people need to have a voice.

We can all play a part in looking after nature, reducing junk and helping meet all our needs.

Affection

People with disabilities need to be loved and supported, just like everyone else. We need access to nature, to services and to places for private time with loved ones.

Local communities can show concern and respect by including the Disability Community.

Volunteers can help through their support. Businesses can support by making time available for employees to serve in the community.

We can all help the environment when we show affection, by giving gifts with no or low impact e.g. made of wood rather than plastic - think before you buy. Hugs and kisses come for free!

Understanding

We need to have a shared picture of a good community. We need to give, as well as take.

We all have equal rights to share and care for the planet, and any resources. We need to understand each other, and we need to understand what helps or hurts the environment.

Creativity

In a creative and well-balanced community, we need all parts of ourselves to be healthy. One group drew an octopus (Te Wheke) to describe a healthy, creative person. The parts of this octopus are:

Te Whānau - the family (the head of the octopus)

Waiora - total wellbeing for the individual and family (the eyes)

And its eight arms or 'tentacles':

Wairuatanga - spirituality

Hinengaro - the mind

Taha Tinana - physical wellbeing

Whanaungatanga - extended family

Mauri - life force in people and objects

Mana ake - unique identity of individuals and family

Hā a koro ma, a kui ma - breath of life from forbears

Whatumanawa - open, healthy expression of emotion

For fuller details of this Health model, refer to:

<http://www.maorihealth.govt.nz/moh.nsf/pagesma/447>.

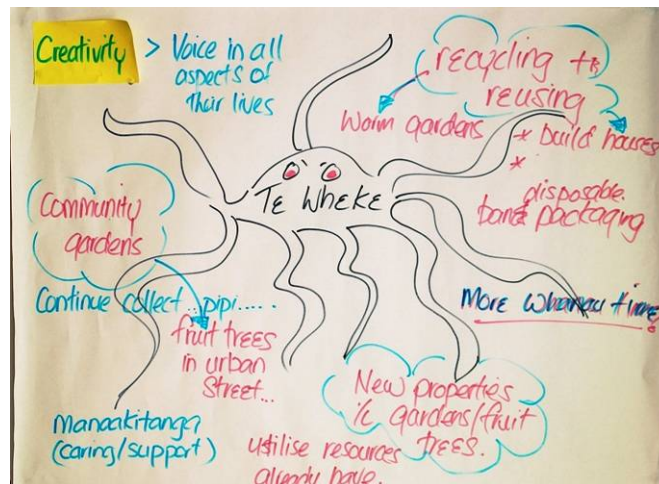


Figure 4- Te Wheke, a model for Creativity

With caring and support (manaakitanga) and family (whanau) time, disabled people can be more creative and healthy.



Figure 5 : Thinking about serious issues

We know who we are (Identity)

In an ideal future, people with disabilities will have a good identity when

- they are happy and confident, supported and cared for, and involved in the community
- they are treated with respect and understanding
- people see the person, not the disability (no labels)
- 100% of New Zealanders understand and use Māori and New Zealand Sign Language
- more employers give jobs to people with disabilities.



Figure 6 : Deaf people using sign language

Freedom

We want to be free:

- Free to have an 'ordinary' life and to belong in our community.
- Free to move from place to place, country to country.
- Free from discrimination and barriers.

- Free access - our differences are respected, and we're free to take part and have a say.
- Free to choose who we live with.
- Free to be happy, healthy and loved.
- We are able to get meaningful jobs for a sustainable wage.

What needs to happen:

- Get disabled people involved, right across the board.
- Ensure we have good laws and policies.
- Educate people, with trained teachers, and good support.
- Make sustainable choices, such as public transport (e.g. electric trains) and power (e.g. hydro, wind and power from the sun).



Figure 7 : What do we need?



Figure 8 : Another good discussion

Priorities for an Ideal Future

People thought about what they want most for the future:

We need a new way of thinking

- We need to figure out how to include disabled people more in our community, and help and support them.
- We need to think about these long term, high level issues much more.
- We need access to information and resources.

We need a caring Community

- We will need share what is available fairly. We all need to work together as a community, and care for each other.
- Sustainable transport and ways of life are very important.
- We need good representatives from the Disability Community itself.



Figure 9 : A workgroup thinks about the future



Figure 10 : Future headlines and milestones

What could be some first steps?

Here are some things we can do:

- Recycle and re-use items, and buy locally (eg farmers' markets)
- Grow gardens, use compost and worm farms
- Take your own bag & leave packaging behind when shopping
- Turn off appliances rather than leaving on standby
- Use car pooling and public transport
- Get involved with council - tell them what we want
- Share what we have learned with family /friends
- Think about the issues, spread the word.



Figure 11 : We had much to discuss

Closing Comments

We were asked to sum up our day in one or two words. Here is a sample of what we said:

*Thought-provoking; interesting; informative; challenging;
empowering; networking; collaborative; inspiring; encouraging;
hopeful...*

We went away with a lot to think about. It will be interesting to see what actions we take after this.

What did the day tell us?

During this workshop, we talked about what a person can do to prepare for the future. Growing gardens, using worm farms and compost, and reusing and recycling resources are all good ideas.

Some of these might be hard for some disabled people. Costs and mobility can make things worse. But with help and support, some people could do more than they are now. Each of us will have to decide what we can do.

We all face important decisions. When we buy something, or when we throw something in the rubbish, we can ask ourselves: "Do I really need this?" "Could I reuse or recycle this?" or "Could someone else use this?"

Some important questions were raised for the disability community as a whole. Some of these were:

- How can we work together?
- How are we going to prepare for our future?
- How can we learn more about all this?

With care and support, we can help disabled people to take part in our community as fully as possible. So the whole wider community also needs to think about how to help the Disability Community to prepare for the future.

The Disability Community, Auckland's new leaders, and the wider community will need to discuss this question further:

"Do these challenges provide us with a real opportunity
to work together?"

Appendix A: Milestones Towards 2060

We imagined future newspaper 'headlines' as steps along a path towards our preferred future. Here are a few of our headlines:

- 2010** "Disabled woman wins in local body elections"
- 2011** "Disabled woman in Parliament"
"At last, Māori TV 24 hour coverage"
- 2012** "Māori community benefit from Wind Power"
- 2015** "Increasing disabled voting in elections"
"Sign of things to come? - Six disabled people seek selection. "
- 2018** "First Māori disabled Prime Minister"
- 2020** "Mud-brick homes No 1 Seller" - *Real Estate Times*
"Airship food container service launched in Pacific Rim" - decreases costs and eco footprint
"First fully accessible community hub based in Manukau"
- 2021** "Pedal Power Rules!" ...the motorway finally closed to private cars. From today, cyclists use two lanes and the bus lane continues, using solar and windpower!
- 2060** "True partnership finally achieved"
"Wheelchair architect receives 2060 Design Award"
"80% of school students achieve NZCEA in NZ Sign Language"

Appendix B: Workshop Participants:

Beth Robb

Debra Bothamley

David Hughes

Dion Twiss

Ewen Wilson

Gayleen Mackereth

Georgina Nathan

Glen Nicholson

Hemant Thakkar

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Jackie Scanlon

Janet Phare

Judith Serfontein

Lauren van Coller

Lolo Filiai

Margaret Hall

Nada Singer

Nicola Owen

Niharika Puri

Pam Antill

Patrick Thompson

Patu Witehira

Pip Bishop

Sharleen Tongalea

Sharon Howard

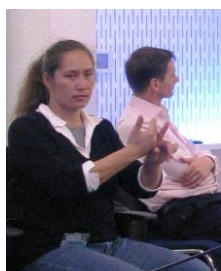
Sue Lessing

Sue Mckinnon

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Interpreters:



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