

Dear Professor Hawke,

The Asia New Zealand Foundation is very supportive of this initiative by the Royal Society of New Zealand to review, consider and publish views on New Zealand's rapidly changing population. We note the impressive calibre of scholars you have brought together to prepare this paper. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this initiative.

Asia New Zealand seeks to equip New Zealanders to thrive in an Asian Century. That ambition and our work takes us into schools, to the public, and to opinion leaders. To that end, the focus of our work includes:

- Broadening and deepening New Zealanders' knowledge of Asia: through forums, festivals, and online commentary.
- Providing opportunities for opinion leaders to experience Asia: through grants, the young leaders programme, Track II dialogues and honorary advisors.
- Equipping young New Zealanders to thrive in the Asian century: through cultural competency, language learning and Asia-ready for work.

This work addresses what for us are the major issues facing New Zealand in the twenty-first century, which we summarise below:

1. Equipping New Zealanders to live in an Asian century.

The Asian century is one in which New Zealand in Asia (the region, its institutions, economically) is equal to Asia in New Zealand (its people, its cities, its history, its future, its languages).

In Auckland, New Zealand already has one of the most super-diverse cities in the world; this will only increase. There is already an "Auckland effect" in New Zealand, with particular issues facing New Zealand's largest city. But there are issues that, while acute in Auckland, will affect the rest of the country, not least in how to respond in various policy and practical ways (in health, the labour market, housing, education, immigration) to an ethnically diverse population. Our own research shows an urban/rural divide in New Zealanders' attitudes toward Asian peoples. But on current trends Gore, for example, even Christchurch through its rebuild, will face the same challenges and opportunities currently seen in Auckland.

Many New Zealanders are mono-lingual, but bi- and multi-lingualism will be required for 5-year olds in 2013 to thrive in the world they will face when they graduate from university. Recognising its tangata whenua, if New Zealanders are to learn Mandarin as a core subject then they should learn Te Reo Maori in the same way too. Surveys illustrate that New Zealanders knowledge of Asia, let alone its knowledge of Asians in New Zealand, is still too limited, though these same surveys indicate there is appetite to learn more.

2. The impact of the changing demographic profile in New Zealand.

Census data may reveal the increasing numbers of Asian New Zealanders – those born in New Zealand and those who have chosen to make New Zealand their home. It will also raise important issues about New Zealand's identity: as a multicultural nation with a bicultural

framework; as a country in which ‘Asian New Zealanders’ are not (yet) considered as fully New Zealanders, even if they are born here; and as a country with history as part of the British Empire but with its present and future shaped by its place in the Asia Pacific.

3. The shifting regional balance between the US and China and its implications for New Zealand.

On this, Census data will have limited bearing but it is an issue that nonetheless will focus New Zealand’s diplomats, economists and defence planners. New Zealand’s economic links into the region – revealed through trade data as much as through formalised trading agreements – sit alongside and reinforce its institutional links into the region – through the East Asia Summit, APEC, and with ASEAN-related organisations, for example. How New Zealand navigates its international relationships, where it balances its traditional partners (Australia, Canada, the UK, the USA) alongside its new partners in Asia (notably China), will be shaped in some way by New Zealand’s changing population and its view of itself as an Asia-Pacific nation.

Drawing on Census results, the Asia New Zealand Foundation will survey, analyse and publish on these same issues during 2014, following a similar initiative we undertook after the 2006 Census. But given the importance of these issues, we are all in favour of any and all research that generates and contributes to public debate about the future of New Zealand.

We are very happy to respond to a later request for our assessment of the impact of the views of this panel on the Census results.

Yours sincerely

Dr Andrew Butcher

Research Director