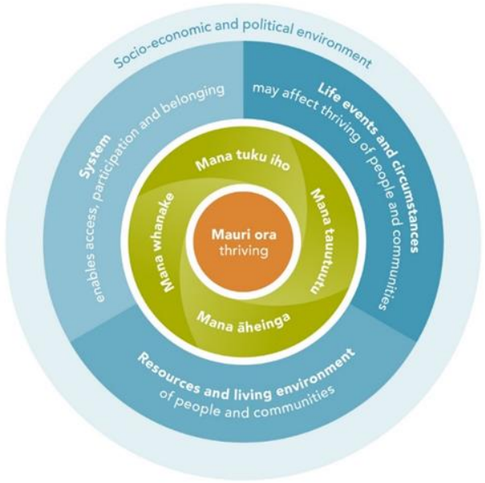
A fair chance for all: interim report

New Zealand Productivity Commission, September 2022

NEW ZEALAND PRODUCTIVITY COMMISSION
Te Kōmihana Whai Hua o Aotearoa

The Commission has a broad vision of 'social inclusion' that frames the inquiry



An equitable and inclusive society where all New Zealanders live fulfilling lives where individuals, families, whānau and communities:

- have a **strong sense of identity**,
- can **contribute** to their families, whānau and communities,
- have the **things they need** to realise their aspirations, and **grow the next generation** of New Zealanders

Has strong links with Māori and Pacific peoples' perspectives on wellbeing: draws on He Ara Waiora and the Pacific Wellbeing Strategy, as well as the Living Standards Framework

While many of us are experiencing mauri ora, too many are not

- Almost 1 in 5 New Zealanders experienced persistent disadvantage in both 2013 and 2018
- Is more than having low income
  - define disadvantage over three inter-related domains: being income poor (poverty), doing without (deprivation) and being left out (exclusion).
- Disadvantage = mauri noho
- Disadvantage that continues 2+ years = persistent disadvantage

We focus on role and settings of 'public management system':

- While the root causes of inequities in peoples' lives mainly lie outside the public management system, the system has a huge effect on peoples' opportunities to live thriving and fulfilling lives.
- Reforms in policy, practice or structures in discrete sectors, show promise for making a difference, but the Commission believes more fundamental change, to the 'macro' level settings of the public management system is required to have a greater positive impact for people and communities living in persistent disadvantage.
- We do not consider in-depth the role of Ministers or our political system, the media or wider society in effecting change, but we welcome feedback on this.

We identify four barriers that are holding back the public sector's contribution to eliminating persistent disadvantage

- Power imbalances
- A siloed and fragmented government
- Discrimination and the ongoing impacts of colonisation
- Short-termism and status-quo bias

We propose four 'system shifts' to break down the barriers and help realise a more equitable and productive future for all

The public management system

	… progress is being made – but needs to be faster, deeper and more joined-up
Overall System Settings	Re-think macro-level system settings to better prioritise equity, wellbeing and social inclusion
Accountability Settings	Re-focus public accountability settings to activate a wellbeing approach
Policymaking & Funding	Broaden and embed a wellbeing approach across policymaking and funding frameworks
Monitoring & Evaluation	Enable system learning and improvement through monitoring and evaluation