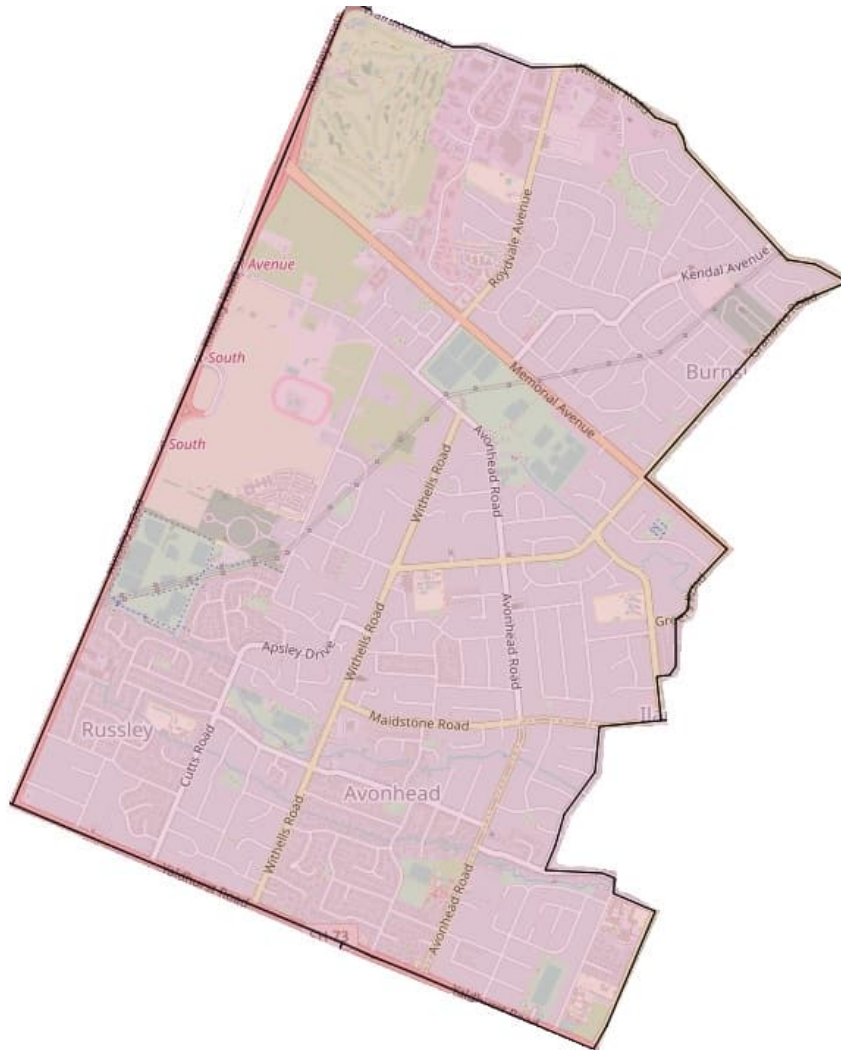


# WAIMAIRI WARD PROFILE

February 2023



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, Upper Riccarton Domain and the Russley Golf Club.

The area has six schools, five primary and one secondary. It has the Avonhead shopping mall and is also handy to two of Christchurch's larger malls, Westfield Riccarton and the Hornby Hub.

# Facts and figures

## Demographic Summary (2018 Census Data)

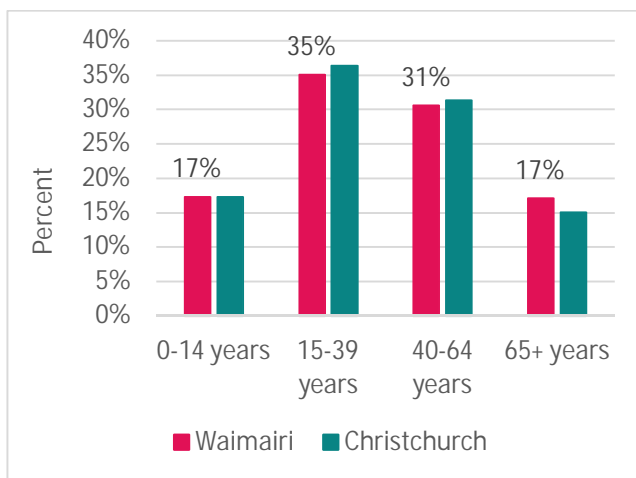
### Population

The population within the Waimairi Ward boundary is: 23,130

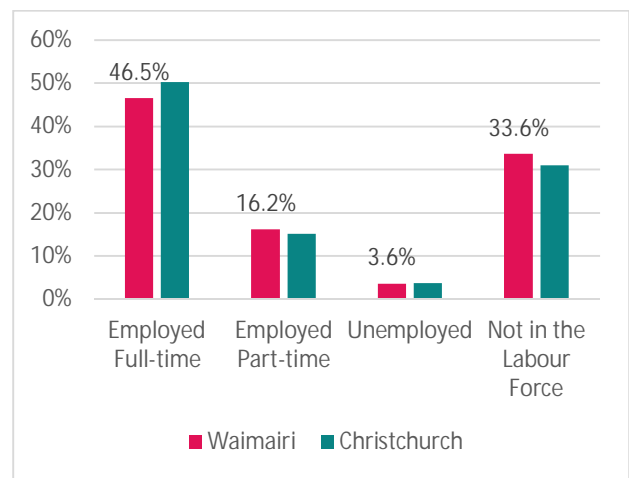


Number of Occupied Private Dwellings: 8,256

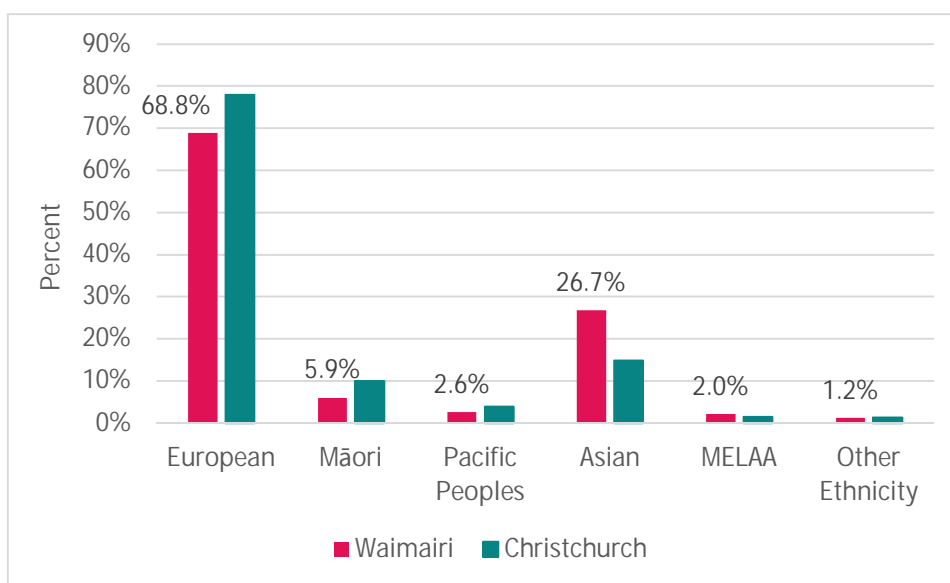
### AGE



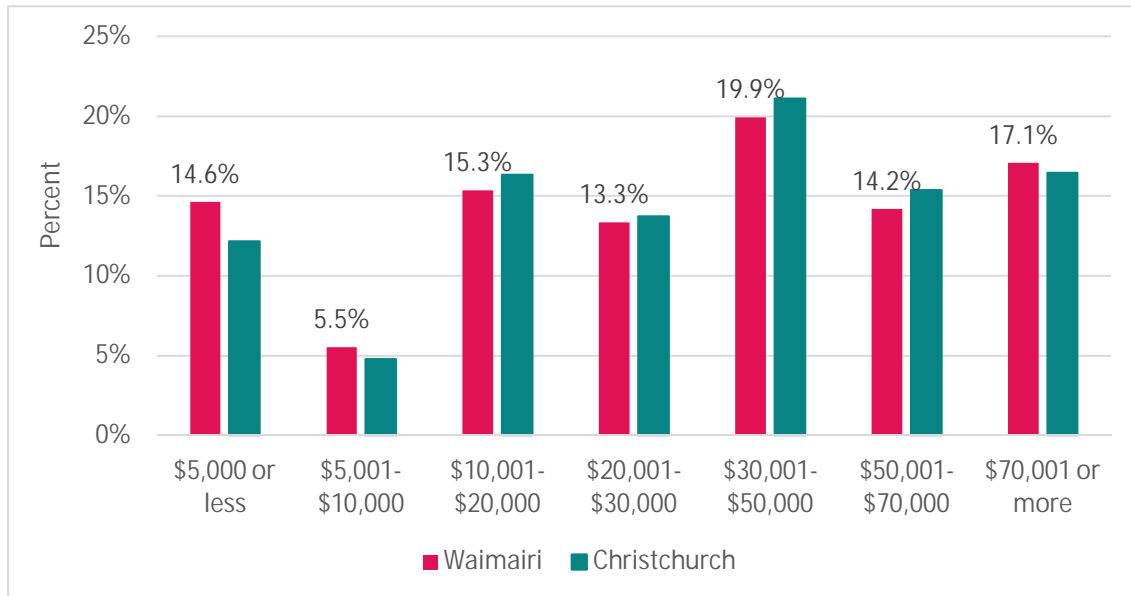
### WORK AND LABOURFORCE STATUS



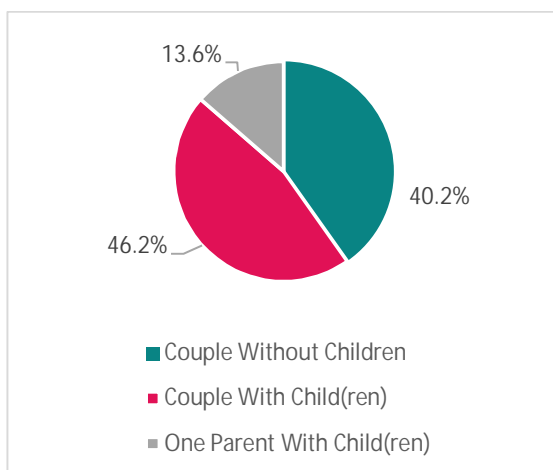
### ETHNICITY



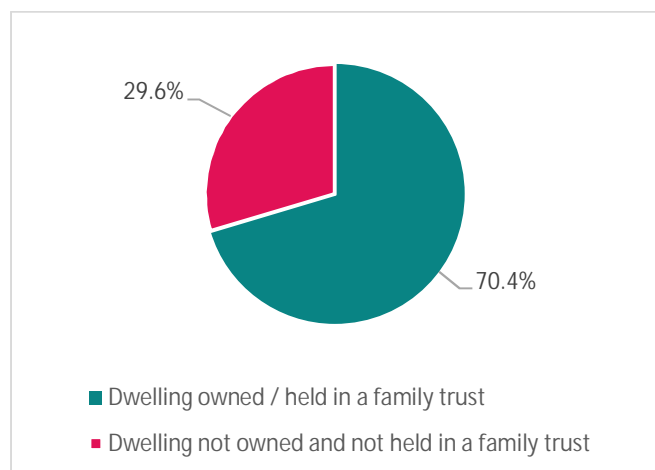
## PERSONAL INCOME



## FAMILY TYPE



## TENURE OF HOUSEHOLDS



## Facilities and Amenities

- 1 Council owned social housing complex with 19 units
- 1 Council owned community facility: Avice Hill Arts and Craft Centre
- 1 shopping centre: Avonhead Mall
- 6 schools: 5 primary and 1 secondary (Providing Year 7 – 13 education)
- 2 Council-owned cemeteries: Avonhead Park and Waimairi
- Approximately 2,463 businesses employing 9,401 people (Feb 2021)

# Socio-economic Deprivation

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

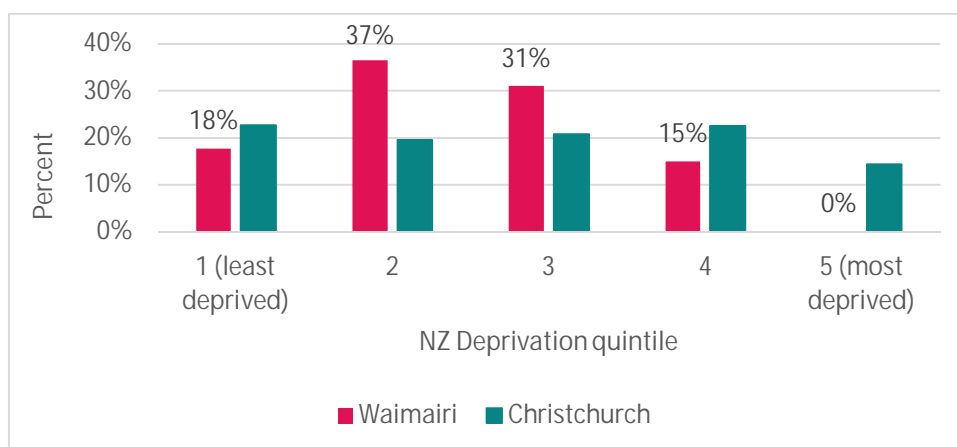
- Application in funding formulas
- Research in especially health and other social services. For example, in the health sector, many researchers use the indexes to describe the relationship between socioeconomic deprivation and health outcomes
- Community groups and community-based service providers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

- Relative to the rest of Christchurch City, Waimairi ward had lower levels of deprivation overall.
- Waimairi ward did not have any areas classed as 'most deprived' (i.e. deciles 9 and 10, or quintile 5). For Christchurch City, 14 per cent of the population lived in areas classed as 'most deprived'.
- Around 18 per cent of this ward's population lived in the 'least deprived' areas (i.e. deciles 1 and 2), compared with 23 per cent of all of Christchurch City's population.

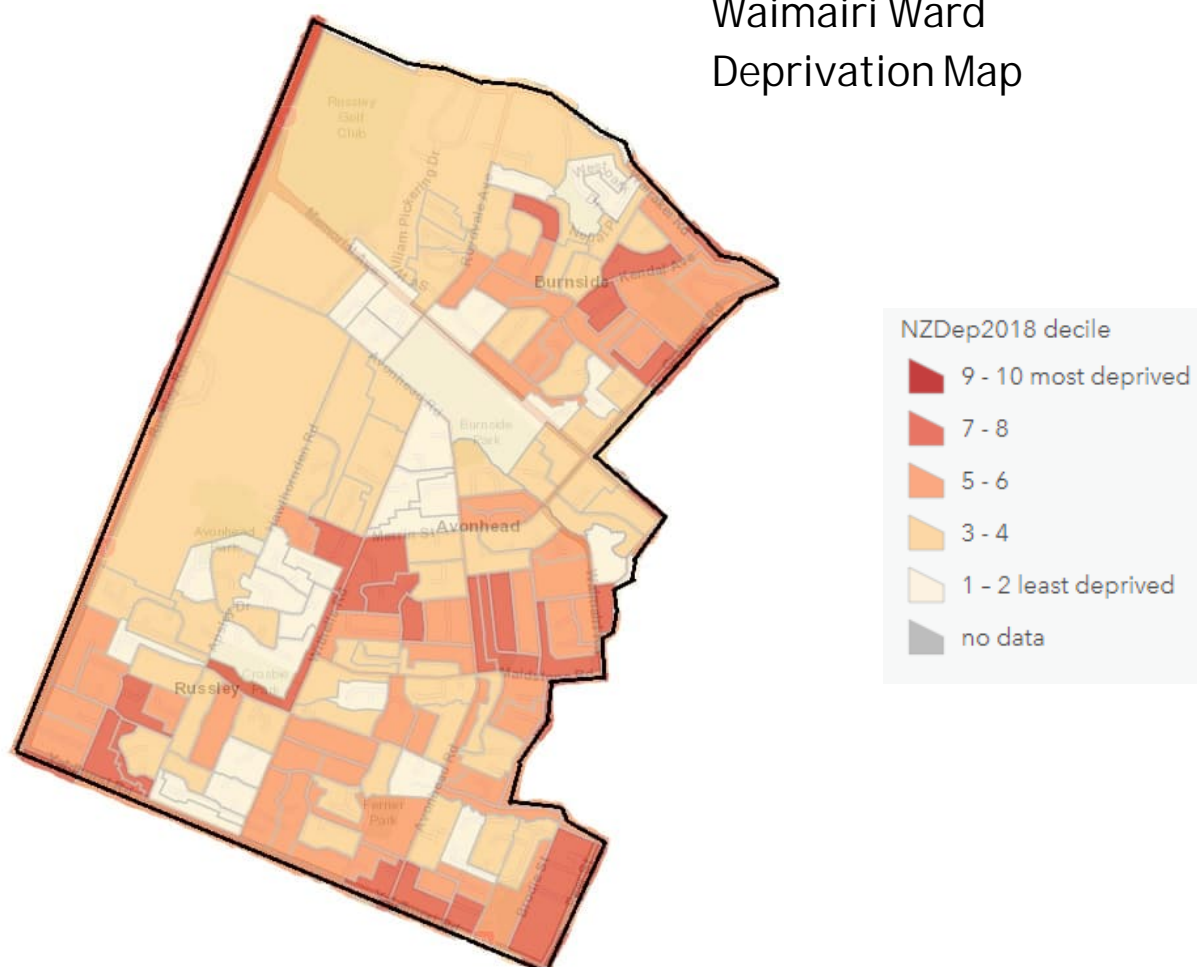


For more information and to view the full NZ Deprivation map visit:

<http://www.ehinz.ac.nz/indicators/population-vulnerability/socioeconomic-deprivation-profile/>

(Massey University)

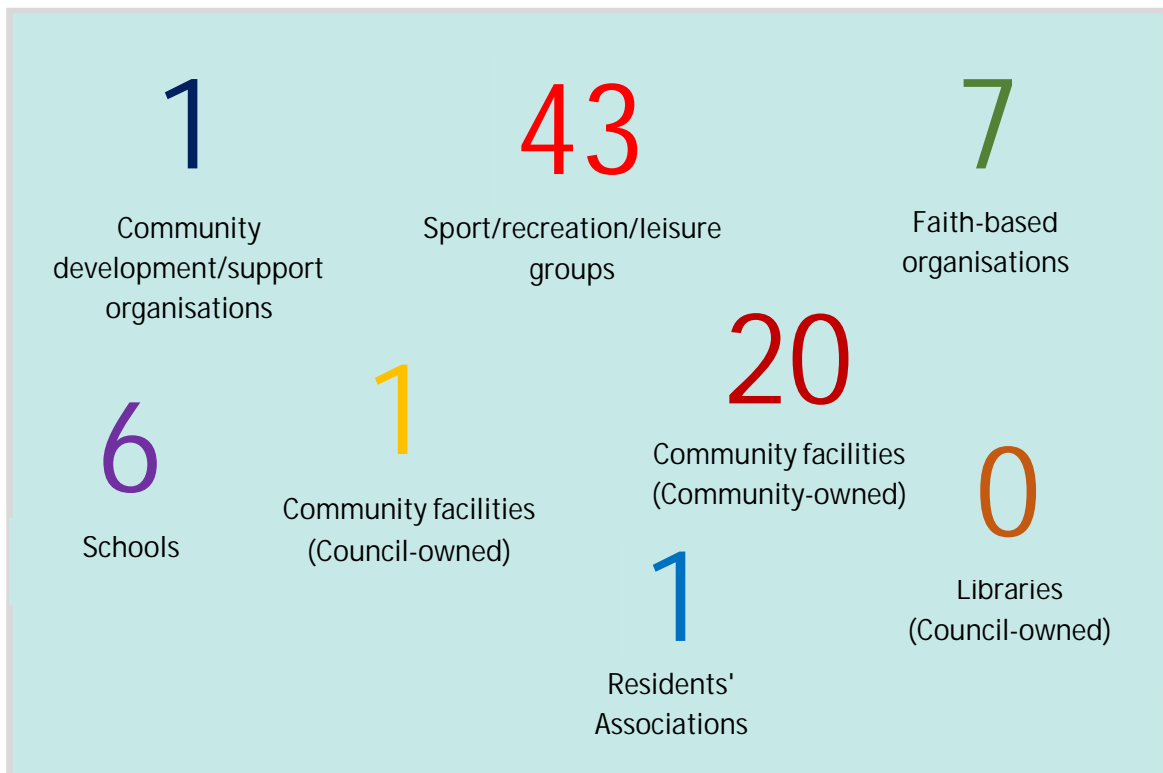
## Waimairi Ward Deprivation Map



The Waimairi Ward in terms of the deprivation index has 68 percent of the community living between deprivation deciles 3-6, which means most people in the ward are considered neither deprived nor affluent. While the city has around 14 percent in the high deprivation area, Waimairi Ward has no people considered to be in the high deprivation category (deciles 9-10).

The average income of someone living in the Waimairi Ward is around \$31,000. 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



Although the Waimairi Ward doesn't have a Council library, there is a strong social infrastructure in the area thanks to the faith-based organisations. These groups collaborate well with each other and offer complementary programs.

There are also many smaller interest groups and sports clubs, with a concentration in the Avonhead and Burnside areas which have two large parks.

Overall, 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 provide numerous facilities available for community use.

The only Council-owned community facility in the ward is located at Avice Hill Reserve on Memorial Avenue. This facility offers a lovely setting for the Avice Hill Arts and Craft Centre. The building was gifted to the Council for community use, with a focus on supporting arts and crafts groups.

# 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

The Waimairi Ward is a residential area located in the northern part of Christchurch. It has a population of approximately 23,130 people, with an average age of 38.

**Demographics:** The majority of residents in the Waimairi Ward are of European descent, accounting for 69 percent of the population. This figure is slightly lower than the city's average of 78 percent. The next largest ethnic group in the community are those of Asian descent, making up 27 percent of the population. This figure is significantly higher than the city's average of 15 percent.

**Community Features:** The Waimairi Ward is a desirable location for residents due to its many attractive features. These include its proximity to good schools, abundant green spaces, recreational opportunities, easy access to the central city, and convenient travel routes in and out of the area. The community is fortunate to have a range of community organisations, and sports and recreation groups that provide various activities for its residents. Social services are well-connected and eager to collaborate to provide essential services to the local community. Many churches in the area also provide social services and programmes that cater to the area's diverse population, with a focus on children, youth and older adults.

**Avonhead/Russley Community Safety Partnership Project:** In 2021, Council Governance Staff, Neighbourhood Support, The North Community Patrol, and NZ Police collaborated to investigate reported statistics and pilot a Community Safety Partnership project in the Avonhead/Russley area. The project involved developing and distributing a safety information booklet to households in the area, containing information about existing services available and providing tips for residents on how to keep their homes and property secure. A survey was included in the booklet to gather information from residents about their perceptions of community safety and to identify key issues. The feedback was positive, with many residents reporting feeling safe in their homes and the community. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, community meetings were not held, but partners collaborated to create a video to report the key results and address feedback. In August 2022, a Community Safety Expo was held at Russley School, and as a final step in the Avonhead and Russley initiative, one hundred "lock it loose it" signs will be displayed around the area.

**Burnside Community Transformation Trust Survey and Working Group:** In 2022, a social researcher conducted a survey on behalf of members of the Burnside Community Transformation Trust to determine what residents liked most about Burnside. The survey found that participants appreciated the easy access to amenities, parks, good neighbours, feeling safe, great schools, and the ease of getting around.



However, respondents also expressed concerns about feeling socially isolated and unsafe, crime, traffic, speed and lack of safe cycling routes, litter, council issues, the cost of living, noise from the airport, and the lack of community events. Respondents suggested solutions to these issues, including the need for more community social events to help connect with neighbours and a youth and community hub. In response to the survey, around twenty community, sport, and recreation groups that serve the Burnside community came together at the end of 2022 to see how they could work together to meet the needs and aspirations of the community. A working group has been established to agree on the next steps.

**Burnside Business Crime Prevention Meeting:** At the end of 2022, a local Burnside business owner raised concerns about the increase in crime affecting them and neighbouring businesses. The Waimāero Fendalton-Waimairi-Harewood Community Board was approached and organised a Burnside Business Crime Prevention meeting for local businesses in January 2023. Over fifty people attended the meeting, including Waimairi Councillor Sam MacDonald, MP Sarah Pallett, NZ Police, Christchurch North Community Patrols, and Canterbury Neighbourhood Support. The meeting provided local businesses with the opportunity to have an open discussion and explore possible crime prevention initiatives for the area, and tangible actions arose from the discussion.

The community safety initiatives developed and implemented in the Avonhead/Russley and Burnside areas demonstrate a collaborative effort between various community groups, local authorities, and residents to address concerns about increasing criminal activity and safety issues.

## Liveable City

The Waimairi Ward in Christchurch is a dynamic and vibrant area comprising various businesses, social housing units, privately owned homes, green spaces, and sports facilities. The community is diverse and flourishing, with good community amenities and educational opportunities. With its numerous attractive features and robust community spirit, the Waimairi Ward is a highly sought-after location for residents.

**Businesses:** As of February 2019, the Waimairi Ward had approximately 2,463 businesses employing 9,401 people. One of these businesses is the Avonhead Mall on Withells Road, which houses 18 shops, including a Countdown supermarket, ANZ bank, Kiwibank/NZ PostShop, and a restaurant and bar.

**Social Housing:** The Council provides 19 social housing units in the Waimairi Ward, located on Withells Road in Avonhead.

**Privately Occupied Dwellings:** There are around 8,256 privately occupied dwellings in the Waimairi Ward, with 70% privately owned or held in a family trust and 30% neither.

**Green Spaces and Sports Facilities:** The Waimairi Ward boasts several green spaces, such as Crosbie Park, Avonhead Park, and Burnside Park. Burnside Park, a 29-hectare sports park, provides excellent sporting facilities for rugby, soccer, squash, tennis, and cricket and also has a unique wooded area with notable trees and historic plantings. The Russley Golf Course is also located in the area, and there are two Council-owned cemeteries: Avonhead Park Cemetery and Waimairi. The green space per population of the neighbourhood and Sports Park is 44 meters squared.

**Boundary Changes and Sports Hub:** The 2022 boundary changes to the city's wards saw Upper Riccarton Domain move into the Waimairi Ward from the Riccarton Ward. The Riccarton Sports Hub is based on the domain and comprises Riccarton Cricket Club, FC Twenty 11 Football Club and Riccarton Domain Tennis Club. They have long-term plans to build a sports hub in the Domain. The project is halted at present while funding is sourced.

**Schools:** There are five primary schools in the Waimairi Ward, Avonhead School, Russley School, Merrin School Ngā Whetū Kohara, Westburn School and Te Ara Maurea Roydvale School. Kendal Primary School closed in 2013 due to the government's Education Review. However, community activities still run from the school, including the Bishopdale Menzshed, which was established in 2014 and based in the Scout



Den at the back of the school. The Menzshed actively supports community projects and has grown in numbers, making it an integral part of the community.

**Recent Changes** The 2022 local body elections resulted in boundary changes to the city's wards. Burnside High School was moved from the Waimairi Ward into the Fendalton Ward, while Villa Maria College was added to the Waimairi Ward from the Riccarton Ward. Villa Maria College is a Year 7 to 13 Girls Catholic State Integrated School, with its school grounds also housing the Catherine MacAuley Centre, which is used both within and outside school hours.

**Big Belly Bins in Avonhead Park:** Avonhead Park was selected by residents and supported by the Community Board to receive "Big Belly Bins" to reduce maintenance costs and encourage community use. In May 2021, the Council installed a "smart bin" in the Park.

**Dakota Park and Airport Business Park:** Dakota Park is Christchurch Airport's 80-hectare freight and logistics precinct, which has direct air and land connections to various locations. Located in the Avonhead area of the Waimairi Ward, it offers both location and quality for airport businesses and calls itself the airport campus.

The Airport Business Park, situated at 92 Russley Road on 2.78 hectares of land, is a low-rise office development in a gated community. With transport links providing easy access to the North, South, and West and being close to the city centre and shopping malls, the business park is fully tenanted.

**Traffic and Parking Issues:** However, the development of the Business Park led to major traffic and parking issues for nearby residents. In 2013, the Community Board approved parking restrictions to address some of these problems, and the number of issues raised to the Council has since significantly decreased. However, residents raised concerns about traffic safety in the area during the Board's Avonhead/Russley safety survey in 2021. As a result, the Board has identified it as a priority in their 2023-25 draft plan to identify and implement traffic safety improvements in the area. Issues include the speed of traffic and poor visibility due to the layout of the road and high-density parking on the streets.

## Healthy Environment

The Waimairi Ward has faced various community issues, including airport noise and air pollution, low water levels in streams, improving the Ilam stream, and managing waste in Avonhead Park. The Community Board, Council staff, and various local groups have been working to address these issues and find solutions to improve the quality of life for residents in the Waimairi Ward.

**Airport Noise and Air Pollution:** Residents in the Waimairi Ward have been concerned about the noise and air pollution from the airport. To address this issue, a committee was formed, and the Community Board appointed a representative to address any arising issues. The committee has been working to find solutions to reduce the impact of noise and air pollution on residents.

**Low Water Levels in Waimairi and Ilam Streams:** Residents in the Waimairi Ward have been concerned about the low water levels in the Waimairi and Ilam Streams, which have been a common occurrence in recent years. The Regional Council has attributed this to dry weather. However, residents are concerned that this may signal the beginning of the end for Christchurch's waterways.

**Ilam Stream Improvement Project:** In 2019, the neighbours of the Ilam Stream, with board support, held a planting day in conjunction with the local girl guides at the Ilam Stream at Crosbie Park. Council staff indicated to the Board in 2021 that the only viable option to improve the Ilam Stream would be to install a new bore at Crosbie Park, with an estimated cost of \$130,000. The Board successfully requested that the Council include this project in the Council's Long Term Plan, and \$150,000 was allocated for the FY 2021/22 to improve the Ilam Stream and investigate options for augmenting the flow. Council staff continues to meet with members of NOTIS to develop a project plan. In 2022, Council staff supported

NOTIS in conjunction with local groups; Russley Primary School, Russley Playcentre, and St Marks Community Centre and Church, further planting days and working bees.

Drinkable Rivers Project: The Drinkable Rivers project is concentrating on the headwaters of the Otakaro Avon River in Corfe Reserve as a target area for the initiation of their project to improve the water quality of the Otakaro Avon River. The project is a partnership between Drinkable Rivers, the Ilam & Upper Riccarton Residents Association, and Villa Maria College. The Corfe Reserve is new to the Waimairi Ward and the Community Board after being moved into the area in October 2022 following the rep review.

Big Belly Bins in Avonhead Park: Due to the high use of Avonhead Park, the Community Board, in conjunction with Council staff, resourced the placement of "Big Belly Bins" in May 2021. The bins have a built-in compactor that crushes the rubbish, giving them a capacity six times greater than a standard waste bin, reducing the required maintenance and emptying and allowing them to be used more by park users.

## Prosperous Economy

As at February 2021, the Waimairi Ward had 2,463 businesses employing 9,401 people.

Out of those 2,463 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. Retail Trade
6. Health Care and Social Assistance

The ward has several large business areas, such as the Airport Business Park and the Roydvale Ave/Sir William Pickering Drive area, which saw an influx of businesses relocating to the area following the 2011 earthquake. In addition, there are several smaller shopping precincts in the area, including the Avonhead Mall, Kendall Avenue shops, and Staveley Street shops.

According to 2018 Census data, 47 percent of individuals aged over 15 years are employed full-time in the Waimairi Ward, while 16 percent work part-time, and four percent are unemployed. About 33 percent of the population is not in the labour force, and 19 percent receive NZ Superannuation, which is slightly higher than the city-wide figure of 17 percent.

Additionally, 13 percent of the Waimairi Ward population are self-employed or own their businesses, which is slightly higher than the city-wide figure of 12 percent. About 24 percent of individuals in the area receive income from interest, dividends, rent, or other investments, which is higher than the city-wide figure of 18 percent. Finally, 18 percent of the population in the Waimairi Ward earns an annual income of over \$70,000, only slightly higher than the city-wide figure of 16 percent.

# Current Community Issues

| Issue  | Progress to date / outcomes  |
|--|--|
| <p>Reinstating the Ilam Stream and fixing the water flow issues.</p>           | <p><u>February 2022</u></p> <p>The Community Board worked with Council staff and the local community to look at ways to address the issue. Council staff responded to the Board indicating that the only viable option would be the installation of a new bore at Crosbie Park, with an estimated cost of \$130,000. The Board successfully requested that Council include this project in the Long Term Plan. The Council resolved to allocate \$150,000 in FY 2021/22 to improve the Ilam Stream and investigate options for augmenting the flow.</p> <p><u>February 2023</u></p> <p>Council staff continues to meet with members of NOTIS to develop a project plan.</p>  |
| <p>Community perceived increasing crime in the Avonhead and Russley areas.</p> | <p><u>February 2021</u></p> <p>The Community Board has identified community safety as a priority in the Avonhead/Russley and Bishopdale areas, and in February 2021, Council Governance Staff met with Neighbourhood Support, The North Patrol and NZ Police to explore a pilot project to improve community safety.</p> <p><u>February 2022</u></p> <p>In 2021, the project group distributed a Community Safety Information Foldout and surveyed to better understand the safety concerns and issues in Avonhead and Russley. The survey results were encouraging, with many residents reporting feeling safe in their homes and the community.</p> <p>The project partners are planning to host a mini expo and a public meeting in Avonhead and Russley when it is safe to do so, to bring the community together and facilitate discussions with the project partners. As a temporary measure, a video was created to report back on the survey results and address some of the issues highlighted in the feedback <a href="https://youtu.be/mQ0_TSqgoy8">https://youtu.be/mQ0_TSqgoy8</a>.</p> <p><u>February 2023</u></p> <p>In August 2022, a Community Safety Expo was held at Russley School, which brought together the community and a video of the event was created to share the highlights <a href="https://youtu.be/ULbVqbaZpk0">https://youtu.be/ULbVqbaZpk0</a>. The final step in the Avonhead and Russley initiative is to display one hundred "lock it loose it" signs around the area.</p> |

| Issue   | Progress to date / outcomes   |
|---|---|
| <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><u>February 2022</u></p> <p>The number of issues raised to the Council has significantly dropped. When they do arise, staff bring them up with the Council's Parking Enforcement Team.</p> <p><u>February 2023</u></p> <p>Residents raised concerns about traffic safety in the area during the Board's Avonhead/Russley safety survey in 2021. As a result, the Board has identified it as a priority in their 2023-25 draft plan to identify and implement traffic safety improvements in the area. Issues include the speed of traffic and poor visibility due to the layout of the road and high-density parking on the streets.</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>The St Marks foot clinic and the Avonhead Community Trust's community connections project for elderly people were both funded by the Community Board. The aim of these projects was to connect and support elderly people in the community.</p> <p><u>February 2022</u></p> <p>Both of these projects continued to receive funding from the Community Board. Additionally, local community groups responded to the increased loneliness in the community due to the impact of COVID-19. St Christopher's received funding from the Community Board to host a Christmas Carols event in their car park, bringing together a good mix of parishioners and people from the local community not associated with the church, including the older generation, young families, and youth. Several of the attendees who were alone during Christmas due to COVID-19 also joined St Christopher's shared Boxing Day lunch.</p> <p><u>February 2023</u></p> <p>The Community Board has continued to fund the older adult's projects within the Avonhead community. The projects have been successful in connecting and supporting elderly people in the community.</p> |

| Issue   | Progress to date / outcomes   |
|---|---|
| <p>Update on the Impacts of COVID-19:</p> <p>As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, community leaders and workers are feeling increasingly fatigued and overwhelmed. Despite these challenges, they remain committed to operating safely and within the COVID-19 Framework to ensure that their businesses and organisations can continue to function as usual.</p> | <p><u>February 2022</u></p> <p>Staff received feedback from key community groups and organisations in the Fendalton-Waimairi-Harewood area, prompting them to develop a series of training, support, and education topics for 2022. These resources aim to help community leaders and workers navigate this difficult time.</p> <p><u>February 2023</u></p> <p>Several community organisations within the Waimairi Ward are working hard to return to normal business after a challenging couple of years. These organisations are reviewing their offerings and ensuring that their services meet the needs of the community in the post-COVID era. Challenges they are currently facing include reconnecting with their communities, declining numbers of volunteers, seeing an increase in behavioural, mental health, and addiction problems, and difficulty securing sources of funding.</p> <p>In response to feedback from local groups, council staff are now providing a series of hui's to cover the topics of funding and community mental health and addiction services. These resources aim to provide much-needed support and guidance to community leaders and workers as they continue to navigate the ongoing impacts of COVID-19.</p> |
| <p>In 2022, a social research survey conducted within the Burnside area revealed that respondents were expressing concerns about feeling socially isolated and unsafe, as well as a lack of community events.</p>   | <p><u>February 2023</u></p> <p>Twenty community, sport, and recreation groups that serve the Burnside community came together at the end of 2022 to discuss how they could work together to meet the needs and aspirations of the community. In response to the survey, a working group has been established to agree on the next steps.</p> <p>The working group aims to address the concerns raised in the survey by fostering a greater sense of community and safety within the Burnside area. Through collaboration and joint efforts, the community, sport, and recreation groups hope to create more opportunities for social connection and community events, helping to combat social isolation and increase community engagement.</p> <p>Overall, the establishment of this working group represents a positive step forward for the Burnside community and demonstrates a commitment to creating a more connected, engaged, and safe community for all.</p>  |

| Issue   | Progress to date / outcomes  |
|---|--|
| <p>At the end of 2022, a local business owner in Burnside raised concerns about the increase in crime affecting them and neighbouring businesses.</p> | <p><u>February 2023</u></p> <p>In January 2023, a Burnside Business Crime Prevention meeting was held for businesses based in the area. The meeting was attended by over fifty people, including Waimairi Councillor Sam MacDonald, MP Sarah Pallett, Lane Todd, NZ Police, Christchurch North Community Patrols, and Canterbury Neighbourhood Support.</p> <p>The meeting provided a platform for local businesses to have an open discussion and explore possible crime prevention initiatives for the area. Attendees were able to share their concerns and experiences, and tangible actions arose from the discussion.</p> <p>Overall, the meeting was successful in bringing together key stakeholders and enabling a collaborative approach to tackling the issue of crime in Burnside. The business community was able to have a voice and work together to identify and implement effective crime prevention measures for the area. The meeting was an important step forward in addressing the concerns of local business owners and creating a safer and more secure community for all.</p> |