Measuring Community Wellbeing During the Canterbury Recovery

Lessons learned from working collaboratively on the CERA Wellbeing Survey
Canterbury earthquake impact

- 7.1 magnitude earthquake – 4 Sept 2010
- 6.3 magnitude earthquake – 22 Feb 2011 – killed 185 people and caused widespread damage
- 12,000+ aftershocks
- Estimated recovery cost = $40 billion
- Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority (CERA) established to lead and coordinate recovery
- Recovery Strategy developed
- Monitoring and reporting programme estab
CERA Wellbeing Survey: purpose and content

Gathers data to supplement the Canterbury Wellbeing Index

Content:
- Self reported wellbeing (quality of life, levels of stress, community connectedness)
- Primary and secondary stressors
- Positive impacts
- Perceptions of recovery
CERA Wellbeing Survey: methods

- Serial, cross sectional and representative (Electoral Roll)
- Sequential mixed method (online and hard copy postal responses)
- 2,500 residents six monthly across greater Christchurch
- Breakdowns: age, ethnicity, gender, health status, household composition, TA, tenancy type, insurance status, household income
- Oversamples males, young people and Māori
Survey: use of validated scales

Connor-Davidson resilience scale
- 2 items: “Able to adapt to change” “tend to bounce back after illness or hardship”
- Barrier: publication

SF12
- 12 item, physical and psychological wellbeing scale
- Barriers: fit, length and cost

WHO-5
- 5 item, emotional wellbeing
- Enablers: fit, positive framing, length, cost
Working collaboratively: Building great working relationships

How did we achieve this?
Open communication

- Open and frank discussions
- Understanding needs and pressure points
- Agile decision making to meet demands for data
- Face to face meetings: enjoy getting together
- Single channel of communication with research company
Lead agency

- Genuine acceptance of CERA as lead agency
- Degree of trust and respect through good dialogue
- Highly responsive partners
- Survey reports released by Earthquake Recovery Minister
- Data presented to Cabinet to inform government decision-making
Embracing skills and experience

- Recognise and harness Survey Team member skills and experience *early*

- Critical to delivering robust results fast

- Seeking external technical advice as required

- Consistent membership of Survey Team
Some key findings

Full reports published online at www.cera.govt.nz
# Stressors

Ranked highest to lowest for proportion still strongly impacted (at April 2014).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sept 2012 %</th>
<th>April 2013 %</th>
<th>Sept 2013 %</th>
<th>April 2014 %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Being in a damaged environment and/or surrounded by construction work</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>21 ✓</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>24 ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transport related pressures</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>17 ✓</td>
<td>14 ✓</td>
<td>22 ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dealing with EQC/insurance issues in relation to personal property and house</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>26 ✓</td>
<td>23 ✓</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of other recreational, cultural and leisure time facilities</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>21 ✓</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>20 ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Making decisions about house damage, repairs and relocation</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>22 ✓</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of indoor sports and active recreation facilities</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>16 ✓</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>17 ✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional financial burdens</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>16 ✓</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uncertainty about my own or my family's future in Canterbury</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>16 ✓</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distress or anxiety associated with ongoing aftershocks</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>16 ✓</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loss of outdoor sports and active recreation facilities</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>12 ✓</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13 ✓</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHO-5 emotional wellbeing scale

Used to identify which population groups are experiencing a slower recovery and require targeted services.

Over time two distinctive populations have been more likely to have a raw WHO-5 score below the mean:

- ‘pre-existing vulnerable’: Māori, those on low household incomes, and those with a physical health condition or disability.

- ‘new vulnerable’: people in temporary accommodation, those with unresolved insurance claims and those aged 35-49 years.
Acknowledgements

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The people of greater Christchurch who continue to respond to the Survey.