

## A fair chance for all - Breaking the disadvantage cycle. NZ Productivity Commission Inquiry 2021

### Public submissions:

#### What are the main dimensions of persistent disadvantage that should be included in the terms of reference?

- Impacts of British colonisation on indigenous iwi/hapū, including land/natural resources theft and Treaty of Waitangi breaches that began in 1840.
- The 'Trickle Down' economic model, which perpetuates and exacerbates one of the worst wealth 'gaps' in the developed world. According to a Victoria University Institute of Governance and Policy Studies working paper, 'Wealth Inequality in New Zealand' (2021), 10% of all asset holders have 59% of all wealth.<sup>1</sup> This is backed by inequality.org.nz statistics showing that the poorest half of New Zealanders have 5% of the nation's wealth.<sup>2</sup>
- Dismantle Growth Economics paradigm, if this model continues to have no regard whatsoever for environmental and social stability/sustainability.

#### Where should the Commission focus its research efforts?

- Iwi and hapū: ability to utilise land and natural resources, as promised by the Treaty of Waitangi, to benefit their tāngata; education; health services; justice systems/services and economic development opportunities **by iwi/hapū - for iwi/hapū**
- Education system, overhaul. Currently our Western, individualistic, assessment driven model is continuing to harm children and young people of Māori and Pacific descent in particular - and render many others, especially our boys, disengaged and disenfranchised. Our institutions are still riddled with/under pinned by a deficit mindset towards students of Māori and Pacific descent. We are still only valuing knowledge/s, content, assessment modes that play into the hands of European students, perpetuating our terrible inter-generational negative statistics (refer to school leavers qualifications by ethnicity). The way the world needs to operate is through collaboration and cooperation, not competition. Our schools could/should be leading the way here
- Different economic models ('Trickle Up'; Māori business models where whānau, community and the environment benefit, not just the CEO/business owners/top investors; business/economic models where environment sustainability is built into every aspect of all businesses, as we recognise the Growth Economy Model has all but destroyed the very natural resources we all, all humans on earth, need in order to survive)

#### Where should the government focus its efforts on finding solutions?

- Iwi and hapū: ability to utilise land and natural resources, as promised by the Treaty of Waitangi, to benefit their tāngata; education; health services; justice systems/services and economic development opportunities **by iwi/hapū - for iwi/hapū**
- Education system, overhaul. Currently our Western, individualistic, assessment driven model is continuing to harm children and young people of Māori and Pacific descent in particular - and render many others, especially our boys, disengaged and disenfranchised. Our institutions are still riddled with/under pinned by a deficit mindset towards students of Māori and Pacific descent. We are still only valuing knowledge/s, content, assessment modes that play into the hands of European students, perpetuating our terrible inter-generational negative statistics (refer to school leavers' qualifications by ethnicity, gender). The way the world needs to operate is through collaboration and cooperation, not competition. Our schools could/should be leading the way here
- Different economic models ('Trickle Up'; Māori business models where whānau, community and the environment benefit, not just the CEO/business owners/top investors; business/economic models where environment sustainability is built into every aspect of all businesses, as we recognise the

<sup>1</sup> <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dNKqsNBV8kY2gr5RuDSp9iWt2nKW9BBm/view?usp=drivesdk>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.inequality.org.nz/understand/>

Growth Economy Model has all but destroyed the very natural resources we all, all humans on earth, need in order to survive)

Is there anything else that you would like to see in the terms of reference for this inquiry?