

## Leave no one behind

- Acknowledge the underlying causes of poverty and inequality. We urge the Government to make the choice to reduce inequality by setting out aspirational goals, supported by long-term and short-term strategies.
- Address the barriers that hinder isolated and vulnerable people (such as disabled people, ethnic and rural communities) from fully participating in and contributing to our society.
- Ensure that the long-term impacts on people and the environment are taken into account when developing policies to ensure social, economic and environmental sustainability.

## Strong communities need strong community organisations

- Make a commitment that all planning work that involves community and community organisations is a “partnership planning process”, and needs to engage all the partners in the design stage, as well as during the actual work.
- Formally declare that advocacy – “speaking for” – is part of the very essence of community organisations, and that Government as an essential element of a strong community and nation values this role.
- Place Treaty-based values and processes at the centre of all policy development and delivery, and measure and report on them.

## A capable and sustainable community sector

- Recognise the difference between purchasing social services and purchasing capital items, and work with the community sector to develop a fair and value-focused approach to procuring social services.
- Develop and implement a whole-of-government strategy to support and build sector capability, and provide the investment and resources to achieve this.
- Develop and adopt fully funded models for contracted work.
- Make a greater investment in research and evaluation so that individual organisations and the community sector as a whole know what works and what is not working.
- Recognise the value and scope of the community sector. We need a ‘go-to’ place within government to ensure cross-sector work happens within government, not just in our sector.
- Commit resources to Statistics New Zealand to update the 2004 Non Profit Institutions Satellite Account.

*ComVoices is a network of national organisations in the community and voluntary sector. We come together to develop a proactive agenda to pursue our vision, share our knowledge and construct effective responses to emerging policies that impact on the communities we serve.*