

Welcoming Communities Accreditation

Become an accredited Welcoming Community

We all want to live in a community where we can participate, contribute and thrive. **Welcoming Communities – Te Waharoa ki ngā Hapori** is a programme that makes that happen.

Welcoming Communities recognises that communities are healthier, happier and more productive when newcomers are welcomed and included. Supported by Immigration New Zealand, local government councils and their communities throughout the country are helping newcomers feel at home. Newcomers are recent migrants, former refugees, international students and anyone new to the community.

The Welcoming Communities Standard for New Zealand sets the benchmark for what a successful welcoming community looks like. Member councils involve local residents and newcomers in developing and implementing Welcoming Plans to meet the Standard's outcomes and work towards greater economic, social, civic and cultural success.

Accreditation formally recognises that a council and community have met the Standard's outcomes. It sets the community apart as being intentionally welcoming and a place where everyone can belong and flourish.

The benefits of accreditation

Accreditation builds a competitive advantage to attract, support and retain newcomers and:

- › shows that a council values and welcomes newcomers
- › provides a way to assess and reflect on progress and to improve welcoming practices
- › celebrates success and a shared pride in positive outcomes for the community
- › shows that a council and community are part of an international welcoming network
- › showcases welcoming activities on the national and international stage
- › provides councils with access to support, resources, knowledge sharing and networking in New Zealand and overseas through the Welcoming Communities programme.

Who can apply

Councils and communities who have signed up to the Welcoming Communities programme can apply for accreditation as a Welcoming Community.



The four stages of accreditation

A council and its community choose how quickly they move through the stages. Accreditation is valid for three years. The table below describes the four stages of accreditation, how they are assessed and the increasing benefits and recognition for each stage.

Stage	Description	Assessment	Benefits and recognition	Application fee
Stage 1 	The Mayor, the council, its CEO and other community partners have signed up to the Welcoming Communities programme	The following are in place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Council resolution › MBIE funding agreement › Welcoming Communities Coordinator › Statement of Commitment › Public notification of commitment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Seed funding – \$50,000 per annum per council or group of councils for the first 3 years › Access to national and international resources, support and advice › Promoted on INZ’s website › Access to national Welcoming Communities workshops › Regular newsletters and networking opportunities › Announcement and certification 	No fee
Stage 2 	The council and community are clear about what they want to achieve, have a Welcoming Plan and have started implementing activities	Self-assessment Review of self-assessment by the External Accreditation Assessment Panel (the Panel) Report	All non-financial benefits and recognition detailed above, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › a contribution for Welcoming Communities activities (\$9,500) › eligible to apply for national awards 	\$1000
Stage 3 	The council and community are moving towards fully implementing their Welcoming Plan. They are confident about how to deliver successful welcoming activities that make a difference and are trialling innovative activities	Self-assessment Review of self-assessment by the Panel Site visit by the Panel Report	All non-financial benefits and recognition detailed above, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › a contribution to professional development (\$2,000) › case studies are featured in INZ publications and internationally › INZ media release 	\$1500
Stage 4 	The council and community have implemented most of their Welcoming Plan. They are reflecting on their successes and sharing their knowledge and experience with other councils and communities in the welcoming network	Self-assessment Review of self-assessment by the Panel Site visit by the Panel Report	All non-financial benefits and recognition detailed above, plus: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › a contribution to professional development (\$2,500) › support from INZ to leverage off status nationally and globally 	\$1500

More information

For more information about accreditation go to the Welcoming Communities accreditation page on INZ’s website – www.immigration.govt.nz/welcomingcommunities or email – welcomingcommunities@mbie.govt.nz