

Diversity and Inclusion Project

Case Story #16

Overview

Welcoming Communities is an initiative that brings together local government councils and communities to make places we love more welcoming for everyone. Two of Welcoming Communities priorities are 'Connected and Inclusive Communities' and 'Culture and Identity'. As part of the accreditation process a Welcoming Communities Stocktake Survey was undertaken.

At Amuri Area School there is a vibrant and enthusiastic migrant club connection was built with them during the Welcoming Communities survey.

Hurunui Youth also undertook their yearly Youth Takeover Survey and the results highlighted that one of the top three issues or concerns is racism.

Solutions

- An idea formed from conversations about creating some imagery showing the range of diversity at the school as almost half of Amuri School students were not born in New Zealand. From this the **'We Are Amuri'** campaign evolved.
- Within the migrant student club two students, Hanna and Catherine, were the brains behind the cultural week. The Welcoming Communities Facilitator collaborated with them to have the 'We Are Amuri' campaign as part of the cultural week.
- The migrant student club spread the word about the photo shoot and the Welcoming Communities Facilitator worked with Hanna and Catherine to get parental permission.
- Photos were taken around the school in a range of different spaces.

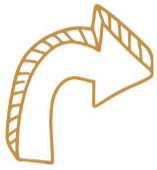


Campaign Challenges

Feedback indicated that there was a notable absence of NZ Europeans in the photos. Since the launch coincided with cultural week, the emphasis was placed on migrant students.

Going forward, we aim to include both NZ European and tangata whenua students in order to reflect the complete diversity of the school population and ensure inclusivity for all.

Outcomes

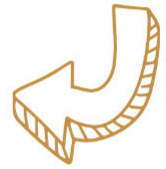


A collection of posters highlighting various facets of school life that celebrate the diversity among students. These posters were strategically displayed throughout the senior school prior to the students' arrival one day. Additionally, the group image has been featured on one side of a school building and make quite an impact.



Feedback from students on the billboard has been positive and their parents love seeing their children front and centre.

A real sense of pride within the migrant students has emerged.



Community Culture Night at Amuri School

The Future... is bright

- Other schools in Hurunui have noticed the campaign and expressed interest to the Welcoming Communities Facilitator about initiating a similar program at their own institutions. This is definitely an avenue we want to investigate further across our three area schools.
- Amuri Area School might continue to host an annual cultural week.

“Our migrants make a huge contribution to our community, the billboard is a great way to acknowledge this, and the huge welcome Amuri gives its new students.”

Matt Barlow - Principal