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Page 2: About you

Q1

Name of submission (organisation or individual)

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Q2

Principal contact (Full name) (optional)

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Page 3: Concepts used to guide the inquiry (see Chapter 2)

Q6

Do you see any gaps in how we are thinking about wellbeing and persistent disadvantage? What are these gaps?

The question was asked " Are we on the right track" ? Unfortunately the Commission has failed the New Zealand public by its decision to use the He Ara Waiora framework. Going forward New Zealand in the 21st century requires a framework that unites rather than divides our society. The framework work used in this study is one created by the Maori elites and other academics' and its authenticity is open to question? The stated principles bear little actual accord with how the early Maori society evolved in which there were ongoing tribal conflicts , wars , rape and pillage, inter tribal slavery and no overall governance. The Treaty in 1840 was welcomed by Maori as their leaders sought to secure a brighter future under the Westminster system of Governance. Never before has there been the requirement to have a Maori dictionary at hand to understand the raft of Maori words in the report - from the opening and closing sentences in the Reports Foreword to the overall tone does the Commission no credit.

Before commenting on the gaps in the Report it is extremely concerning that some 724,000 New Zealanders are experiencing persistent disadvantage.

Of greater concern is those that chose to remain unchecked on the welfare system through multi generations of family members.

The gaps in the Commission's thinking revolve around the lack of emphasis placed in each sector. Each sector needs to be clearly defined and solutions put in place to help overcome the disadvantage.

Suggested sectors follow:

Physical disabled.

Those with mental health issues.

Unemployed both short/long term.

Long term welfare beneficiaries.

Those families who chose to live off the welfare system.

Those in full time employment not on a living wage.

Disadvantaged sole parents.

Page 4: Measuring disadvantage (see Chapter 3)

Q7

Is there any aspect of disadvantage or persistent disadvantage that has not been captured by our definitions and proposed measurement?

See previous answer

Page 5: System barriers (see Chapter 5)

Q8

Do the barriers we have identified match your experience? What would you add or remove?

You are dreaming if you can change power imbalances in any society! To quote Winston Churchill " democracy is the worst form of government - except for all the others that have been tried"

We are now in the 21st century and to rehash colonisation over and over going forward will do nothing to back New Zealand a better society. In fact its likely to have the opposite effect?

The Commission does disservice to Government by using the term "siloed" as there is little evident the information, goals, tools or processes are not share with other groups . On the contrary millions each year are in fact wasted on Consultants, reports, focus groups and public relations etc.

There is some merit in the Commission raising Short- termism and status quo bias the former can be address with political will (more cooperation in Parliament) but the latter not so easy to address.

Page 6: System shifts (see Chapter 6)

Q9

What do you think needs to be done to support these shifts and activate change? Is there anything missing?

There are two examples that are relevant :

1. Back in the mid 70s I employed a teenage sole mum with her mother looking after the child when mum was at work. This lady quickly become a well respected member of the bank branch team. Some 18months later she reluctantly resigned as she found she could go on the Domestic Purposes Benefit the bank lost a good employee and society gained another beneficiary.

The DPB remains a questionable benefit for NZ society overall with many electing to have children rather than accepting work. Often those are young sole Mums from disadvantaged families just adding to the problem for all New Zealanders.

Political parties are reluctant to raise these issues. However, for society to progress failure to address issue of birth control among disadvantage groups is a failure of leadership.

The Commission has an opportunity to raised this matter?

2. In my late uncles writing on his life he raised this example. His brother farmed in Nuhuka in the Hawkes Bay and he employed local Maori workers on his farm. This was in the 50s. Suddenly his brother had trouble getting these employees and upon enquiry he found that the then government had introduced the "dole" payment. The workers elected to stay at home and have a few beers and smoke rather than coming to work. My uncle observed in the writings whether this policy was good for NZ society?

Once again I suspect nothing changed and rather than been the well intentioned assistance it was designed for it has evolved into a negative for NZ society.

Once again the Commission has the opportunity to include this matter in the final Report.

The concept of wellbeing and social inclusion is once again a "fashionable" term that fits the political and academic landscape but I suspect it has yet to be recognised in the wider NZ society.

It is a condescending term and is unlikely to be embraced by the disadvantaged communities.

The Report makes no reference to the vital important of Education (somewhat surprising given the Chair's immigration to NZ background).

The Report also lacks issues such as truancy, teenage and adult crime, prison statistics, teenage sole mums, domestic abuse, housing the homeless and such like.

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Q10

Is there anything else, relevant to our inquiry, you would like to tell us as part of your submission?

The Commission Chair should be aware there is no democratic approval of the co- governance model been enacted by the current Government. Likewise there is no mandate from NZ society to adopt the "partnership" focus.

It is disappointing that like the recent "Immigration" report the Commission has chosen to take a path that to many New Zealanders is divisive.

I am sure all New Zealanders would like to see a report that is future focused with practical actionable recommendations that will see progress on reducing disadvantaged numbers in our society. Unfortunately without progress New Zealand living standards and future will continue its downward path.

Thank you.
