Measuring community wellbeing during the Canterbury Earthquake recovery

Jane Morgan,
Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority, New Zealand

The Canterbury Wellbeing Index (the Index) tracks the progress of the social recovery using indicators to provide information on the impacts of the earthquakes on wellbeing and to identify emerging social trends and issues. The Index helps CERA and partner agencies make decisions about the most efficient way to target funds and resources. It also provides accurate and robust information to the community. The Index consists of a range of indicators structured around health, knowledge and skills, economic wellbeing, social connectedness, civil participation, housing, safety and people. It is a collaborative project across local and central government agencies. The Index is updated and revised twice yearly for three years. In addition the CERA Wellbeing Survey forms part of the Canterbury Wellbeing Index and will be carried out twice a year. This Survey was designed by CERA and partner agencies to provide timely, self-reported wellbeing data on the impacts of the earthquakes on residents’ quality of life, levels of social connectedness, levels and causes of stress, positive impacts of the earthquakes, and satisfaction with the recovery.