

Palmerston North Community Outcomes Monitoring

2008 Update Report

Councils have to facilitate the process of identifying the community outcomes every six years. The current community outcomes for Palmerston North were identified in 2005. Councils also have to monitor the outcomes at least once every three years.

The Palmerston North City Council has agreed to prepare a major report every three years and prepare a brief update report in the other two years. A major report was prepared in 2006. This update report focuses on exceptions or changes from the trends identified in the major report.

The results show that the City is continuing to move towards the community outcomes. The one area where there is mixed results is People feel Safe.

There has been a major reduction in crime and the City has moved up from 36th to 7th in a list of the best places for low crime figures. However, reported violent crime has increased, as has the number of traffic accidents causing injury. Residents' satisfaction levels with safety in public places at night is lower than it was in 2006 - although it is still higher than it was in the early 2000s.

Violent crime and traffic accidents are both areas where peoples' behaviour has a major impact on the outcome. This clearly shows that the community outcomes are not just the responsibility of organisations.

There was been good employment growth in the City since 2000; however this may change with the international economic downturn.

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| 2008 Update - Moved away from the Community Outcomes | <p align="center"><i>Community Outcomes Situation in 2006 Report and 2007 Update</i></p> <p>2008 Update – No change</p> | 2008 Update - Moved towards the Community Outcomes |
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| | <p><i>People have lots of fun things to do</i> <u>2006/7:</u> <i>There is a wide range of leisure facilities and activities in Palmerston North and people are generally satisfied with the opportunities they have to participate in formal and informal leisure activities. Less than 10% of respondents are disappointed.</i></p> <p><u>2008:</u> there is no updated data on the number of leisure opportunities. Nationally there has been a drop in the number of people who actively participate in sport and recreation; however Palmerston North has higher levels of involvement. There has also been a move from organised sport to social recreation.</p> | |

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| <p>Violent crime has increased by 5% in the past year (compared with 11% nationally). Some of this is probably due to people being more likely to report family violence. Alcohol is a factor in many incidents of violence.</p> <p>Satisfaction with safety in public places at night has remained at its 2007 level.</p> <p>Despite ongoing road safety improvements, driver behaviour (speeding, drinking alcohol and failing to give way) has meant an increase in injury and fatal vehicle crashes.</p> | <p>People feel safe</p> <p><i><u>2006:</u> Many organisations are involved in safety and their work is having a positive impact in Palmerston North - safety has improved over the past five years and people feel safer.</i></p> <p><i><u>2007:</u> safety emerged as more of an issue in 2007. Crime and safety was the “number one issue facing Palmerston North” in the community outcomes survey. Satisfaction with safety in public places dropped in the last two years (from 67% to 51% who are fairly / very satisfied) - although it is still higher than it was in the early 2000s.</i></p> <p><u>2008:</u> SafeCity Host figures show that the number of fighting and disorder incidents in the CBD has been steady for the last three years (although there has been an increase in the first four months of 2008/9). The number of structural fires has remained fairly constant over the past four years.</p> | <p>Overall, crime dropped by 10% in the past year. Palmerston North has improved from 36th to 7th in a list of the best places for low crime figures. This is a result of organisations working together on prevention and enforcement strategies.</p> <p>ACC workplace injuries have dropped (data is up to 2006).</p> |

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| | <p>Palmerston North is attractive, clean and green</p> <p><u>2006/7:</u> Most people are happy with the look and feel of the City. Between 2003 and 2007 there has been a drop in satisfaction with the “look and feel of the City” from 64% to 54%. 21% are not satisfied. The State of the Environment Report 2005 concludes that the water quality in the Manawatu River is moderate, with most indicators being satisfactory 40-60% of the time. During the swimming season water standards are satisfactory for swimming most (65-85%) of the time.</p> <p><u>2008:</u> There has been no change in data since 2006/7. There has been an increase in peoples’ environmental awareness on a range of issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality of our rivers/streams is decreasing • Restoring biodiversity • Climate Change Issues • Management of our waste; recycling initiatives • Impact of peak oil; alternative modes of transport • Bio fuels, energy efficiency, renewable energy • Sustainable land use, development and building initiatives | |

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| | <p>Businesses grow here and people have lots of job opportunities <u>2006/7:</u> <i>Manawatu-Wanganui had strong economic growth over the past five years. This has led to job and business growth in Palmerston North and the number of people receiving an unemployment benefit has dropped substantially. The number of people on a benefit continues to drop.</i></p> <p><u>2008:</u> From June 2007 to June 2008 the number of people receiving a means test benefit remained relatively constant at around 5050.</p> | <p>Employment has grown strongly in Palmerston North since 2000, but slightly less than at the national level.</p> <p>Most of the growth was in health & community services, construction, retail trade, and property & business services. Transport & storage, and personal & other services also grew strongly. Education sector employment growth was below the average for the city and its share of jobs in the city is likely to decline.</p> <p>The international economic downturn may change the results in this area over the next few years.</p> |
| | <p>People have lots of learning opportunities <u>2006/7:</u> <i>There is a wide range of formal and informal learning opportunities in Palmerston North and people are taking advantage of these - Palmerston North people have high education participation rates and high levels of qualification.</i></p> <p><u>2008:</u> No change. Palmerston North participation rates in early childhood education are particularly high compared to New Zealand for Maori and Pacific Island children.</p> | |

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| | <p>It is easy to move around the Palmerston North <u>2006:</u> Nearly everybody is happy with the way traffic flows around the City during off-peak times. Satisfaction with the way traffic flows during peak times is lower, but still about two-thirds people are at least fairly satisfied. Satisfaction with peak traffic flows has been steadily improving over time. <u>2007 update:</u> there has been a drop in satisfaction with moving around the City at peak periods - from 64% in 2006 to 52% in 2007</p> | <p>Satisfaction with moving around the City at peak times has increased - now nearly three quarters of people are fairly or very satisfied.</p> |
| | <p>The City's infrastructure is reliable <u>2006/7:</u> The City's infrastructure has been well maintained and is in good condition.</p> | <p>Considerable work has been done to improve the condition of the City's water supply network in order to address the discoloured water problem.</p> |
| | <p>The community is supportive and people and organisations work together <u>2006:</u> Palmerston North has a wide range of organisations and voluntary groups providing social support services. Community spirit in the City has increased markedly, with about three quarters of residents saying it is good or very good. <u>2007 update:</u> last year's increase in community spirit has disappeared.</p> <p>Satisfaction with community spirit has increased to 67%. This is about the level it was before 2006.</p> | |

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| | <p>People are healthy and well-housed</p> <p><i><u>2006/7:</u> Palmerston North people generally have good health that matches or betters the rest of the MidCentral Health area. Housing in Palmerston North is less crowded than in other major cities. It is also relatively affordable for most people in the City.</i></p> <p><u>2008:</u> No change in health status.</p> | <p>House prices dropped by 8% (in the 12 months to August) so houses are more affordable.</p> <p>The number of people on Housing New Zealand waiting lists has dropped by 18% since 2006</p> |