

# WAIMAIRI WARD PROFILE

February 2021



The Waimairi Ward includes the suburbs of Russley, Avonhead, Burnside and a significant portion of Ilam. Being on the outskirts of the city, it is surrounded by main routes in and around Christchurch, with access to the main roads south and north, and also to the West Coast. It also has quick access to the Christchurch airport. The area is home to a number of large sport and recreational parks including Avonhead Park, Crosbie Park, Burnside Park and the Russley Golf Club.

Christchurch city has 15 percent of the population identifying as being of Asian descent, in the Waimairi Ward 26 percent of the residents identify in this category.

The area has six schools including Burnside High School which is one of the largest secondary schools in New Zealand. It has the Avonhead shopping mall and is also handy to two of Christchurch's larger malls, Westfield Riccarton and the Hornby Hub.

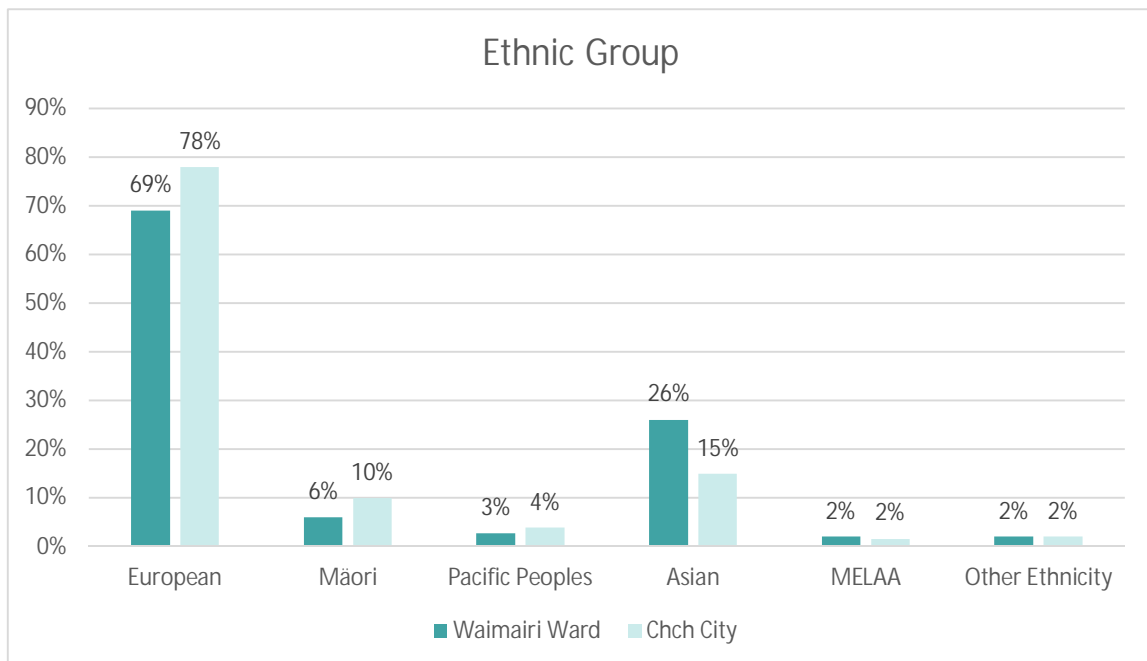
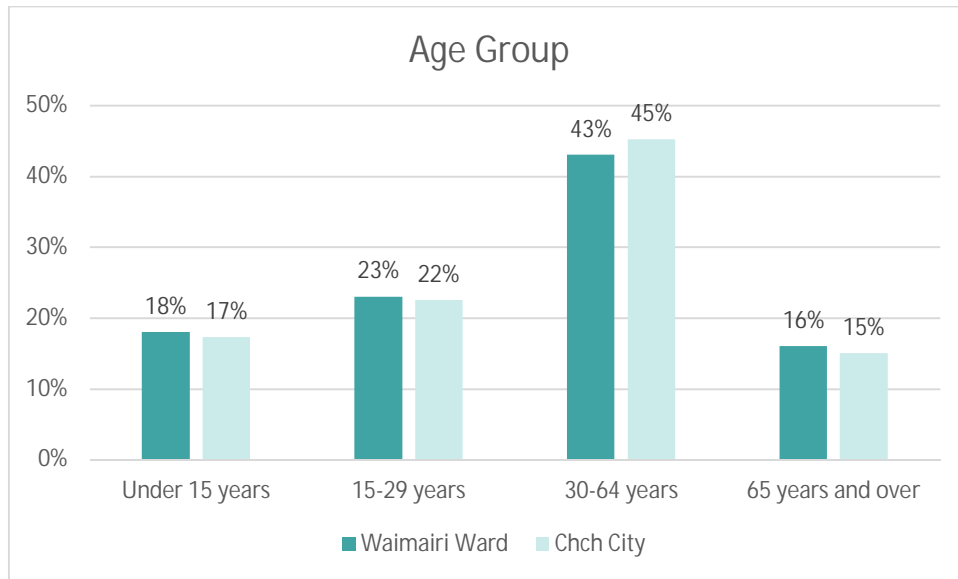
*Community Profiles compiled by the Community Support, Governance and Partnerships Unit*

# Facts and figures

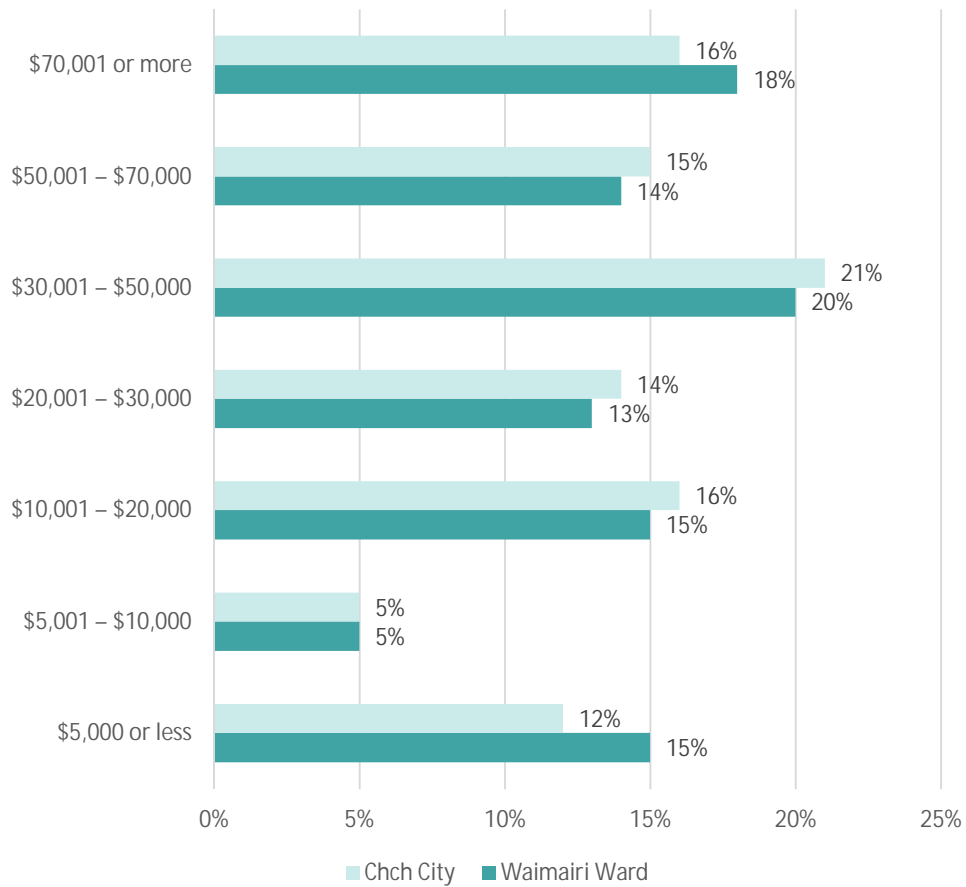
## Demographic Summary (2018 Census Data)

### Population

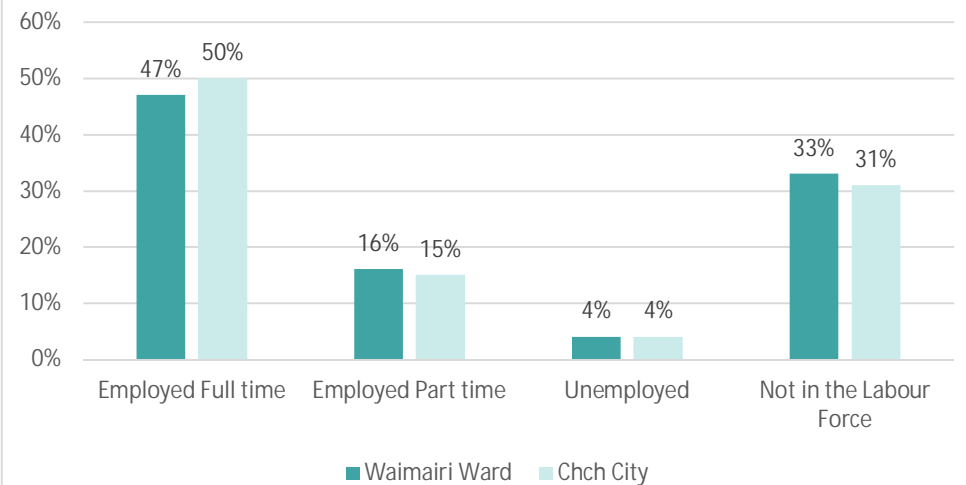
The population within the Waimairi Ward boundary is: 22,554

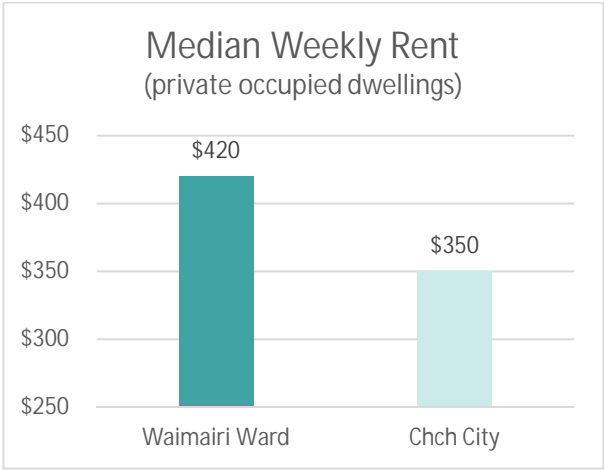
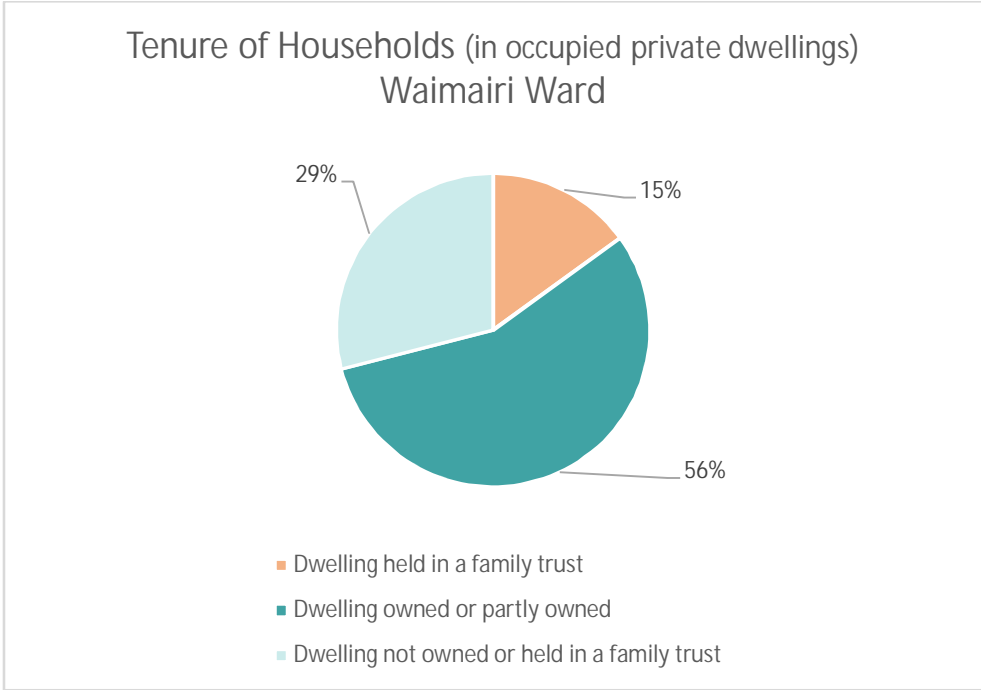


### Total Personal Income - aged 15 years and over



### Work and Labour Force Status





Number of Occupied Private Dwellings: 8,901

### Facilities and Amenities

- 1 Council owned social housing complex with 19 units
- 1 Council owned community facility: Avic Hill Arts and Craft Centre
- 1 shopping centre: Avonhead Mall
- 6 schools: 5 primary and 1 secondary
- 2 Council-owned cemeteries: Avonhead Park and Waimairi
- Approximately 2,600 businesses employing 9,300 people (Feb 2019)

# NZ Deprivation Index

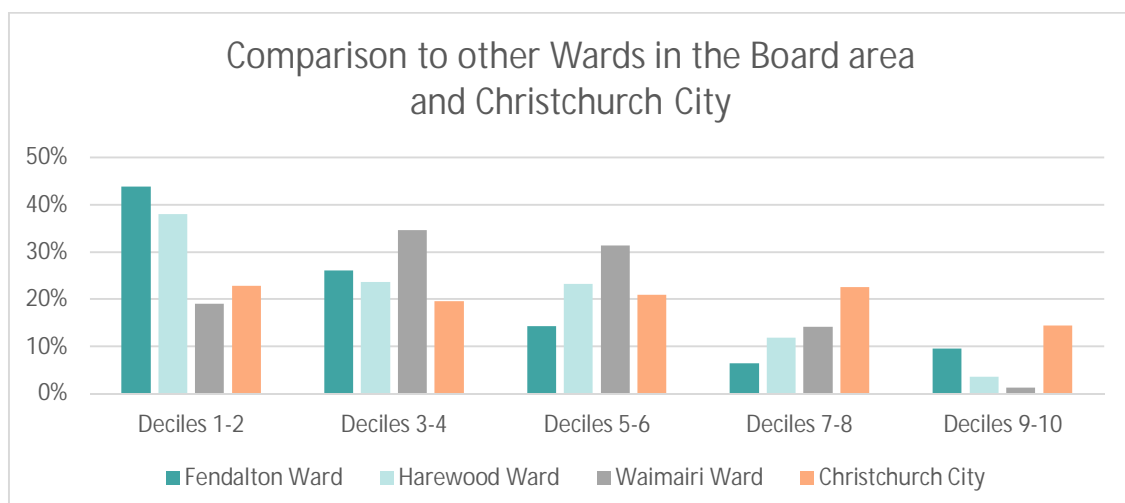
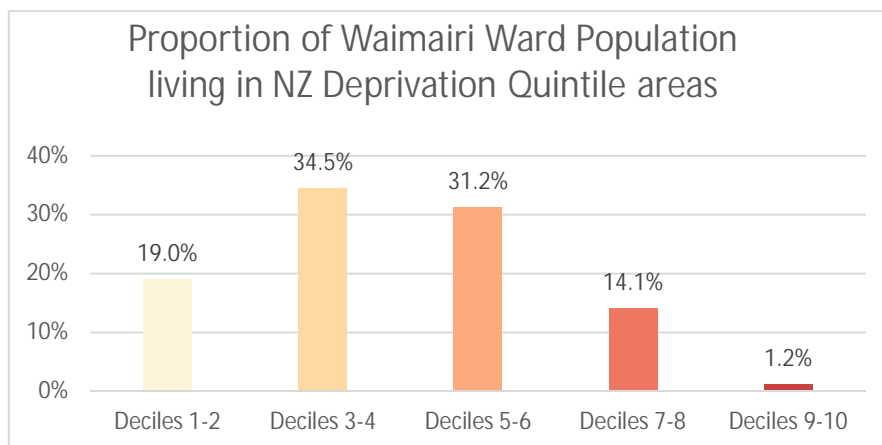
The aim of the NZ deprivation index research programme is to develop indexes of socioeconomic deprivation for New Zealand, to support and inform:

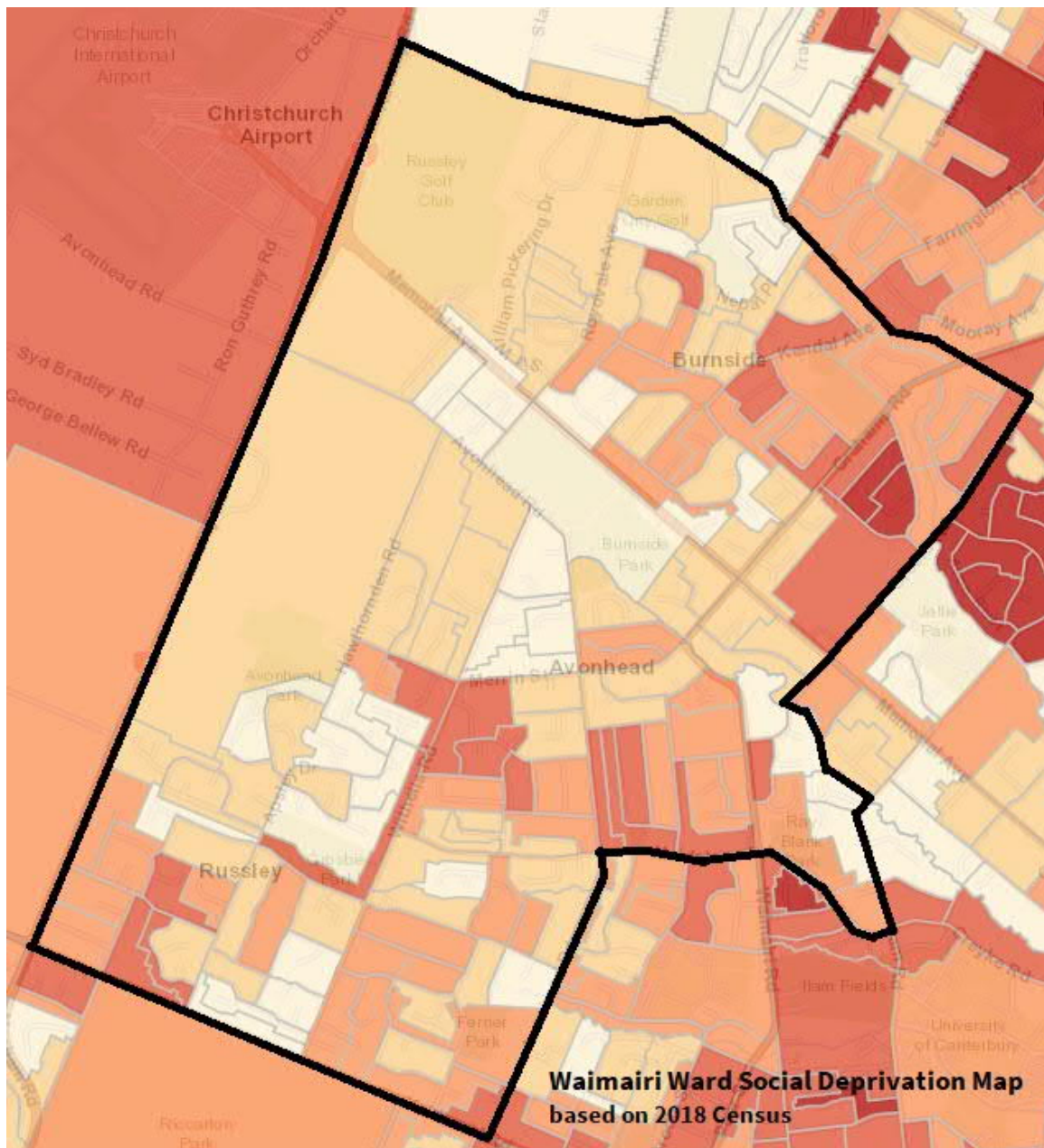
- Application in funding formulas
- Research in especially health and other social services. For example, in the health sector, many researchers use the indexes to describe the relationship between socioeconomic deprivation and health outcomes
- Community groups and community-based service providers to describe the populations they serve, and to advocate for extra resources for community-based services.

The nine variables included in the 2018 deprivation index are as follows:

- People aged 18-64 receiving a means tested benefit
- People living in households with equivalised income below an income threshold
- People with no access to the Internet at home
- People aged 18-64 without any qualifications
- People aged <65 living in a single parent family
- People not living in own home
- People living in household with equivalised bedroom occupancy threshold
- People aged 18-64 unemployed
- People living in dwellings that are always damp and/or always have mould greater than A4 size.

The scale of deprivation ranges from 1 to 10: 1 represents the areas with the least deprived scores. 10 represents the areas with the most deprived scores.



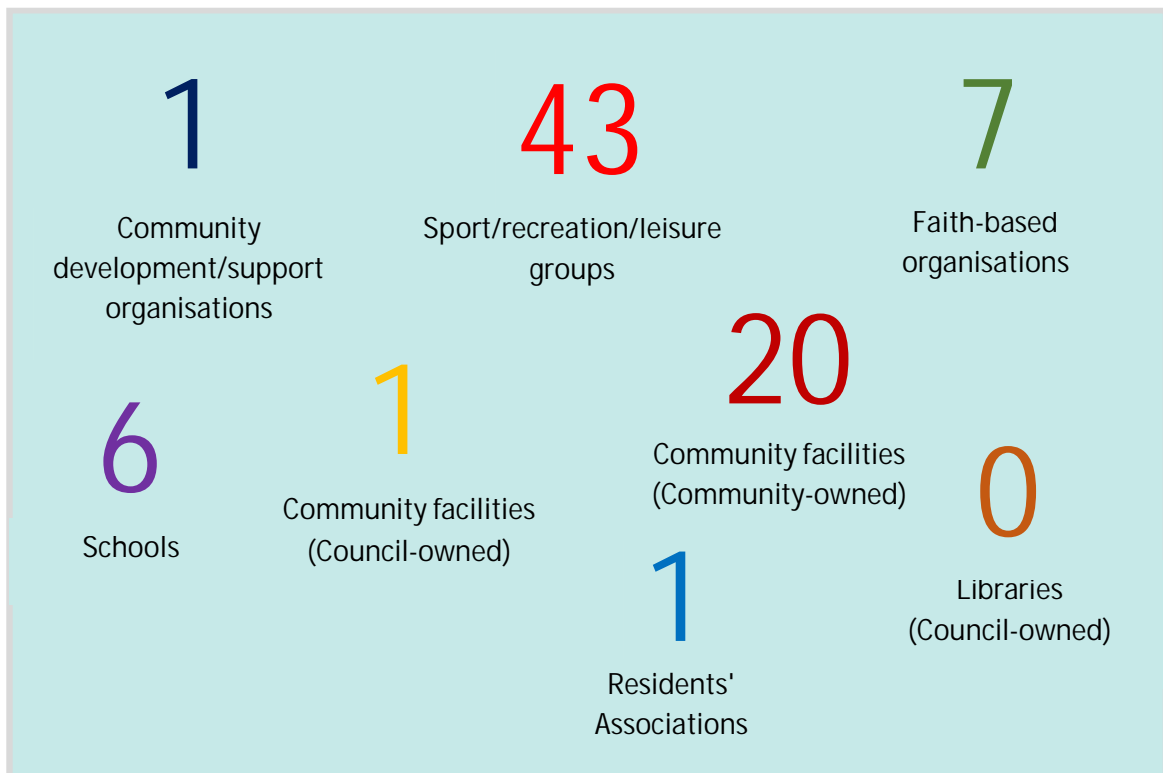


The Waimairi Ward in terms of the deprivation index has 65 percent of the community living between deprivation levels 3-6, which means most people in the ward would appear to be comfortable, neither deprived nor affluent. While the city has around 14 percent in the high deprivation area, Waimairi sits at only 1.2 percent of the community in high deprivation. This area of deprivation is concentrated in just a few streets in the suburb of Burnside.

The average income of someone living in the Waimairi Ward is around \$33,000. Across the income levels, the area is fairly evenly spread and consistent with the city statistics, with a few more in the highest income level and the lowest income levels again evening this out.



# Community Infrastructure

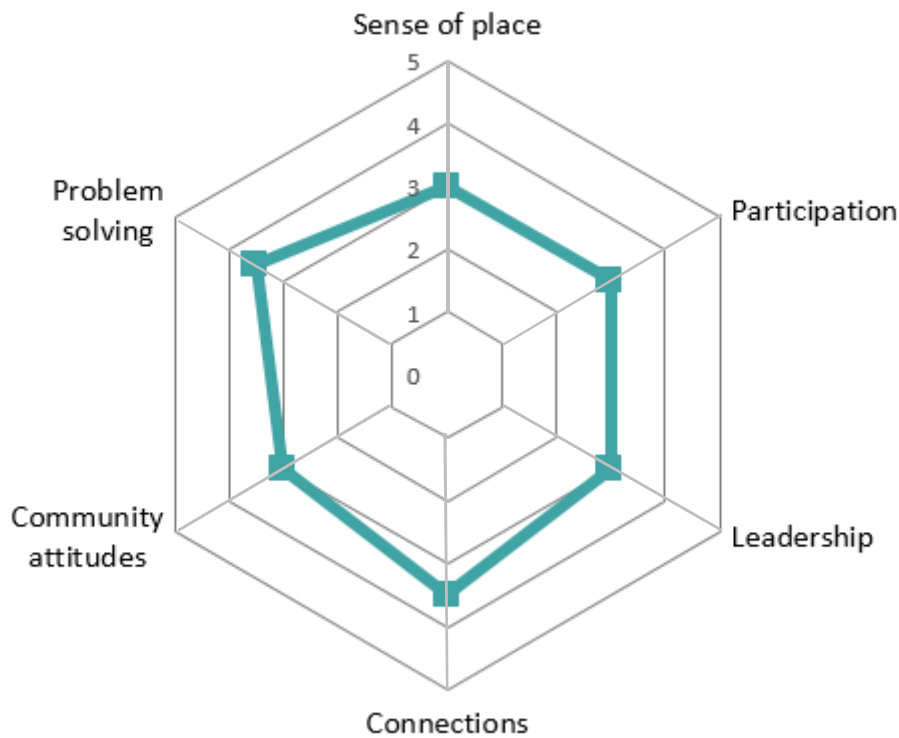


While there is no Council library and only one small Council facility in the ward, there is a strong social infrastructure in the area that stems mainly from the faith based organisations. They work well together with collaborative and complimentary programmes.

There are many smaller interest groups and many of the sports groups are in the Avonhead and Burnside areas which have the two large parks. In total there are around 70 community connection places with churches, sports clubs and community facilities in the area. The six schools and large parks with sports clubs on site mean there are numerous facilities available for community use, some of which are quite large including the Burnside High School Aurora Centre which is a purpose built performing arts centre.

The one small, Council-owned community facility is at Avice Hill Reserve on Memorial Avenue. This provides a lovely setting for the Avice Hill Arts and Craft Centre. This building was gifted to the Council for community use with a focus, as the name suggests, on supporting or providing a space for arts and craft groups. The craft room has a lino floor, a sink and workbench for any "messier" crafts.

# Community Capacity Map



Scale: 1 = Low 5 = High

## Measures and Indicators

Sense of place - Residents are familiar with their town's (local) history and have an affinity with the place. (3)

Participation - Residents support local groups with their money or time. (3)

Leadership - Leadership is strong and participatory; leaders are accessible. (3)

Connections - Residents are trusting and inclusive of others. (3.5)

Community attitudes - Residents have a positive attitude towards their community and its future. (3)

Problem assessment - Residents communicate to identify problems and take action. (3.5)

Note:

The above ratings have been allocated based on a number of factors including:

- Residents' responses to the above indicators in the Christchurch City Council's annual Life in Christchurch Survey.
- Feedback from key local community organisations and stakeholders (including local elected members).
- The Council's Community Development Adviser's and Community Recreation Adviser's knowledge and experience of working in the local area.



# Community Outcomes

The Community Outcomes have been developed as part of the Council's Strategic Framework, which provides a big picture view of what the Council is trying to achieve for the community.

The Community Outcomes describe what we aim to achieve for Christchurch. They are:

- Resilient communities
- Liveable city
- Healthy environment
- Prosperous economy

You can view the Council's Strategic Framework and read more about the Community Outcomes here: <https://ccc.govt.nz/the-council/how-the-council-works/20182028-vision/strategic-framework>

The narrative below provides an overview of the area in relation to each of the outcomes.

## Resilient Communities

There are around 22,554 people in the Waimairi Ward. The average age of someone living in the ward is 40 years old. The majority of people living in the area are of European descent (69 percent) a little lower than the city which has 78 percent. The next highest ethnicity in the community are those of Asian descent (26 percent) which is 11 percent higher than across the city sitting on 15 percent.

The Waimairi Ward is a popular place to live as it is close to good schools, with plenty of green spaces and recreational opportunities, ease of access to the central city and travel routes in and out of the city.

There are a good number of community organisations and sport and recreation groups providing activities in the area. The social services connect well and show a desire to collaborate to support the local community with needed services. Many churches in the area are very active in delivering social services and programmes in response to community demand. A large number of the programmes run have a children and youth focus and some of these have developed to cater for the areas ethnic diversity.

An example of this is in 2020 three churches, St Christopher's Anglican, Avonhead Baptist and St Marks Presbyterian churches joined together to launch the Olive Branch Community Food Pantry. This was in direct response to those impacted by COVID19 to provide support to families struggling due to loss of work or a decrease in income.

The Waimairi Ward is home to Burnside High School which is one of the largest secondary schools in New Zealand, with about 2,600 students and 200 staff. The school also has a large purpose-built performing arts centre, the Aurora Centre. The Aurora Centre is a state of the art, multi-purpose venue designed for the presentation of a wide range of activities. The venue complex is air-conditioned and contains a large auditorium, a meeting and functions room, dressing rooms and foyer areas. The auditorium accommodates 700 people in ergonomically designed, tiered seating. This gives the school professional performance events of all scales. After school hours, the centre is run as a professional venue, hosting many touring acts and community events. After the earthquakes of 2010 and 2011 the venue became a key venue for the arts sector when the future of other performance venues was unclear. Burnside High School is also the official site for a civil defence welfare centre if required in a disaster.

The other five schools in the area are Primary schools. As a result of the Government's Education Review Burnside Primary School and Kendal Primary School were marked for closure. Burnside Primary received a reprieve but Kendal Primary School closed in 2013. While the future of the buildings or the land is still ultimately unknown community activities continue to run from the school. Included in this community

activity is the well-attended Bishopdale Menzshed (established in 2014) who are based in the Scout Den out the back of the school. The Menzshed frequently support community projects and have gone from strength to strength both in numbers and in terms of their support of the community and projects.

There are a large number of Neighbourhood Support groups in the area and in a survey of the Avonhead area in 2019 it was reported that feeling safe was one of the key aspects for people living in the area. Recently some people in that area say they believe there is an increase in criminal activity. The Community Board in their Community Board Plan 2020-2022 have included a priority of developing community safety initiatives across the board area, "particularly in the Avonhead/Russley and Bishopdale areas."

## Liveable City

As of February 2019 there were approximately 2,600 businesses employing 9,300 people in the Waimairi Ward. Among these businesses is the Avonhead Mall on Withells Road. This contains 18 shops, including a Countdown supermarket, ANZ bank, Kiwibank/NZ PostShop, a restaurant and bar.

The Council has 19 Social Housing Units in the Waimairi Ward in Withells Road, Avonhead.

There are approximately 8,901 privately occupied dwellings in the area. Of these 56 percent are privately owned in whole or part, 15 percent are held in a family trust and 29 percent are neither of these. The average rent in the area from the 2018 Census stats was higher than the city average of \$350, at \$420 per week. The highest rental area being Ilam North at \$450 per week. Rentals in Burnside averaged \$400 from the census in 2018 and as of February 2021 according to Tenancy Services website the average market rent in Burnside is now \$460 per week.

There is good access to green spaces including Crosbie Park, Avonhead Park and Burnside Park. Burnside Park is a 29 hectare sports park providing a range of recreational opportunities from walking and picnicking to organised sports. It has excellent sporting facilities for rugby, soccer, squash, tennis and cricket. There is also a unique wooded area in the park that includes some notable trees and historic plantings. The Russley Golf Course is also located in this area and there are two Council-owned cemeteries in the Waimairi Ward, Avonhead Park Cemetery and Waimairi. Avonhead Park has been identified by residents and subsequently supported by the Community Board to receive "Big Belly Bins" to help reduce the cost of maintenance at the Park and support community use.

Dakota Park is Christchurch Airport's 80-hectare freight and logistics precinct with direct air and land connections to wherever you need to be. With direct access to State Highway 1 and the city just 20 minutes away, Dakota Park offers both location and quality for Airport businesses and calls itself the airport campus. It is located in the Avonhead area of the Waimairi Ward.

There is also the Airport Business Park on 2.78 hectares at 92 Russley Road. It is a low rise office development in a gated community. With transport links giving easy quick access North, South and West, while still in close proximity to the city centre and shopping malls the business park is fully tenanted.

The development of the Business Park saw major traffic and parking issues for nearby residents. Parking restrictions were approved by the Community Board in 2013 to help remedy some of the problems residents have been experiencing. There is constant monitoring of the area and contact with residents as the lack of car parking for residents and increased traffic on the roads still create issues.

## Healthy Environment

Noise and air pollution from the airport are of concern to residents but there is a committee that meets to address this and the Community Board have a representative that sits on this to sort any issues that may arise.

The Waimairi and Ilam streams run through the Waimairi Ward. Residents have been concerned that the inner-city Christchurch streams are vanishing and drying up. Low water levels have been common in the last few years and this has affected many of Canterbury's waterways in recent months. The regional council attributes this to dry weather. Many are concerned it may signal the beginning of the end for Christchurch's waterways.

The neighbours of the Ilam stream (NOTIS), with board support, held a planting day in conjunction with the local girl guides in 2019. They are looking to do more projects around the area and have ideas to support the Council to support the return of the free flowing stream.

Due to the high use of Avonhead Park the Community Board in conjunction with Council staff will be resourcing the placement of "Big Belly Bins" in Avonhead Park. The bins have a built-in compactor that crushes the rubbish and gives them a capacity six times greater than a standard waste bin. This reduces the maintenance required of the bins and emptying them and means they can be used more by park users.

## Prosperous Economy

As at February 2019, the Waimairi Ward had approximately 2,600 businesses employing 9,300 people.

Out of those 2,600 businesses, the top six industry types (in order) are as follows:

1. Rental, Hiring and Real Estate Services
2. Professional, Scientific and Technical Services
3. Construction
4. Financial and Insurance Services
5. Accommodation and Food Services
6. Administration and Support Services

The Waimairi Ward has large areas of business/industries, including the Airport Business Park and the Roydvale Ave/Sir William Pickering Drive business area. A number of these businesses relocated to the area following the 2011 earthquake.

There are a variety of smaller shopping precincts including the Avonhead Mall, Kendall Avenue shops, Wairakei/Greens Road shops and the Staveley Street shops.

According to 2018 Census data, 47 percent of people aged over 15 years are in full-time employment, 16 percent in part-time employment, 4 percent are unemployed and 33 percent are not in the labour force. Eighteen percent are in receipt of NZ Superannuation, which is only slightly higher than the city wide figure of 17 percent.

Thirteen percent of people in the Waimairi Ward are self-employed or work in a business that they own. This is only slightly higher than the city wide figure of 12 percent.

Twenty four percent of people in the Waimairi Ward receive income from interest, dividends, rent or other investments which is higher than the city wide figure of 18 percent.

Eighteen percent of people in the Waimairi Ward have an annual income over \$70,000 which again is only slightly higher than the city wide figure of 16 percent.

# Current Community Issues

Issue	Progress to date / outcomes
<p>Community perceived increasing crime in the Avonhead and Russley areas.</p>	<p><u>February 2021</u></p> <p>The Community Board have a priority of developing community safety initiatives across the board area, "particularly in the Avonhead/Russley and Bishopdale areas." Council Governance Staff have met with Neighbourhood Support, The North Patrol and NZ Police to look into the reported statistics and consider a pilot Community Safety Partnership project.</p>
<p>Traffic congestion and parking issues around the airport Business Park.</p>	<p><u>February 2021</u></p> <p>Parking restrictions were approved by the Community Board in 2013. These restrictions continue to be monitored by Christchurch City Council transport staff who are in regular contact with the residents' group.</p>
<p>Feedback from a community survey in 2019 suggests there are older adults, particularly in the Avonhead area, who are socially isolated and need community support.</p>	<p><u>February 2021</u></p> <p>St Marks runs a foot clinic and provides a connecting newsletter. The Avonhead Community Trust in 2020 developed their community connections project for elderly people to get to know one another and their organisation. Both of these project receive Community Board funding to operate.</p>