

# Queenstown Fijian Community Charitable Trust

## *Building Bridges*



## **WELLBEING PLAN**

# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

We acknowledge the Iwi of Tahuna, Ngai Tahu as the traditional custodians of Tahuna (Queenstown), the place we live, work and have social gatherings. We pay our respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging and recognise their continuing connections to their land, water and Community.

We are very grateful and would like to acknowledge the following Organisations and Government Ministries for the tremendous support in funding our Trust organisation. Their funding has been instrumental in supporting our efforts to improve the Fijian Community and carry out planned activities.

These organisations and Government ministries are:

- The Department of Internal Affairs through Community Matters. Through their support we received our first funding through the Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS). We are truly grateful for the Funding that we also received through the Lottery - FFC.
- Community Trust South for having faith in our efforts to improve our Fijian Community and providing the necessary funding (Community Funding and Funding towards Cultural Uniforms) towards our planned activities for Fiji (Independence) Day.
- Central Lakes Trust for their Funding Support towards our Fiji Day Project, especially in our first year of operating.
- Ministry of Pacific Peoples for their support for the Fiji Language Week 2024

Additionally we want to express our gratitude to the Fijian Community in Tahuna for their overwhelming support and generosity.

# **INTRODUCTION**

**Cultural Preservation and Celebration:** Fijian culture is a treasure trove of traditions, language, and values that deserve preservation and celebration. By establishing the Fijian community in Queenstown, Fijians now have the opportunity to create a hub where cultural practices thrive, language is upheld, and traditions are passed down through generations. The presence of such a community not only enriches the lives of its members but also offers an invaluable opportunity for cultural exchange and understanding within the broader Tahuna/Queenstown community.

**Social Cohesion and Support:** Moving to a new country often comes with its challenges, including navigating unfamiliar systems, establishing networks, and finding support structures. The Fijian community in Queenstown can serve as a vital support network, providing assistance with integration, access to resources, and a sense of belonging for newcomers. Through community initiatives, social gatherings, and shared experiences, Fijians can forge deep connections that enhance their well-being and resilience in their adopted home.

## **OUR PEOPLE & JOURNEY**

The establishment of the Fijian community in Queenstown, holds immense promise for cultural enrichment, social cohesion, and economic empowerment. By forging partnerships with the New Zealand government ministries and leveraging available funding and support mechanisms, Fijians can turn this vision into a reality. Together, our Fijian Community can create a vibrant and inclusive community that embodies the spirit of unity, resilience, and cultural pride, enriching the fabric of Queenstown and leaving a lasting legacy for generations to come.

# VISION, MISSION STATEMENT & VALUES

**Vision:** to build a vibrant and close-knit Fijian Community in Tahuna Queenstown, where every Individual's Wellbeing, Spiritual empowerment and cultural heritage is celebrated, individuals thrive, and bonds of unity strengthen our collective spirit.

**Mission:** Our mission is to cultivate a supportive and inclusive environment that nurtures the well-being, growth, and success of Fijians in Queenstown. Through fostering cultural pride, facilitating social connections, and providing access to resources and opportunities, we aim to empower individuals to embrace their identity, contribute to the local community, and achieve their aspirations. We are committed to promoting cultural exchange, fostering understanding, and building bridges across cultures, creating a vibrant and resilient Fijian community that enhances the social, economic, and cultural landscape of Tahuna/Queenstown.

## **Our Values:**

- Inclusivity
- Integrity
- Respect
- Collaboration
- Sustainability

# **OUR WELLBEING PRIORITIES**

## **Cultural Preservation and Promotion:**

Preserve and promote Fijian culture, traditions, language, and heritage within the community.

Organise cultural events, workshops, and activities to educate both Fijians and the broader Queenstown community about Fijian culture.

## **Community Integration and Support:**

Provide the necessary support services, resources, and information to facilitate the integration of Fijians into the Queenstown community.

Foster a sense of belonging and connection among Fijians by organizing social gatherings, networking events, and community initiatives.

Collaborate with local organisations and government agencies to address the specific needs and challenges faced by Fijian newcomers.

## **Economic Empowerment and Opportunities:**

Create economic opportunities for Fijian community members through entrepreneurship, skills development, and job placement programs such as partnering with recruitment agencies.

Establish partnerships with local organisations to promote Fijian-owned enterprises and products.

Advocate for policies and initiatives that promote diversity and inclusion in the local economy for example, policies such as non-violence against women, ensuring equitable access to employment and business opportunities for Fijians.

## **Health and Well-being:**

Promote health and wellness initiatives tailored to the specific needs and preferences of the Fijian community, including culturally sensitive healthcare services and wellness programs.

Raise awareness and provide education on health issues affecting the Fijian population, such as diabetes, heart disease, and mental health challenges.

Establish partnerships with healthcare providers, community organisations, and government agencies to address health disparities and improve access to healthcare services for Fijians in Queenstown.

**Government Partnership for Funding:** Recognizing the importance of fostering diverse and inclusive communities, the New Zealand government through the MSD, MPP and other government ministries offers support for initiatives aimed at cultural enrichment and community development. Through grants, subsidies, and funding programs specifically designed for multicultural projects, the government and other stakeholders can provide financial assistance to help establish and sustain a Fijian community in Queenstown. By partnering with government agencies and community organisations, Fijians can access the necessary resources to realise their vision and create a thriving community that benefits both its members and the wider society.

## **OUR COMMUNITY**

A fundamental aspect of our community is the cultivation of our spiritual Christian Faith. Despite the diverse range of denominations among our members, our Pastors Network plays a pivotal role in fostering unity through weekly prayer gatherings and facilitating communal church services. It is important to note, however, that while our community cherishes its Christian values, we extend a heartfelt welcome to Fijians of all races and religions to join us in our journey of fellowship and community engagement. In this spirit, the Pastors Network holds a significant position within the fabric of our Community, serving as a unifying force that transcends denominational boundaries.

## **WHERE WE ARE NOW**

We are actively working on our primary objectives of uniting our Community through board visits and are making significant strides in planning our first Fiji Day celebration. Our dedicated Volunteer Youth Coordinators are effectively managing the fortnightly programs for our youth, while the Board of Trustees is regularly convening to ensure strict adherence to our Trust Deed. As we prepare for the Fijian Language Week and Fiji Day Celebration, the Board of Trustees is meeting weekly to meticulously refine our plans.

# **OUR SERVICES**

The Queenstown Fijian Community Charitable Trust is currently working on ensuring that every Fijian in our Community has the support they need to thrive.

# **FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE**

Our financial performance through the past six months is based on transparency. Monetary transactions are approved in meetings and posted on the Board of Trustees Group Chat (Transparency). We hope to build on these and improve.

# **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, this Fijian Wellbeing Plan for our Fijian community in Queenstown ensures the opportunity to cultivate a vibrant and inclusive hub where cultural heritage thrives, individuals flourish, and bonds of unity strengthen. Through collaborative efforts, shared values, and a commitment to mutual support, Fijians can create a welcoming home away from home in Queenstown, enriching the local community with their traditions, talents, and diversity.

As we embark on this journey together, let us uphold the vision of unity, celebrate our cultural richness, and forge lasting connections that transcend borders and embrace the shared humanity that unites us all. Queenstown awaits as a canvas for our dreams, a sanctuary for our aspirations, and a testament to the enduring spirit of community and belonging.