

CHANGING NATURE OF FAMILIES

Families are more diverse and fluid than in the past. It is difficult to neatly capture the variety of family structures and care arrangements we have in New Zealand. And these complexities are not well catered for by the current welfare system.

Most families with children under 18 are two parent families, but spending time in a sole parent family is a common experience in New Zealand.

Sole parent families with children under 18 make up a quarter of families with Māori and Pasifika family members and 10% of families with European and Asian family members.

SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES ARE MORE LIKELY TO FACE ECONOMIC AND OTHER DISADVANTAGES.

MĀORI, PASIFIKA AND ASIAN CHILDREN ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE IN FAMILIES WITH SHARED LIVING ARRANGEMENTS, INCLUDING EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS.

MĀORI AND PASIFIKA COUPLES WITH YOUNG CHILDREN ARE MORE LIKELY THAN AVERAGE TO FACE ECONOMIC CHALLENGES.

Around two thirds of two-parent households with dependent children are dual-earner families, up from one in two in the early 1980s.

99% of Māori see their whānau in whakapapa terms. 40% see their whānau as immediate relatives. Whānau are more likely to live in multi-generational households and to provide unpaid childcare or care for someone who is ill.

While women who give birth at younger ages are a diverse group, they tend to be more likely than older mothers to come from backgrounds of educational disadvantage and to be sole parents.

Where at least one partner is in full-time employment:

- 45% have both partners employed full-time
- 22% have one partner full-time, one part-time
- 33% have one full time, one not employed

