

# IRISH IN AOTEAROA:

MAPPING THE IRISH COMMUNITY AND PEOPLE OF IRISH HERITAGE  
IN NEW ZEALAND

WITH A FOREWORD BY MICHAEL D. HIGGINS,  
UACHTARÁN NA hÉIREANN PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

**SONJA TIERNAN**  
**DECEMBER 2020**

Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies, University of Otago  
in partnership with the  
Embassy of Ireland, Aotearoa New Zealand.

# TE WHAKAPUAKANGA O TE MANA MOTUHAKE.

## TE MANA MOTUHAKE WHANANGA AIRANI, NĀ TE KĀWANATANGA TAKITORO O AIRINI KI NGĀ TĀNGATA O AIRANI.

**E NGĀ TĀNE, WĀHINE HOKI O AIRANI:** I runga i te ingoa o te Atua, tae noa hoki ki ngā tini whakatipuranga kua mene ki te pō, ki te hunga i ahu mai ai wā tātau tikanga tuku iho hei whakaū i te rangatiratanga o Airani, e pōwhiri atu nei ki ōna uri kia whakarauika mai ki raro i tana haki me te whawhai anō kia tū motuhake mai ia.

Nā runga i te whakatū me te whakangungu i tōna hunga tāne mā te rōpū whananga huna, mā Ngā Tamakotahi o Airani, me ōna ope tūmanui, me Ngā Tūao o Airani, me te Ope Kirirau o Airani, nā runga hoki i te āta whakapai ake i tana whakaraupapa, me te āta whanga ki te whatinga o te tai, ā, kua rite tonu ia ki te pao, i runga anō i te tautoko a ōna uri e noho manene ana i Amerika me ngā hoa whawhai hautoa i Ūropi, engari e mātua whakawhirinaki ana ia ki tōna anō kaha, ā, i tēnā nā ka kōkiri i runga i te mōhio, ka toa.

Kei te whakaputa mātau i te mana o ngā tāngata o Airani kia noho pūmau te rangatiratanga o ngā whenua o Airani ki a rātau anō, me te mana kia noho herekore ō rātau tūmanako, kia mau ki te mana motuhake, ā, kia kaua tērā e waimeha. Ahakoa te roa o te wā kua riro mā tauīwi me tōna kāwanatanga kē ngā whakahaere, kāore i mimiti tēnei tikanga ki a tātau otirā ka kore e ngaro taua tikanga kia tae rawa ki te wā kua turakina katoatia te iwi Airani. I roto i ia whakatipuranga ka rite tonu tā te iwi Airani whakapuaki kia noho herekore ki te whenua me te noho ake i runga i te tino rangatiratanga; e ono ngā wā o ngā rautau e toru ki muri kua pakanga rātau mō taua take. Ka tū tonu mō taua whakaaro mana motuhake me te tautoko ā-whawhai anō i taua āhuatanga ki te aroaro o te ao, ko mātau e kauhau ana ko te Whenua Motuhake o Airani ka tū he Whenua Motuhake tūturu, ana ka tukuna ko wā mātau orange me ērā o wā mātau hoa pūmāu mō te kaupapa kia noho herekore, ki tana anō tino orange me tana tū whakahī i waenganui i ngā whenua katoa o te ao.

He tika kia tonu a Airani Motuhake mā tēnei karere kokoraho ka kī kei te tino tautoko ia tāne, wāhine Airani hoki. I tēnei ka whoatu tūturu te whenua motuhake nei i ngā tikanga hāhi te kaneketanga wātea, te ōrite o ngā tika me te ōrite o te āhua kapo huanga kia tātau katoa me te whakapono kia noho koa me te whakaara ake o te whenua katoa me āna wāhanga katoa me te whakanui i ngā tamariki katoa ō tēnei whenua kia ōrite me te mōhio kaore rātau e taka ki raro i ngā tikanga wāwahi tangata o te kāwanatanga tauīwi kē i runga i wā rātau mahi wāwāhi i ngā tāngata iti me ngā tāngata nui i ngā tau ki mua. Kia tae mai te wā kua tutuki wā mātau mahi whawhai he whakakotahi i ngā iwi katoa ki raro i te maru o te Kāwanatanga tuturu mō ngā tāngata katoa o Airani nā te pōti kotahi a wāna tāne, wāna wāhine, ka ū mai te whakahaere a te Kāwanatanga Takitaro i ngā āhuatanga kaneketanga me ngā mahi pakanga i runga anō i te āhuatanga kaitiaki o Airani Motuhake mō āna tāngata katoa.

Ka tukuna atu e mātau te tino pūtake o Airani Motuhake i raro i ngā manaakitanga o te Atua Nui Tonu. Ko tā mātau anō hoki e āhei mā wāna manaakitanga e whakapai i wā mātau momo whawhai me tā mātau whakamoemiti hoki kāore a ngāi rātau e tautoko ana i te kaupapa e mau mai he āhua māteatea ki te kaupapa mā te matakū, mā te maukino mā te muru rānei. I tēnei haora whakahirahira me māro te whenua o Airani i runga i tana toa, mā tana raupapa me te tatanga o ana tamariki ki te tuku i a rātau tonu ki te mate mō te painga o te katoa kia āta tau ai te tino hīkoitanga kua whakaritea, kua karangahia.

**I tūtuhungia mō te Kāwanatanga Takitoro.**

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| THOMAS J. CLARKE | SEAN MAC DIARMADA |
| THOMAS MACDONAGH | P.H. PEARSE       |
| EAMONN CEANNT    | JAMES CONNOLLY    |
| JOSEPH PLUNKETT  |                   |

# RÉAMHRÁ FOREWORD KUPU WHAKATAKI



U ÁCHTARAN NA hÉIREANN  
PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

A Chairde, Kia Ora, Dear Friends,

I am delighted to introduce what is essentially the first comprehensive study of the Irish Community in Aotearoa New Zealand. At the outset, I wish to commend the scholarship of Professor Sonja Tiernan of the Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies at the University of Otago, who worked in partnership with the Embassy of Ireland on this important, valuable and timely research project which will undoubtedly be of immense value to scholars and those with an interest in Irish-New Zealand relations.

My wife Sabina and I have warm memories of our visit to New Zealand in 2017. During that notable trip, we had the pleasure of meeting with H.E. Governor General Patsy Reddy, incoming Prime Minister Right Honorable Jacinda Ardern MP, as well as a range of public officials and members of the community at events in Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington.

Both ahead of and during my visit, I was very mindful of the fact that there are few nations which come together so readily as ours, sharing as we do numerous similarities in respect of values, experiences, sensibilities and outlooks on many of the global challenges that together we face from across the world. This close working relationship between Ireland and New Zealand is very important to us. We share the same principled approach and commitment to working with partners in the multilateral system to progress solutions in the areas of, *inter alia*, disarmament, conflict prevention and peacekeeping, sustainable development, climate change, gender equality and human rights.

Our new and ongoing challenges must now be addressed, drawing on the best of the new, morally engaged scholarship that values social cohesion and places ethics at its core. This is something we must pursue collectively at a global level, with the same vigour and spirit with which our two countries have addressed in the past. We must summon the same openness to new ideas and willingness to break with old orthodoxies that Irishman Michael Davitt found in New Zealand a century ago, the same determination to share, to debate, to contest, and to commit to progressive policies founded on inclusivity and sustainability, as shown by the citizenries of Ireland and New Zealand in recent years.

I am sure that the findings of this new study will guide and inform the work of the Embassy of Ireland in the coming years as it seeks to enhance and develop further our already excellent and recently deepened relations with our community and the wider population of Aotearoa New Zealand, 18 percent of whom claim Irish heritage. I look forward to many more collaborative projects between our two nations in the areas of education, culture, heritage, and business. May I take this opportunity to express my admiration and profound gratitude to the members of our community who continue to treasure their Irish heritage and whose work and endeavours reflect so well on Ireland while enriching the culture of Aotearoa New Zealand in a mutually symbiotic manner.

As we continue to emerge from the pandemic crisis, re-building shattered lives, societies and economies, we are doing so ever more mindful of our interconnectedness and our interdependence, a point of wisdom spelled out in the phrases of our respective native languages - *Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine* - *He waka eke noa*.

Beir beannacht,

Michael D. Higgins  
Uachtarán na hÉireann  
President of Ireland

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# ACHOMAIR SUMMARY TUHINGA WHAKARĀPOPOTO

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The President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins was the first head of state to meet the newly elected Prime Minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern, in October 2017. At that first meeting, Higgins and Ardern spoke about the many connections between their two countries. Ireland and Aotearoa New Zealand have so much in common as island countries with similar size populations, strong cultural and indigenous identities, an agricultural focus and stunning scenery. Our countries also have close cooperation on foreign policy issues such as climate change, disarmament and human rights.

When President Higgins arrived on that state visit to New Zealand, the nearest Irish Embassy was in Canberra, Australia and for New Zealanders in Ireland, their closest High Commissioner was based in London. During his tour, President Higgins announced plans to establish an Irish Embassy in New Zealand. Within one year, that Embassy opened in Wellington with Ambassador Peter Ryan as the first resident Irish Ambassador. During his appointment speech, Ambassador Ryan noted how ‘we are indeed fortunate to enjoy special ties of kinship and history with New Zealand and with the many New Zealanders of Irish heritage.’<sup>1</sup> Before the end of 2018, a reciprocal New Zealand Embassy had opened in Dublin and Ambassador Brad Burgess was appointed as the first resident New Zealand Ambassador to Ireland.

The connections between Ireland and New Zealand are burgeoning. To better understand and recognise the shape of these connections, research on the Irish in Aotearoa was commissioned by the Embassy of Ireland, Wellington. This is an exciting project mapping Irish citizens and community across all 16 regions of New Zealand. This is also an ambitious project, encompassing such a large geographical spread. The research findings and associated interactive maps of the Irish in Aotearoa New Zealand are just the beginning of possibilities for future research. The results of this project are well placed to enable further connections to be made among Irish immigrants, community groups and government representatives. Indeed, like the census data, these results may also have an impact on business connections. Figures already highlight that Ireland and New Zealand have a developing trade network.

There are two distinct aspects to the following research. In the first part, the New Zealand census returns have been analysed to account for people of Irish ethnicity currently living in New Zealand. Figures prove that the number of Irish immigrants moving to New Zealand and staying long term has been steadily increasing over the last four census returns from 2001 to the most recent returns in 2018. Analysing these figures in more detail, it is possible to gain a deeper insight to the contemporary Irish population in Aotearoa New Zealand. The regions in which Irish populations mainly reside continues to change with an evolving economic climate. This report provides evidence of the increase in numbers of skilled Irish immigrants moving to the Canterbury region since the 2011 earthquakes to help with the rebuild of Christchurch, for example.

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<sup>1</sup> Ireland’s first ambassador to New Zealand appointed, *Newshub*, (29 August 2018) available at <https://www.newshub.co.nz/home/politics/2018/08/ireland-s-first-ambassador-to-new-zealand-appointed.html> (accessed 15 May 2020.)

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Data analysis in this report highlights that there is a gender balance of Irish immigrants in Aotearoa New Zealand. Results also identify that Irish immigrants are earning a higher income than the national average wage. Irish women especially, when considered against women nationally, are paid considerably more on an annual basis. The age range of the Irish ethnic group is predominantly young with 38 percent of all those of Irish ethnicity ranging within a 20 year age bracket of between 25 and 44 years of age.

Due to the high number of Irish among the early New Zealand settlers, it is estimated that approximately one in every six people in New Zealand has Irish heritage. These figures have yet to be confirmed by statistics. Therefore, this research project includes the use of online surveys to glean more information about New Zealanders of Irish heritage or with an affinity for Ireland. The first survey sought details from individuals and saw an impressive response with 2,932 people included in this research. Over 65 percent of the total responses are from people of Irish heritage. These results are therefore the most detailed information gathered to date on New Zealanders of Irish heritage. It is significant that the majority of those, 84 percent, have family bonds closely related to their Irish ancestors, ranging from an Irish born parent to an Irish born great grandparent.

The survey of Irish community groups is the first of its kind in New Zealand. Prior to this research, very little was known about Irish groups in Aotearoa. Some groups have now been surveyed including a variety of organisations. Among those surveyed, the oldest surviving group was established in 1908 and the most recent group in the survey was established in 2020. The top interest for Irish groups in New Zealand is Gaelic games with Irish dance returned as the second most popular sport. It is particularly encouraging to see community groups setting out their commitment to promoting Ireland and Irish culture in New Zealand and to supporting those of Irish birth or heritage living here.

The following report provides more details regarding all aspects of this research project, concerning the Irish in Aotearoa.

**PROFESSOR SONJA TIERNAN**

Eamon Cleary Chair of Irish Studies  
Co-Director, Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies  
University of Otago – Te Whare Wānanga o Otāgo

# ADMHÁIL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS NGĀ MIHI

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Initial consultation with Ambassador Peter Ryan and Deputy Head of Mission Faran Foley helped shape the direction and aims of this research. A part-time researcher, Lauren Bland, assisted at the early stages of this project by contacting Irish community groups and reaching out to individuals of Irish heritage. Statistical and Data Analyst, Nidhi Madia, prepared the customised data for Irish ethnicity on behalf of Stats NZ.

Colm McGrath of Concilio Agency designed and managed the website, Friends of Ireland, housing the original surveys and project results. Eoghan Walsh compiled the visualisation maps and graphs from customised data. Emer Lyons proof read and preparation of the final pdf graphs was conducted by Charlotte Hall. This report was formatted by Judy Robinson Consultancy Ltd.

Doug Hauraki translated An Forógra na hÉireann, The Proclamation of Ireland, into Te Reo Māori. This is the first ever such translation and it is an honour to include this version here.

As always, the pursuit of furthering knowledge about Irish community in New Zealand is supported by the Stuart Chair of Scottish Studies, Professor Liam McIlvanney. The vision for expanding Irish Studies in New Zealand is one shared by the management of the University of Otago who had the foresight to host a Chair of Irish Studies funded by Eamon Cleary and to establish the Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies at the Dunedin campus.

The most important acknowledgement is to the many individuals and community leaders who took time to engage with and contribute to this research, without which this report would not be possible.

The Embassy of Ireland, Aotearoa New Zealand commissioned this research which was funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs, Ireland.

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# 1. RÉAMHRÁ INTRODUCTION KUPU ARATAKI

## 1.1 Overview of research project

Irish in Aotearoa is a national project to map Irish citizens and community across all 16 regions of New Zealand. This research was commissioned by the Embassy of Ireland, New Zealand and funded by Department of Foreign Affairs of Ireland. This is the first Irish citizen mapping project to cover an entire country including such a large geographical spread. It is also the first contemporary research of the Irish population and people of Irish heritage in Aotearoa and is particularly timely given the establishment of the Embassy of Ireland in Wellington in 2018. The report's findings will help to inform and shape the work of Team Ireland, which ranges from political relations to activities under the headings of Community, Commerce and Culture. These findings will also be a useful reference for members of the broader Friends of Ireland, which includes many people of Irish heritage as well as New Zealanders with an interest or link with Ireland.<sup>2</sup>

There are two distinct aspects to this research. Part one involves an analysis of New Zealand census returns for 2001, 2006, 2013 and 2018, supported by supplementary data from Stats NZ.<sup>3</sup> This aspect examines the numbers of people of Irish ethnicity living in New Zealand on the dates census returns were submitted. The New Zealand census does not include provision to record heritage of individuals. The number of New Zealand citizens of Irish heritage is estimated upwards of half a million, unfortunately there are no statistics to support this as fact.<sup>4</sup> However, census records from 1871 onwards provide evidence of large numbers of Irish immigrants settling in New Zealand in the latter part of the nineteenth century. The 1871 census records 29,733 people of Irish birth which accounted for 11.6 percent of the total number of European settlers living in New Zealand.<sup>5</sup> By the time of the 1886 census, the Irish population in New Zealand had increased considerably to 51,408, accounting for 17.1 percent of the rapidly increasing settler population. These figures indicate that a large number of New Zealanders have Irish ancestry.

Determining the number of people of Irish heritage in New Zealand is a complex procedure. Therefore, a second aspect to this research was conducted through the use of two customised surveys. The first survey sought details from individuals and families – born in Ireland; of Irish heritage; or with an affinity for Ireland. The second survey gathered details from some of the Irish community and interest groups currently active in New Zealand.

This report contains an overview of each part of the research project and the main results. The report has been made available on the Friends of Ireland website to download and a limited number of printed reports will also be made available.<sup>6</sup> Further details and statistics are available through the website including data visualisation which is detailed in this report at section 2.3.

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2 Friends of Ireland is an initiative of the Embassy of Ireland to bring together, on a virtual platform, all Irish related groups in Aotearoa. See [www.friendsofireland.co.nz](http://www.friendsofireland.co.nz)

3 Stats NZ is the brand name for the public service department Statistics New Zealand, Tatauranga Aotearoa. Stats NZ has responsibility to collect statistics related to the economy, population and society of New Zealand, including producing the national census and other surveys as required by government.

4 For example see, Jock Phillips, 'Irish,' *Te Ara - the Encyclopedia of New Zealand*, <http://www.TeAra.govt.nz/en/irish/print> (accessed 6 May 2020.)

5 'Places of birth,' *NZ Census of 1871*, Statistics New Zealand, (27 February 1871.) These figures recorded the number of European settlers in NZ and did not include a census of the Māori population.

6 Friends of Ireland website. [www.friendsofireland.co.nz](http://www.friendsofireland.co.nz)

## 2. THE IRISH IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND CENSUS

### 2.1 Census overview

A population census is defined by the United Nations as ‘the total process of planning, collecting, compiling, evaluating, disseminating and analysing demographic, economic and social data at the smallest geographical level pertaining, at a specified time, to all persons in a country or in a well-delimited part of a country.’<sup>7</sup> Stats NZ are required by law to seek details according to name, age, sex, and ethnicity of every occupant of a dwelling as well as the address, location, number of rooms, ownership, and number of occupants of a dwelling on census night.<sup>8</sup> The national census of a country is therefore, the most comprehensive and trustworthy set of statistics on which researchers of populations can depend.

The New Zealand census is taken every five years, which is more regular than in many other countries such as the UK, which collects a census every ten years. This five yearly return provides a greater opportunity to discover more detail about Irish immigrants to New Zealand. Since 1881, the census has followed this five year pattern except under exceptional circumstances when returns are not viable. Those circumstances include the postponement of the 2011 census until 2013 due to the Christchurch earthquake.

The 2018 census reveals a vastly growing population from the previous five year threshold, reporting an overall increase of nearly half a million people.<sup>9</sup> The total population of New Zealand then returned at 4,699,755 which is an increase of 457,707 from 2013.<sup>10</sup> This increase is due, in the main, to higher net migration figures totalling 259,000 in that five year period.<sup>11</sup> Figure 1 shows the total population change from 2013–2018 per region to provide context for current Irish ethnic population figures.

The census is not without controversy, the 2018 New Zealand census has been criticised due partly to the online approach adopted which depended on citizens understanding a new process without the assistance of designated census collectors.<sup>12</sup> This resulted in a lower response rate than normal. In order to make up for this shortfall of respondents, Stats NZ combined current census data with data from the 2013 census and other administrative sources. ‘Data for 88 percent of individuals in the census dataset came from a 2018 Census form and 11.2 percent came from admin data.’<sup>13</sup> This reduces the shortfall in the figures represented in the census results. For reference, a sample 2018 census form is available to access at Stats NZ.<sup>14</sup>

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7 Department of Economic and Social Affairs Statistics Division, *Principles and Recommendations for Population and Housing Censuses* (Revision 3), United Nations, New York, 2017, p. 2.

8 Statistics Act 1975 available at New Zealand Legislation (accessed 5 May 2020.) <http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1975/0001/latest/DLM430710.html>

9 Reported as the ‘fastest growth in 50 years,’ *NZ Herald*, 23 September 2019.

10 2018 Census, key facts available at <https://www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/2018-census-population-and-dwelling-counts> (accessed 7 May 2020.)

11 Ibid.

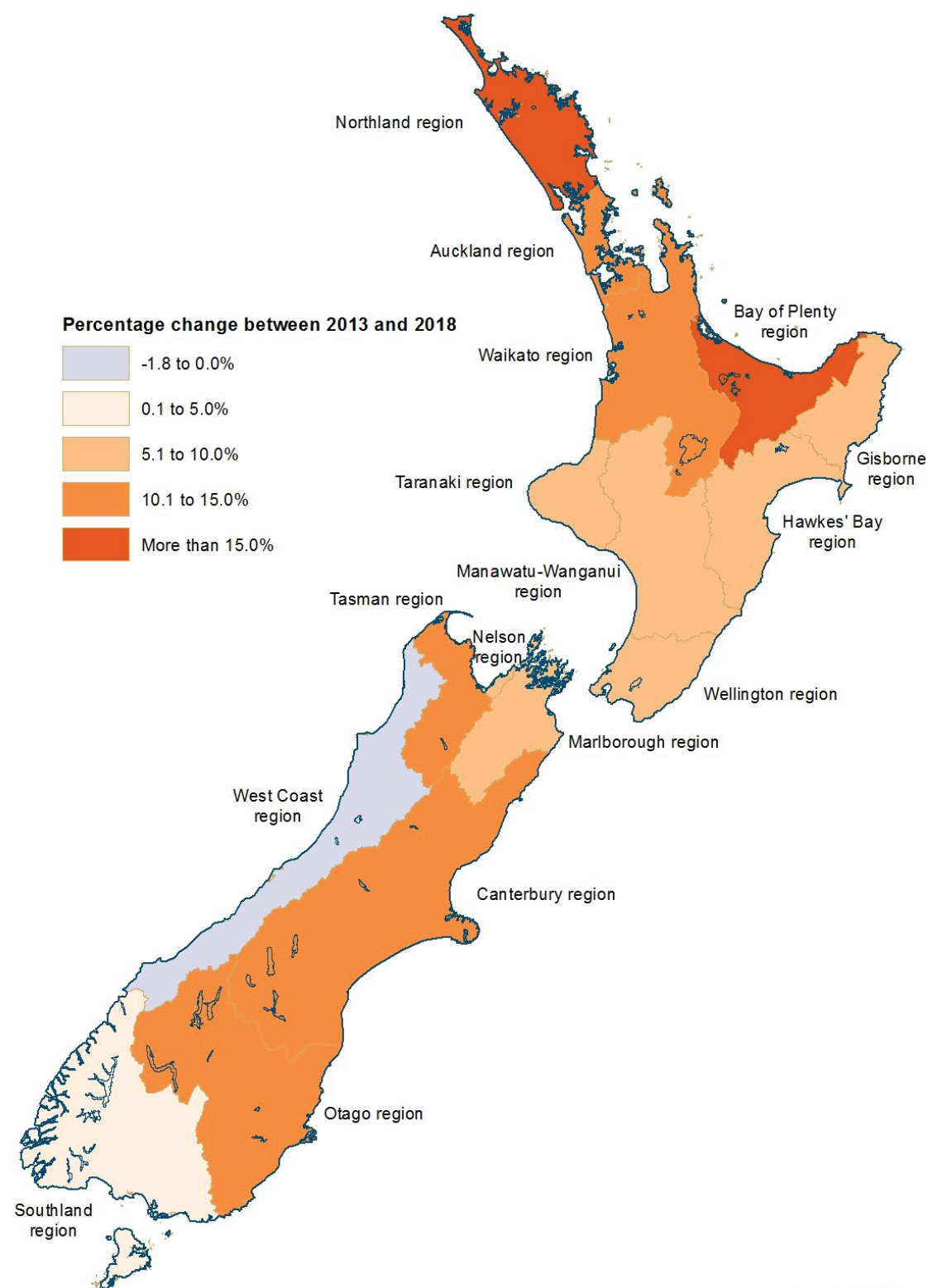
12 For further details see, *Report of the Independent Review of New Zealand’s 2018 Census* (July 2019), Wellington, New Zealand available on Stats NZ website <https://www.stats.govt.nz/reports/report-of-the-independent-review-of-new-zealands-2018-census> (accessed 10 May 2020.)

13 The Independent External Data Quality Panel endorse this process. <https://www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/2018-census-population-and-dwelling-counts> (accessed 7 May 2020.)

14 Stats NZ Store House, sample 2018 census form. <https://cdm20045.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p20045coll2/id/713> (accessed 14 May 2020.)

Figure 1: Percentage change in census resident population Aotearoa New Zealand between 2013 and 2018

**Percentage change in the census usually resident population count  
between 2013 and 2018 by regional council area**



## 2.2 Ethnicity

To analyse statistics related to the Irish in Aotearoa New Zealand, the figures categorised under ethnicity in the census were mined. Stats NZ define ethnicity as ‘a measure of cultural affiliation. It is not a measure of race, ancestry, nationality, or citizenship. Ethnicity is self-perceived, and people can belong to more than one ethnic group.’<sup>15</sup> It is worth noting that Irish was not listed as a category in the specified ethnicities on the 2018 census form. If respondents wanted to ensure that they were categorised within this group, they were required to tick ‘other’ and enter Irish or a related term. Such a specific selection requirement may have resulted in an underrepresentation of Irish people in the final census figures. It is likely that some people of Irish ethnicity may have inadvertently ticked the first ethnic group listed on the census, New Zealand European, which was selected by 64 percent of respondents. While recent immigrants from Ireland may perceive this term to apply to them, this category is used to specifically represent New Zealanders of European decent or to use the Māori term, Pākehā.<sup>16</sup>

Ethnicity in the 2018 census was categorised under 4 levels. British and Irish were categorised at level 3 and the data analysis figures were published for this category with no further breakdown. This approach differed from previous census returns due to changes in the 2018 methodology and lower than anticipated response rates, fixed random rounding to base 3 was applied to protect confidentiality. However, within the classification of British and Irish there are ten sub categories including; English, Scottish, Welsh, Cornish and Irish.

If respondents included any terms related to Ireland, they were included in the Irish category. 13 synonyms were identified to be classified as Irish, these are; Eire, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Ulster, Irish, Airihi,<sup>17</sup> Anglo Irish, British Irish, European Irish, Irish European, Irishman, Northern Irish and White Irish.<sup>18</sup> This ensures that people from the entire island of Ireland are included under Irish. A customised set of data was commissioned for this report, using Irish ethnicity as an independent category.<sup>19</sup>

## 2.3 Data Visualisation

A user-friendly interactive map of New Zealand has been produced which includes all of the related data for Irish population figures for each region. This data visualisation is available to access at the Friends of Ireland website. Sections have been created for; Irish in New Zealand Map and Data; Occupation and Income; Gender Pay Gap; Income Region and an Age Pyramid. Through the website, users can access all sections and customise their own search by selecting sets from a drop down menu to identify specific results according to occupation, income, age and gender for individual regions.<sup>20</sup> It is possible to access this data visualisation from any smart device including a mobile phone. For the best results it is advisable to access the maps and data from a computer or a laptop. By moving a cursor over the figures on the map and graphs, data will expand to provide more detail where available.

This data visualisation is a valuable resource that has the potential to inspire and shape further research on Irish populations in New Zealand. Some of the main results from this aspect of the research are documented in the following sections.

15 ‘Ethnicity,’ available at <https://www.stats.govt.nz/topics/ethnicity> (accessed 14 May 2020.)

16 For further discussion on New Zealand ethnicity see Paul Callister, ‘Seeking an Ethnic Identity: Is “New Zealander” a Valid Ethnic Category?’ in *New Zealand Population Review*, 30 (1&2):5-22. Available to download at [https://www.population.org.nz/app/uploads/2010/01/nzpr-vol-30-1and-2\\_callister.pdf](https://www.population.org.nz/app/uploads/2010/01/nzpr-vol-30-1and-2_callister.pdf) (accessed 14 May 2020.)

17 ‘Airihi,’ is translated as ‘Irish’ by PM Ryan, *The Raupo Dictionary of Modern Māori*, New Zealand: Penguin, 2012.

18 ‘Ethnicity New Zealand Standard Classification 2005 V2.0.0,’ applied by Aria classification management system, available at <https://www.stats.govt.nz/consultations/ethnicity-standard-classification-consultation> (accessed 14 May 2020.)

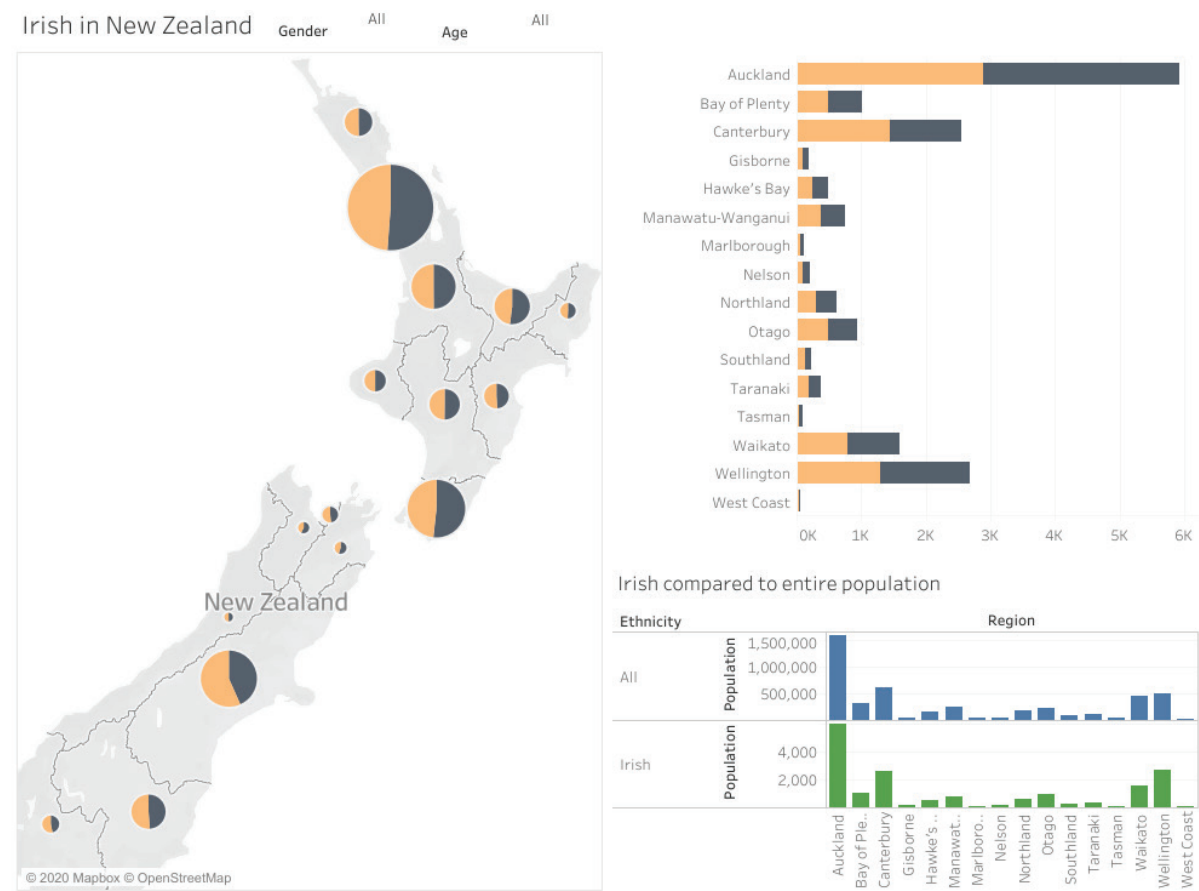
19 This work is based on/includes customised Stats NZ’s data which are licensed by Stats NZ for re-use under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence.

20 Data visualisation designed for this research by Eoghan Walsh. [eoghanwalsh@protonmail.com](mailto:eoghanwalsh@protonmail.com)

## 2.4 Current number of Irish in Aotearoa New Zealand

Figure 2: Irish in Aotearoa New Zealand by region, shows the number of Irish people and the region in which they reside. A further graph included in Figure 2 shows ‘Irish compared to entire population,’ and compares the number of Irish people with that of the total population of each region. As can be determined at a glance, the number of Irish is in proportion to the population for that region, one exception to this rule is in the capital city, Wellington. The population of Irish in Wellington is 0.53 percent which is higher than the national average.

Figure 2: Irish in Aotearoa New Zealand by Region



“This work is based on/includes customised Stats NZ’s data which are licensed by Stats NZ for re-use under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International licence.”..

The total Irish ethnic population in New Zealand in 2018 was 17,817, equating to 0.38 percent of the entire population of the country. Not surprisingly, the Irish population is largest in regions where the total number of residents is higher. One third of all Irish people living in New Zealand reside in Auckland. Historically Auckland attracted large numbers of Irish immigrants, in part due to the early military settlers.<sup>21</sup> The 1871 census records that the Irish accounted for over 14 percent of the settler population of Auckland. In 2018, rather than signalling Auckland as a specific Irish enclave, the concentration of Irish people can now be explained by the overall population figures; one third of the entire population of New Zealand currently live in Auckland.

21 See the work of Vincent O’Malley, *The Great War for New Zealand: Waikato 1800-2000*, Wellington: Bridget Williams Books, 2016.

The largest density of Irish people registered in the 1871 census was in the Westland District which attracted Irish miners during the gold rush era. The West Coast region in 2018, had the smallest recorded number of Irish born people living there, numbering only 60 people. It can therefore be assumed that Irish immigrants, like those from many other countries, are attracted to particular regions based on current economic factors. Economic trends in the various regions of New Zealand have evolved over time. This is most evident when considering the current figures in the Canterbury region. In 2018, over 14 percent of the Irish population reside in the Canterbury region, an effect of increased employment rebuilding the city of Christchurch after the 2011 earthquakes in the region. The number of Irish people in Canterbury prior to the earthquake can be seen in the 2006 returns recording 1,257, this has since doubled to the current number of Irish there at 2,553.

The illustration in Figure 2 is divided by male and female – with dark grey representing the number of females. Nationally, there is an even balance of Irish men (8,952) and women (8,865) in New Zealand. This balance is stable across most regions of the country with the exception of Canterbury which records 1,446 males and 1,107 females, again this may be explained by building industries attracting more male labour. For a breakdown of exact figures per region, see the accompanying table, Figure 3: Irish in New Zealand data, which includes a further breakdown into age categories.

Figure 3: Irish in Aotearoa New Zealand Data

Irish in New Zealand Data table

| Region        | 0-4   | 5-9   | 10-14 | 15-19 | 20-24 | 25-29 | 30-34 | 35-39 | 40-44 | 45-49 | 50-54 | 55-59 | 60-64 | 65 +  | Grand T.. |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-----------|
| Auckland      | 393   | 396   | 381   | 324   | 339   | 687   | 693   | 516   | 438   | 399   | 381   | 276   | 177   | 525   | 5,925     |
| Bay of Plenty | 78    | 66    | 81    | 81    | 39    | 72    | 63    | 81    | 81    | 66    | 75    | 51    | 45    | 135   | 1,014     |
| Canterbury    | 177   | 138   | 114   | 99    | 120   | 342   | 408   | 306   | 201   | 162   | 141   | 102   | 57    | 186   | 2,553     |
| Gisborne      | 18    | 15    | 15    | 15    | 15    | 9     | 9     | 12    | 18    | 12    | 15    | 9     | 6     | 21    | 189       |
| Hawke's Bay   | 36    | 36    | 33    | 36    | 18    | 27    | 30    | 33    | 42    | 48    | 33    | 30    | 18    | 69    | 489       |
| Manawatu-..   | 63    | 57    | 48    | 57    | 42    | 51    | 33    | 45    | 33    | 63    | 57    | 45    | 51    | 102   | 747       |
| Marlborough   | 6     | 6     | 6     | 0     | 0     | 12    | 12    | 12    | 12    | 9     | 12    | 3     | 3     | 21    | 114       |
| Nelson        | 9     | 15    | 9     | 9     | 3     | 12    | 21    | 24    | 27    | 18    | 12    | 12    | 9     | 18    | 198       |
| Northland     | 48    | 54    | 57    | 57    | 18    | 33    | 42    | 27    | 42    | 48    | 51    | 39    | 30    | 69    | 615       |
| Otago         | 39    | 33    | 30    | 42    | 78    | 153   | 144   | 114   | 57    | 60    | 48    | 54    | 21    | 72    | 945       |
| Southland     | 15    | 27    | 27    | 9     | 6     | 18    | 15    | 24    | 27    | 15    | 12    | 6     | 6     | 24    | 231       |
| Taranaki      | 33    | 27    | 33    | 18    | 12    | 27    | 24    | 33    | 27    | 30    | 33    | 15    | 9     | 45    | 366       |
| Tasman        | 3     | 6     | 6     | 6     | 3     | 0     | 3     | 6     | 12    | 18    | 15    | 9     | 6     | 6     | 99        |
| Waikato       | 129   | 120   | 129   | 117   | 78    | 111   | 132   | 114   | 111   | 114   | 108   | 81    | 60    | 183   | 1,587     |
| Wellington    | 156   | 171   | 153   | 159   | 153   | 285   | 315   | 285   | 225   | 186   | 162   | 129   | 90    | 216   | 2,685     |
| West Coast    | 6     | 6     | 0     | 3     | 0     | 9     | 6     | 3     | 0     | 6     | 6     | 3     | 0     | 12    | 60        |
| Grand Total   | 1,209 | 1,173 | 1,122 | 1,032 | 924   | 1,848 | 1,950 | 1,635 | 1,353 | 1,254 | 1,161 | 864   | 588   | 1,704 | 17,817    |

## 2.5 Occupation Distribution

The statistics in Figure 4 identify occupation distribution revealing remarkable information regarding the careers of Irish people in New Zealand. The Irish predominantly occupy professional roles, with 71 percent of women holding professional posts as opposed to the national average of 27 percent of women in this bracket.<sup>22</sup> Likewise, Irish men defy the national average with 44 percent in this category as opposed to the national average of 19 percent. When these statistics are considered alongside information on immigrants workers in New Zealand, this is perhaps unsurprising. A report commissioned by the OECD in 2019 identifies that ‘a considerably higher share of immigrants than the New Zealand-born have tertiary attainment, reflecting the effectiveness of the immigration system in attracting such immigrants.’<sup>23</sup> Irish immigrants are mainly attracted through Talent and Skilled Migrant categories of visa that have high qualification requirements.

In the Occupation Distribution chart, also contained in Figure 4, it is clear that Irish women in New Zealand predominately occupy professional roles followed by managerial (16 percent), these two groups are considered highly skilled by Stats NZ. A smaller number of Irish women are recorded within the considered semi-skilled area of clerical and administrative roles (8 percent). There are no Irish women registered under what is termed the elementary skilled category, working as labourers or as machinery operators or drivers. Most surprisingly, no Irish women are recorded within the skilled category as technicians or trade workers, a sector in which 24 percent of Irish men are employed. Besides this gender divide in technical roles, a similar pattern emerges for the Irish male population who are employed mainly in professional (44 percent), and as managers (28.5 percent).

Figure 4: Occupation Distribution & Annual Income



22 For ease of reference, percentages have been rounded up or down to the nearest point throughout this research report.  
 23 David Carey, *Improving well-being in New Zealand through migration*, Economics department working papers No. 1566, OECD, 6 September 2019, p. 20.

## 2.6 Annual Income

Figure 4 also documents the level of income earned by Irish people as opposed to the national average. While these figures provide us with a significant insight into income trends for Irish immigrants, including gender pay balance and regional differences, it is essential to take into account that income is not a required answer on the census returns. Personal income relates to question 35 of the 2018 census. The non-response rate to the question of personal income has, according to Stats NZ, been 'consistently high'.<sup>24</sup> Changes were made to rectify this for the most recent census but to no avail.

The response rate to the personal income question remains low in the 2018 census return, with an overall response rate of just 27 percent. The response rate was even lower among those 17,817 people who identify as Irish. A mere 17 percent of Irish responded to the personal income question, this amounts to 3,075 people of which 1,254 are women and 1,821 are men. Furthermore, results for income according to Irish ethnicity are only reported from those living in five regions; Auckland, Wellington, Canterbury, Otago and Waikato.

Irish men and women earn well above the national average, this relates directly to the occupational distribution being predominantly within the highly skilled and skilled areas. A spike at the highest earning levels can be seen; 40 percent of women earn between \$70-\$100k as opposed to the national average of 11 percent of women. While 12 percent of Irish women achieve earnings within the \$100-\$150K compared to just four percent of women nationally. There is little difference for earnings at the top band of \$150k or more, Irish women are within the national average at two percent. The largest percentage of women nationally are recorded as earning between \$40-\$50k at 13 percent while Irish women in this category are relatively lower at nine percent. Few Irish women are recorded earning less than \$40k coming in at only seven percent as opposed to the national income for women with a staggering 51 percent earning \$40k or below.

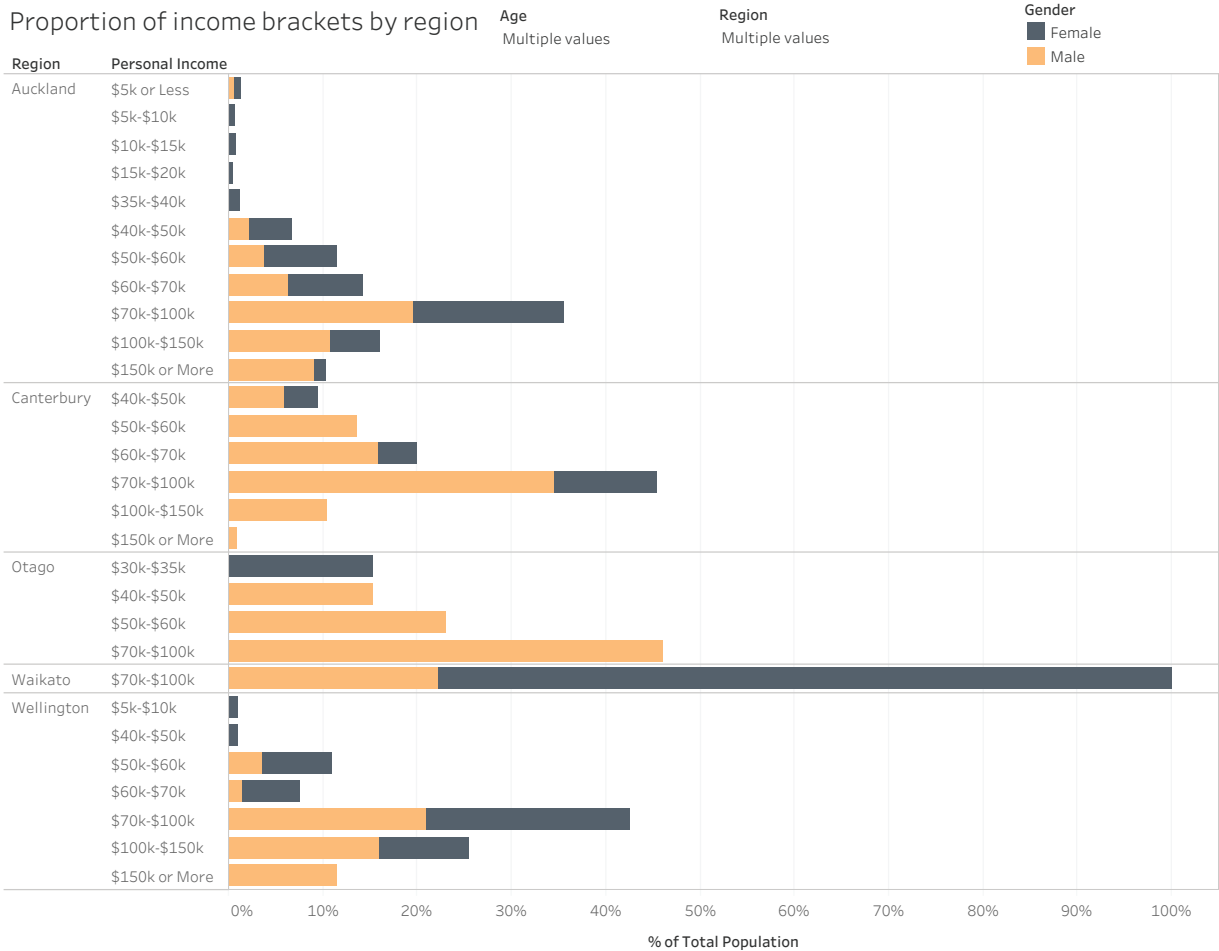
For Irish men the income levels also mirror this high earning with 40 percent achieving \$70-100k, 19 percent between \$100-\$150k and an impressive 13 percent of male Irish workers achieving an income of over \$150k, this is more than double the national male average of six percent. There are very few Irish men recorded as earning the lower income levels and those Irish male workers in that income bracket are predominantly within the age range of 15-24 year olds. Five percent of Irish men are within the \$40-\$50k bracket as opposed to the national average of 13 percent. However, at the lowest levels only one percent of Irish men are recorded as earning \$40k or under, yet just under a third of men nationally earn within this income bracket at 33 percent.

Figure 5: proportion of income brackets by region, provides insights about Irish in employment especially at the top levels of earning. Those in the highest earning bracket over \$150k reside in Wellington, Canterbury and Auckland, this is only to be expected when taking into account the higher number of Irish people living in those regions and the type of employment available in these higher urban density areas.

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24 Stats NZ <https://www.stats.govt.nz> (accessed 5 May 2020.)

Figure 5: Income brackets by region



## 2.7 Gender Pay Gap

Although the earnings of Irish women are well above the national average for female income, Figure 6 identifies a gender pay gap between Irish men and Irish women working in New Zealand. This is most evident at the top scale of pay. 234 Irish men achieve annual earnings of \$150k or more as opposed to just 21 women. At the \$100-\$150k band, 354 Irish men are recorded in this earning scale as opposed to just 150 Irish women. The \$70-\$100k is the largest recorded income band for all Irish workers and here we see 720 men earning within this range as opposed to 501 women. Taking in to consideration that there is a level gender distribution of Irish people in New Zealand but that more men answered the income question, these figures still highlight a gender pay difference for Irish immigrants.

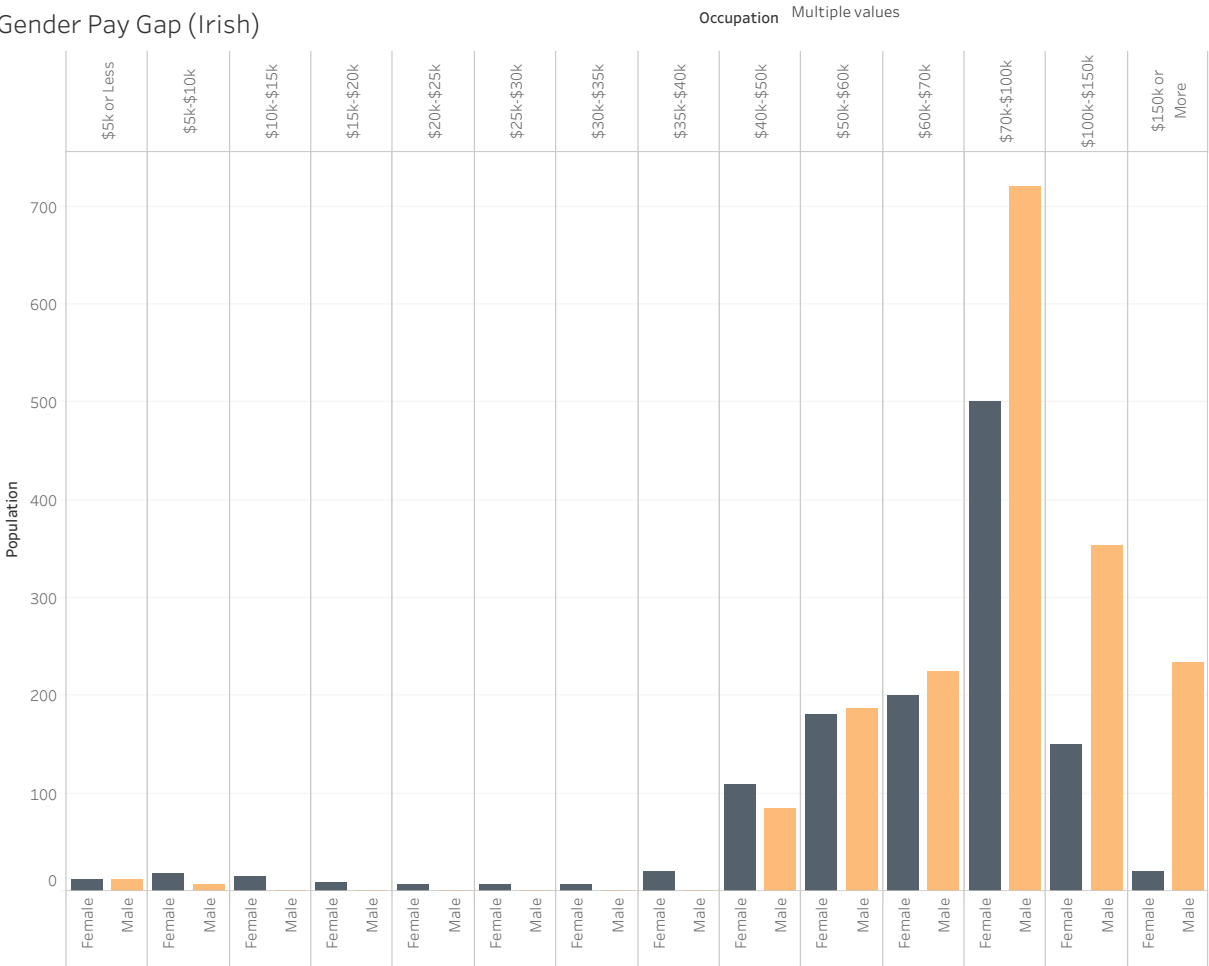
When these figures are examined against the regional income differences in Figure 5, it can be seen that gender pay difference is more evident in particular areas. The Otago region has no women recorded as earning over \$50k. Yet, Otago has two of the largest employers on the south island attracting female workers that are highly skilled and skilled; the University of Otago and Dunedin Hospital which is the main hospital for the Otago and Southland region. The only exception to women earning less than men according to area is in the Waikato region with six men and 21 women recorded in the \$70-\$100k income bracket. Waikato is a growing area of employment and the main employers are in business and finance services; wholesale and retail trade; and health care and social services. Waikato Regional Council reported the total number of employees in the region increased by 24,700 people (13 percent) in the five-year period from 2013 to 2018.<sup>25</sup>

25 'Employment growth,' *Data and trends*, Waikato Regional Council <https://www.waikatoregion.govt.nz/Environment/Environmental-information/Environmental-indicators/Community-and-economy/e2-report/e2-data/> (accessed 7 May 2020.)

Wellington can be identified as one region that has a better gender pay balance for Irish male and female workers. This may be related to the high number of jobs in government sectors or public administration in the capital, which demand a gender pay balance. There are more Irish women recorded as earning within the \$70-\$100k band in Wellington and a larger proportion of Irish women within the next scale of \$100k-\$150k but again no women are recorded at the top scale of \$150k and above.

The gender pay gap has been a focus of the New Zealand census for the last 20 years. During this time the gap between earnings for men and women has decreased and by 2018 is the lowest recorded to date. In support of International Women’s Day 2020, Stats NZ published an update of figures which reflect the position of the gender pay gap and general employment sectors identified for female workers. The report identifies a gender pay gap nationally at 9.3 percent with women earning on average \$2.50 less than men per hour of work. Industries with the highest proportion of female workers are in health care and social assistance at 83.1 percent and the lowest industries employing women is in construction (13.5 percent) and mining (8.7 percent).<sup>26</sup> The main difference between pay levels for Irish women and women nationally is the small percentage of Irish women in the lowest pay brackets. Female Irish workers in the lowest income bracket are predominantly within the 15-24 year old range.

Figure 6: Gender Pay Gap (Irish)



26 'Women in Aotearoa,' International Women’s Day Infographic, 8 March 2020, available at <https://www.stats.govt.nz/infographics/women-in-aotearoa> (accessed 7 May 2020.)

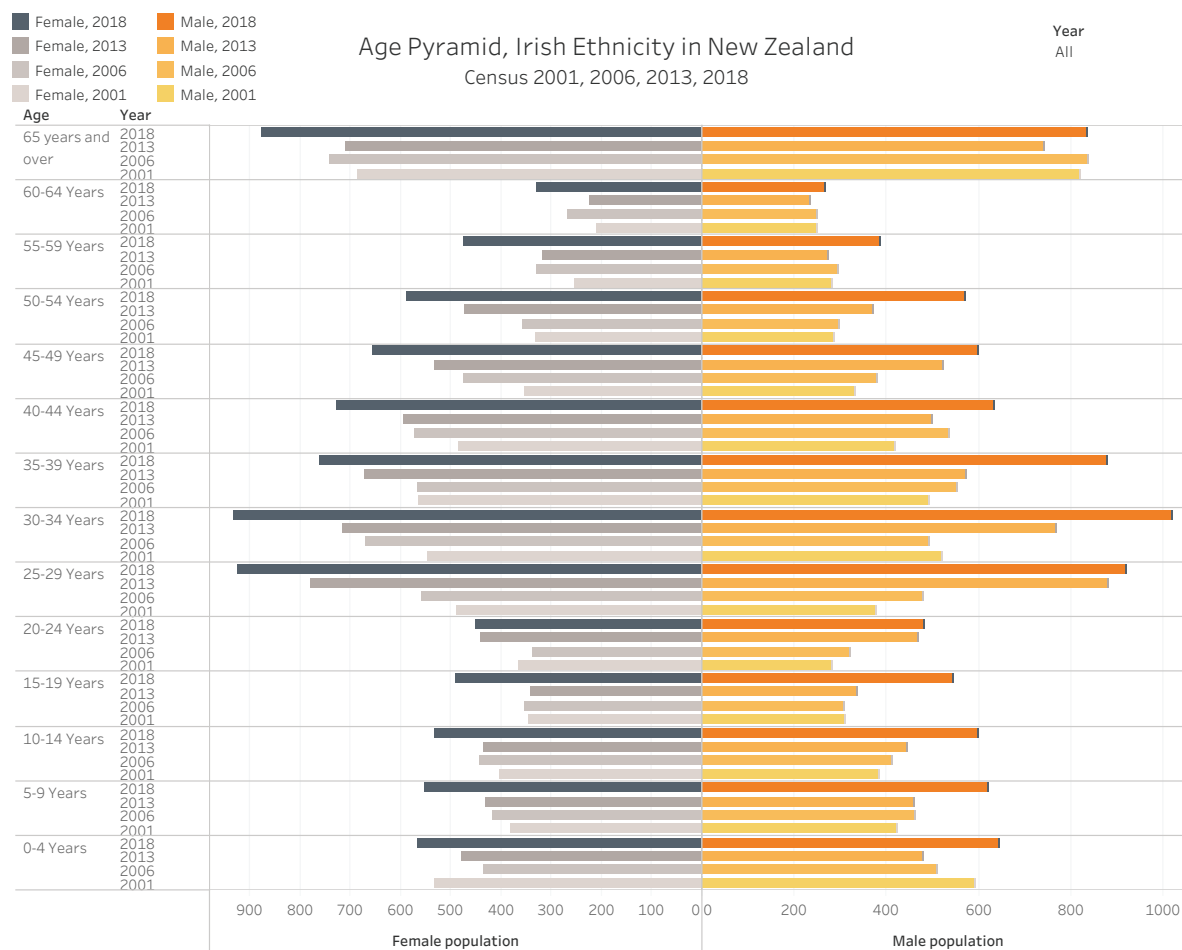
## 2.8 Age Distribution

Figure 7: age pyramid, provides an overview of the recorded number of Irish people in New Zealand by age and gender across the last four census returns for 2001, 2006, 2013 and 2018. The total number of Irish recorded for each census return shows a constant and steady increase in numbers. While the total population of New Zealand figures are also steadily increasing, the percentage of Irish is on the rise. In the 2001 census 11,709 people identified as Irish, this rose in 2006 to 12,651. The jump in Irish population figures continues to rise and by 2013 was 14,193 with the most recent 2018 census recording 17,817 Irish.<sup>27</sup>

When assessing age breakdown of the Irish population in the 2018 figures it is clear that the largest proportion fall into the 30–34 age category. This equates to 1,950 people and is balanced between male and female. This is promising when compared to the previous census which identified the largest number of Irish among the 25–29 years age group. This suggests that as well as new immigrants arriving, many Irish who immigrated to New Zealand prior to 2013 have stayed and settled, moving to the next age bracket. The category of 25–29 years also remains strong in 2018 with 1,848 people among this age grouping. Again there are evenly distributed numbers for both genders. The majority of Irish are within a young age range from 25–44 years old, in total 38 percent of people of Irish ethnicity living in New Zealand are within this twenty year age span.

At the top of the age range, the number of people in the age category of 65 years and over is also high, accounting for 1,704 people or 10 percent of the Irish population. It should be taken into account that this is a broad age category; all other age brackets only span a range of 4 years.

Figure 7: Age Pyramid



<sup>27</sup> Total breakdown from Stats NZ including Irish as a percentage of total NZ population is as follows: 2001 – 11,709 (0.31%); 2006 – 12,651 (0.31%); 2013 – 14,193 (0.33%); 2018 – 17,817 (0.38%).

### 3. MAPPING IRISH COMMUNITY AND PEOPLE OF IRISH HERITAGE IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

#### 3.1 Online Surveys Overview

Surveys were distributed via social media platforms and through targeted emails. Those of Irish heritage and birth as well as Irish community groups in Aotearoa New Zealand were identified by social media presence, personal recommendation and through public interactions including events led by the Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies (CISS) and the Embassy of Ireland, Wellington. Posters advertising the survey were distributed and placed in key areas and business cards with survey details were distributed by those associated with this project. The surveys were uploaded to the Friends of Ireland website which was linked to the CISS and the Embassy websites. The project commenced in November 2019 and surveys closed in April 2020.

## 4. IRISH PEOPLE AND PEOPLE OF IRISH HERITAGE/ AFFINITY IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

### 4.1 Survey One

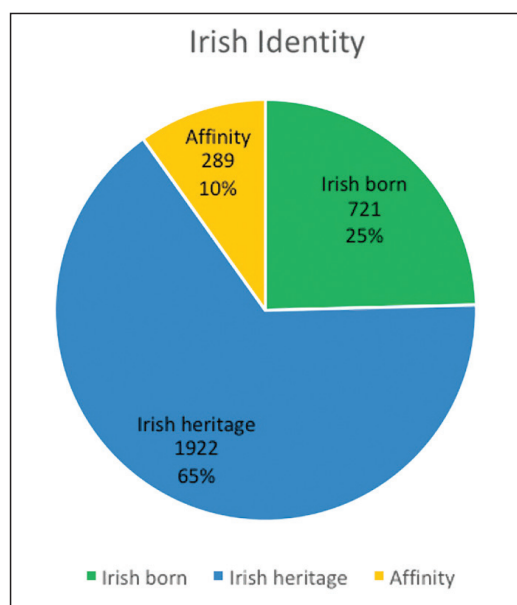
Survey one, connecting with the Irish in Aotearoa New Zealand, was distributed to collect information on individuals and their families including those of Irish birth, of Irish heritage or with an affinity for Ireland. This information was gathered to provide more detail than was possible using New Zealand census figures and to complement information available through Stats NZ. Individuals were asked the following eleven questions:

1. Do you describe yourself as Irish born, of Irish heritage or Irish affinity
2. If you are of Irish heritage – what is your closest Irish born relation to you
3. Details of person completing survey
4. Family members
5. Age range of family
6. What county/counties in Ireland do you have a connection with
7. In what region of New Zealand do you or your family currently live
8. Stories of the Irish in New Zealand – Please include any stories or comments here
9. Would you like to be added to the Embassy of Ireland email newsletter
10. Would you like to be added to the Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies email newsletter
11. Personal data opt out

### 4.2 Irish Identity

There was a positive response to this survey, especially from people of Irish heritage keen to be included in this project. 1,536 people completed this survey providing details of 2,932 people, including themselves and their family members. Figure 8: Irish identity, provides a breakdown of these main results. 65 percent of those represented in this survey are of Irish heritage, followed by 25 percent Irish born and a further 10 percent of people feel a strong affinity with Ireland – either through friends, family or interests.

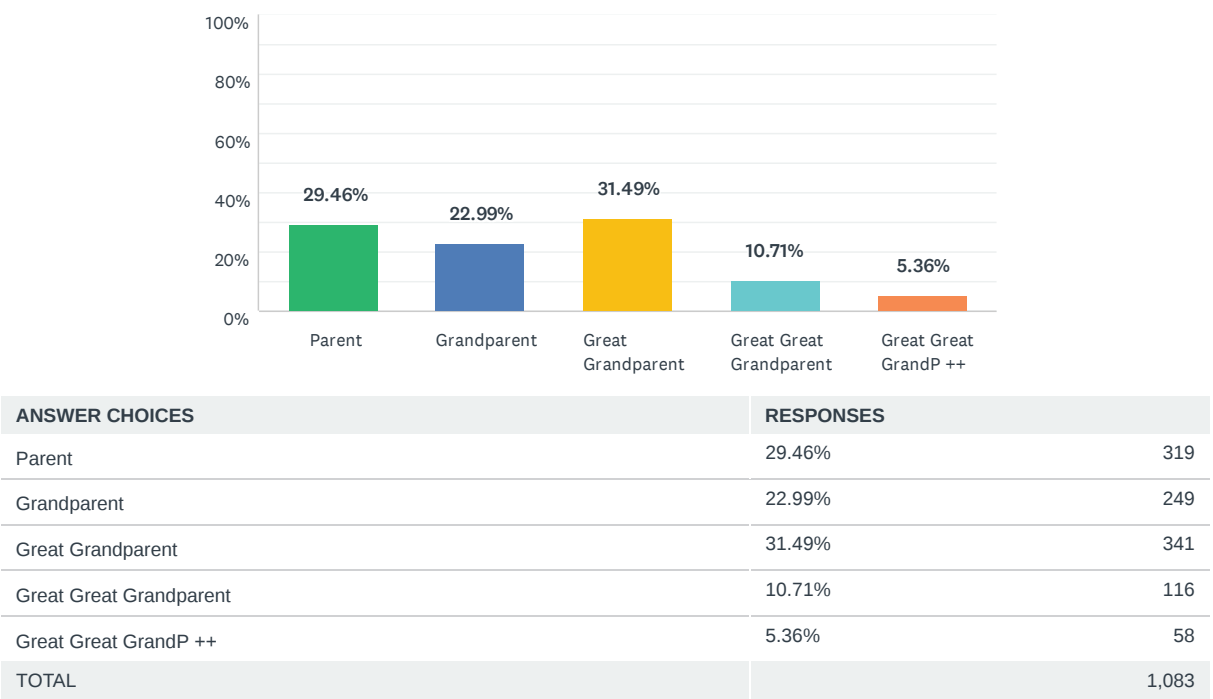
Figure 8: Irish Identity



### 4.3 Irish heritage

In order to identify how far removed those of Irish heritage are from family born in Ireland, the main respondents were asked to identify their closest Irish born relation. 1,083 people completed this section identifying that the vast majority were related closely to their Irish born family member with 29 percent identifying an Irish parent/s. Figure 9 provides a full breakdown of these results. It is significant that the majority of those with Irish heritage, 84 percent, have family bonds very closely related to Ireland, ranging from an Irish born parent to great grandparent.

Figure 9: Closest Irish Born Relation

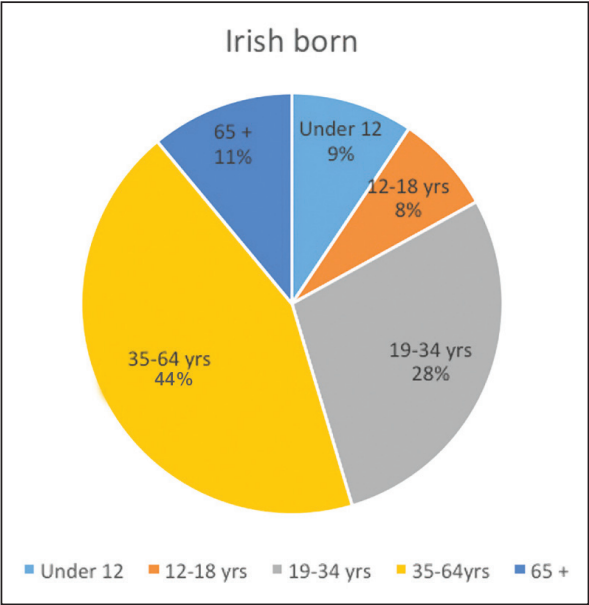


### 4.4 Age distribution

The distribution of age is a significant finding at the census analysis stage and respondents were asked to identify their age and the age of family members in this survey. The results are visualised in the graphs separated by Irish born (Figure 10); Irish heritage (Figure 11) and those with an affinity for Ireland (Figure 12).

The survey results for Irish born reflect the results of the 2018 census, with the vast majority within the working age group. Over one quarter of respondents fall in to the 19-34 age range and 44 percent within the 35-64 age range.

Figure 10: Age range of Irish born



In terms of those people of Irish heritage, the age distribution is quite different, seen in Figure 11. Nearly half of the respondents with Irish heritage, 49 percent, are accounted for in the age ranges of 35 and above. This suggests that people in this age bracket are more inclined to be conscious of their ancestry and to engage with related groups and community based on Irish interest. Likewise the age range of those with an affinity for Ireland mainly occupy the 35 and over age bracket, at 60 percent, evident in Figure 12.

Figure 11: Age Range of those with Irish Heritage

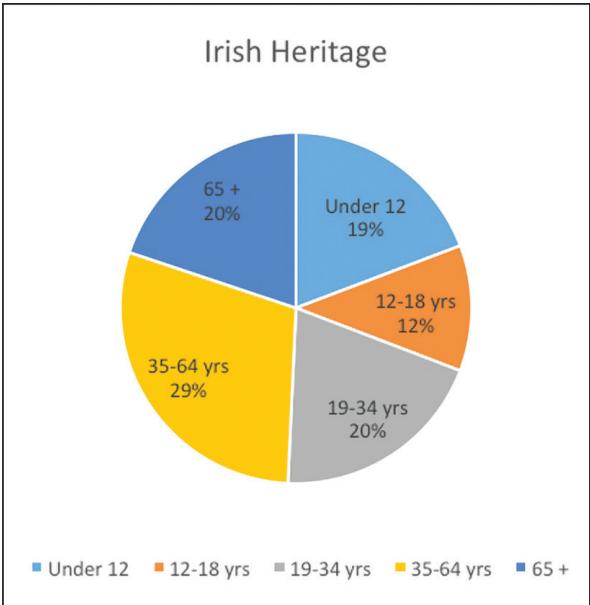
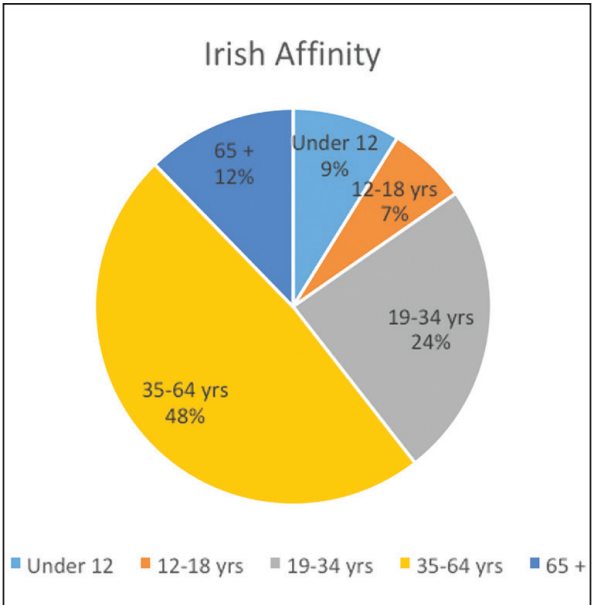


Figure 12: Age range of those with an affinity for Ireland



## 4.5 Counties of Ireland

When asked to list any and all counties in Ireland respondents were connected to, all 32 counties were selected. This signals a balance across all of the island of Ireland. Not surprisingly, the counties in Ireland with the highest population figures were selected by more respondents, 27 percent for Dublin. Cork closely followed this with 21 percent of people expressing connections with County Cork. Respondents had the opportunity to select more than one county. See Figure 13 for a complete breakdown of numbers per county.

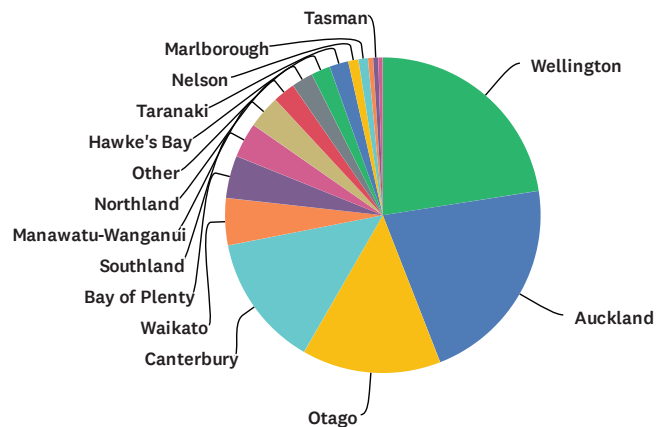
Figure 13: Connections with Counties of Ireland

| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |     |
|----------------|-----------|-----|
| Dublin         | 26.76%    | 411 |
| Cork           | 21.48%    | 330 |
| Galway         | 16.08%    | 247 |
| Antrim         | 13.87%    | 213 |
| Kerry          | 12.76%    | 196 |
| Tipperary      | 12.37%    | 190 |
| Clare          | 10.03%    | 154 |
| Limerick       | 10.03%    | 154 |
| Donegal        | 9.38%     | 144 |
| Down           | 8.59%     | 132 |
| Armagh         | 6.90%     | 106 |
| Mayo           | 6.90%     | 106 |
| Derry          | 6.51%     | 100 |
| Cavan          | 6.32%     | 97  |
| Waterford      | 5.79%     | 89  |
| Wicklow        | 5.79%     | 89  |
| Wexford        | 5.21%     | 80  |
| Kilkenny       | 5.01%     | 77  |
| Tyrone         | 5.01%     | 77  |
| Roscommon      | 4.82%     | 74  |
| Kildare        | 3.78%     | 58  |
| Meath          | 3.78%     | 58  |
| Sligo          | 3.58%     | 55  |
| Louth          | 2.67%     | 41  |
| Fermanagh      | 2.34%     | 36  |
| Westmeath      | 2.34%     | 36  |
| Monaghan       | 2.21%     | 34  |
| Laois          | 2.15%     | 33  |
| Leitrim        | 1.95%     | 30  |
| Offaly         | 1.95%     | 30  |
| Longford       | 1.56%     | 24  |
| Carlow         | 1.50%     | 23  |

## 4.6 Aotearoa New Zealand regions

Figure 14 identifies the region of New Zealand where respondents currently live. The accompanying table presents these regions in descending order. The results follow a similar pattern to the census results for those of Irish ethnicity. However, the region identifying the most people of Irish birth, heritage or affinity with Ireland is Wellington, with 23 percent of respondents living in the capital. In this instance Auckland has been taken off the top of the table. This suggests that because the Embassy of Ireland is based in Wellington and Team Ireland engage in much community activity there, the Irish community are more connected. Similarly the Otago region is placed in third place at 14 percent which may be related to the Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies activities and presence in the area. A number of respondents chose the 'other' category to signify that they moved around or spread their time between various homes.

Figure 14: Aotearoa New Zealand region



| ANSWER CHOICES    | RESPONSES |       |
|-------------------|-----------|-------|
| Wellington        | 22.53%    | 346   |
| Auckland          | 21.55%    | 331   |
| Otago             | 14.26%    | 219   |
| Canterbury        | 13.61%    | 209   |
| Waikato           | 4.82%     | 74    |
| Bay of Plenty     | 4.36%     | 67    |
| Southland         | 3.58%     | 55    |
| Manawatu-Wanganui | 3.39%     | 52    |
| Northland         | 2.28%     | 35    |
| Other             | 2.21%     | 34    |
| Hawke's Bay       | 1.95%     | 30    |
| Taranaki          | 1.95%     | 30    |
| Nelson            | 1.04%     | 16    |
| Marlborough       | 0.98%     | 15    |
| Gisborne          | 0.52%     | 8     |
| Tasman            | 0.52%     | 8     |
| West Coast        | 0.46%     | 7     |
| TOTAL             |           | 1,536 |

## 4.7 Personal accounts from the Irish in Aotearoa New Zealand

At question 8 on the survey, individuals were asked if they would like to share their stories or wanted to include any comments. There was an overwhelming response to this request; 600 individuals shared their stories about moving to New Zealand or about their relatives in Ireland. To protect confidentiality individual stories are not shared in this report. The Embassy of Ireland is planning a project to enable the sharing of these stories more broadly. These personal accounts are of prime importance and have been gathered to create a word cloud identifying the most frequently used words by respondents in their personal stories. 100 words were generated as the top most referenced terms and the number of mentions for each term is represented by their size in Figure 15.

Figure 15: Personal accounts from the Irish in Aotearoa New Zealand

Australia returned love Dunedin S John US always wife visited Ireland late ancestors  
story Galway emigrated travelled grandmother born Ireland many  
arrived NZ know made brother Wellington arrived part husband  
Dublin left Cork time name now two one another came NZ  
siblings years became lived settled father grew  
married grandparents New Zealand see  
Irish age family Kiwi Ireland Dad NZ years ago  
came Christchurch children since born back  
mother never grandfather country work son moved  
great grandparents also still went left Ireland parents farm home  
around first well met land sister lots died interest found three visited much  
daughter great grandmother great grandfather young Auckland uncle cousin  
research took life

## 5. IRISH ORGANISATIONS IN AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

### 5.1 Survey Two: Irish Groups in Aotearoa New Zealand

Survey two of the online surveys was distributed to collect information on community groups and organisations with an Irish focus across all 16 regions of New Zealand. Group leaders were called on to complete a survey answering 19 questions:

1. Name of group
2. Year of establishment
3. Core mission or purpose
4. Core interest
5. If Sports interest – specify sports
6. Estimated number of members
7. How often do you meet in a calendar year
8. What facilities does your group have
9. Contact person
10. Primary organisation website url
11. Social media platforms used by organisation
12. Postal address of group
13. Geographical region covered by group
14. Have you registered for Cruinniú Chairde na hÉireann, Friends of Ireland Gathering
15. What are your plans for St Patrick's Day 2020
16. Are there future area/projects you would like to collaborate with the Embassy on
17. Would you like to be added to the Embassy of Ireland email newsletter
18. Would you like to be added to the Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies email notifications
19. Personal data opt out

### 5.2 Background

Similar projects to map Irish community groups in Canada and the USA have benefitted from a strong network of well-established Irish community organisations in those countries. This is not the case in New Zealand which, possibly as a result of geographical and historical differences, including the absence of an Embassy of Ireland until recently, has a less obvious or organised network of Irish community groups. To put this in context, the *Global Irish Diaspora Directory*, published by the Irish Abroad Unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland in 2017, groups New Zealand with Australia rather than as an independent category. This was possibly because the number of known Irish organisations in New Zealand was then so few. The most recent *Directory* (9 March 2020) includes six Irish community organisations, all bar one national organisation, are based on the North Island.<sup>28</sup>

28 *Rest of the World Global Irish Diaspora Directory*, (third edition), Department of Foreign Affairs, Ireland. Available at <https://www.dfa.ie/media/globalirish/stayingintouch/diaspora/Rest-of-World-Diaspora-Directory-2020.pdf> (accessed 30 April 2020.)

The following developments helped identify current Irish organisations; The opening of the Embassy of Ireland in Wellington in 2018 with resident Ambassador Peter Ryan in place, the visits of Ministers Humphreys and Cannon in 2019, and Secetary General (Department of Finance) Derek Moran, Secretary General (Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation) Dr. Orlaigh Quinn, and Director General (Trade Division, Department of Foreign Affairs) to New Zealand in 2018, the hosting of two Cruinniú (Gatherings of Irish community representatives) by the Embassy in December 2018 and February 2020, along with an Irish immigrant taking up the position as Chair of Irish Studies at the University of Otago in 2019.

### 5.3 Irish Group Response

23 group leaders responded to the online survey. This low number does not provide a definitive picture, as a number of groups are not represented, however the results supply more information about Irish community and cultural activity in New Zealand than previously known. With the launch of the final report and upload of results to the Friends of Ireland website, it is envisioned that more groups will request to be added to this list. The 23 groups accounted for in this information are detailed in Figure 16.

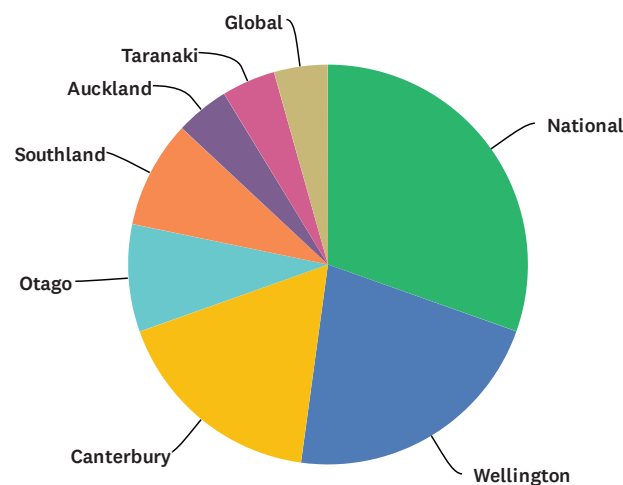
Figure 16: Irish Groups by Name

| #  | RESPONSES                                                                               |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Hutt Valley Irish Society                                                               |
| 2  | Irish Alumni NZ                                                                         |
| 3  | Wellington Irish                                                                        |
| 4  | Irish Interest Group Lower North Island                                                 |
| 5  | Christchurch Irish Society                                                              |
| 6  | N.Z. Society Genealogists -Irish Interest Group                                         |
| 7  | IBNNZ - Christchurch                                                                    |
| 8  | The Ulster- NZ Trust at the Ballance House                                              |
| 9  | Kapiti Irish Society                                                                    |
| 10 | New Zealanders of Irish Descent Genealogy and DNA Family Finder Database Facebook Group |
| 11 | Greenlight Innovations Limited                                                          |
| 12 | New Zealand Academy of Highland and National Dancing                                    |
| 13 | Christchurch Celtic Wolfhounds                                                          |
| 14 | Irish Interest Genealogy Group                                                          |
| 15 | Christchurch Competitions Irish Dance Section                                           |
| 16 | Invercargill Irish Society Inc                                                          |
| 17 | Doyle Academy of Irish Dance                                                            |
| 18 | Taranaki GAA                                                                            |
| 19 | South Canterbury Irish society                                                          |
| 20 | Irish Folk in Dunedin NZ                                                                |
| 21 | Otago Centre - Piping and Dancing Association of New Zealand                            |
| 22 | Crosscare Migrant Project                                                               |
| 23 | Irish Mammies in NZ                                                                     |

## 5.4 Regions of Aotearoa New Zealand

Of all 16 regions of New Zealand, six were identified as areas covered by Irish organisations. Wellington received the largest response, again this suggests that the presence of the Embassy in the capital city helped to mobilise this response from those organisations. While Team Ireland are engaging in some high profile community engagements nationally across the Community, Commercial and Cultural headings, Irish groups in Wellington are possibly more aware of their presence. Auckland received the second highest response, which is no doubt related to the higher population of Irish and people of Irish heritage based there. The presence of the Honorary Consulate of Ireland in Auckland may also impact positively on this result. It should be noted that over 30 percent of respondents identified their organisation as being national in focus. All 16 regions of New Zealand were included on the survey questionnaire but only those regions chosen by group leaders are included in Figure 17, geographical region covered.

Figure 17: Geographical Region Covered by Group

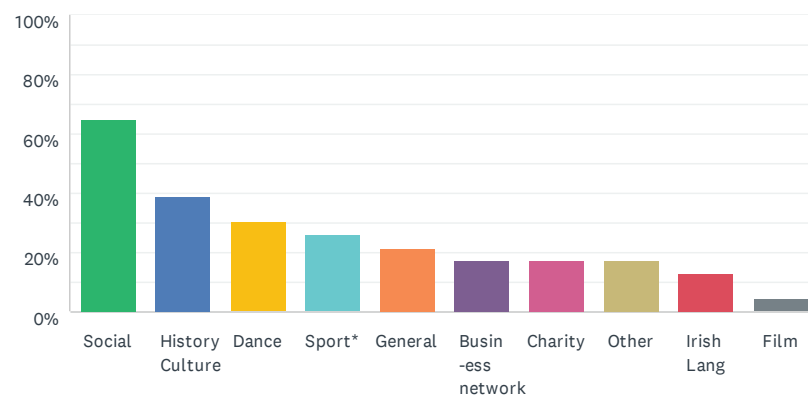


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |    |
|----------------|-----------|----|
| National       | 30.43%    | 7  |
| Wellington     | 21.74%    | 5  |
| Canterbury     | 17.39%    | 4  |
| Otago          | 8.70%     | 2  |
| Southland      | 8.70%     | 2  |
| Auckland       | 4.35%     | 1  |
| Taranaki       | 4.35%     | 1  |
| Global         | 4.35%     | 1  |
| TOTAL          |           | 23 |

## 5.5 Core Interest of Group

Irish organisations are broadly defined and include any group, society or association based on or around an Irish interest. The survey presented ten core interests for groups to select under the headings; Social, Business Networking, Sport, General, Dance, Film, Irish language, History/Culture, Charity and Other. The total number of groups completing this section was 23, overall selecting 58 different interest categories. Many groups based on a core interest in one area such as genealogy for example also selected social, identifying the importance of community engagement and social networking for Irish group activity. The category of social was indeed the top response with 65 percent choosing this. Four groups included the category of 'other' and identified these as tourism; community well-being; emigrant support; and building a community. See details at Figure 18, core interest.

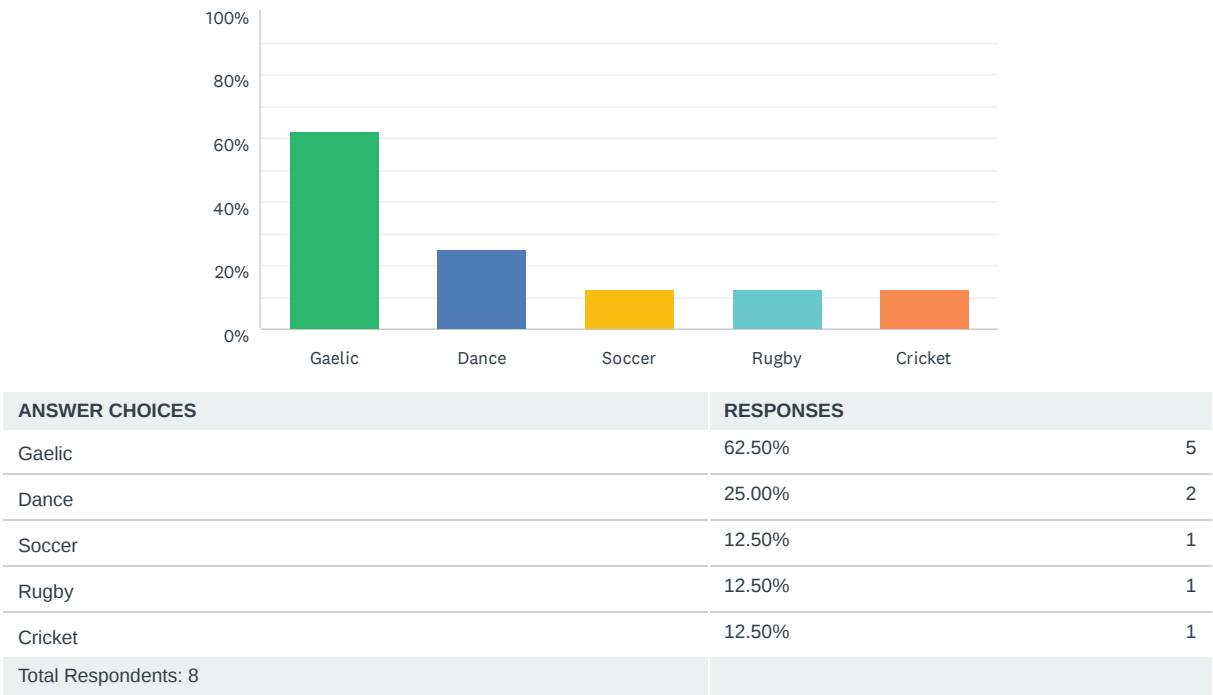
Figure 18: Core Interest of Group



| ANSWER CHOICES        | RESPONSES |    |
|-----------------------|-----------|----|
| Social                | 65.22%    | 15 |
| History Culture       | 39.13%    | 9  |
| Dance                 | 30.43%    | 7  |
| Sport*                | 26.09%    | 6  |
| General               | 21.74%    | 5  |
| Busin -ess network    | 17.39%    | 4  |
| Charity               | 17.39%    | 4  |
| Other                 | 17.39%    | 4  |
| Irish Lang            | 13.04%    | 3  |
| Film                  | 4.35%     | 1  |
| Total Respondents: 23 |           |    |

If sport was selected, leaders were asked to identify which sports their group engaged in from a list of ten; Gaelic Games, Soccer, Rugby, Bowls, Cricket, Golf, Equestrian, Netball, Water Sports and Other. As no groups selected an interest in Bowls, Golf, Equestrian, Netball or Water Sports, these categories do not appear in the results in Figure 19 although Irish Societies in all cities have strong bowling connections. Two organisations identified dance as a sport and therefore dance is now included in the graph categories of sport. Gaelic games returned the top result with a majority of 62.5 percent of sports focused here. Irish dance returned as the second most popular sport.

Figure 19: Sports



### 5.6 Core Mission

Group representatives were asked to explain or identify the core mission of their organisation. Often community groups are founded around a particular activity such as sport but with a deeper mission to perhaps form community bonds. Respondents were given a free text box in which to express the mission behind their group. Key terms emerged from this response as identified by the word cloud at Figure 20; promoting Ireland and supporting people emerged as missions common to most.

Figure 20: Core Mission



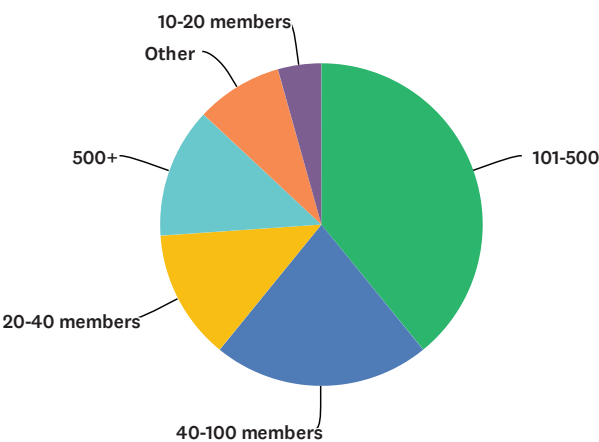
### 5.7 Background of organisations

The year of establishment for community groups ranged from the earliest recorded, the Piping and Dancing Association of New Zealand established in 1908, to the most recent group, Irish Alumni NZ, formed in 2020. This timeline identifies the deep roots of Irish community association from the turn of the twentieth century through to the present day. Irish groups are adapting to meet the needs of Irish people and people of Irish heritage in New Zealand in the twenty first century.

## 5.8 Membership

The estimated numbers of people associated with Irish groups is particularly significant. The chart in Figure 21 identifies the number of members of each organisation. Nearly 40 percent of Irish groups include a membership of over 100 people, with three groups identifying over 500 members. Two groups did not enter a figure here based on the fact that one group, Crosscare Migrant Project, is an Irish-based organisation and The Ulster-NZ Trust at Ballance House fosters relationships between Ulster and New Zealand, and is based in the refurbished birth place of John Ballance, 14th Prime Minister of New Zealand, in Glenavy outside Lisburn, Northern Ireland.

Figure 21: Number of Members

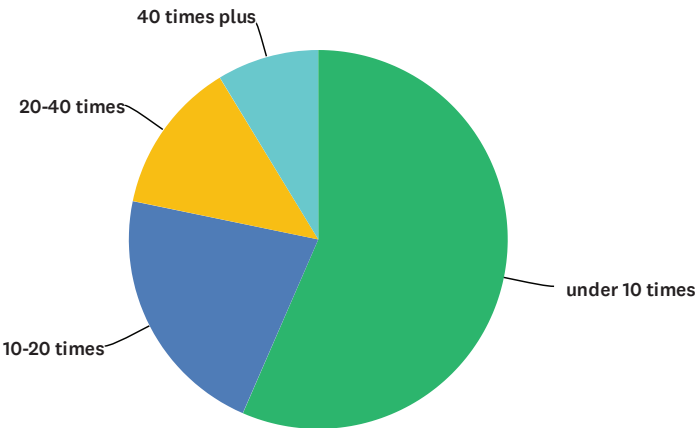


| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |    |
|----------------|-----------|----|
| 101-500        | 39.13%    | 9  |
| 40-100 members | 21.74%    | 5  |
| 20-40 members  | 13.04%    | 3  |
| 500+           | 13.04%    | 3  |
| Other          | 8.70%     | 2  |
| 10-20 members  | 4.35%     | 1  |
| TOTAL          |           | 23 |

## 5.9 Meetings and Facilities

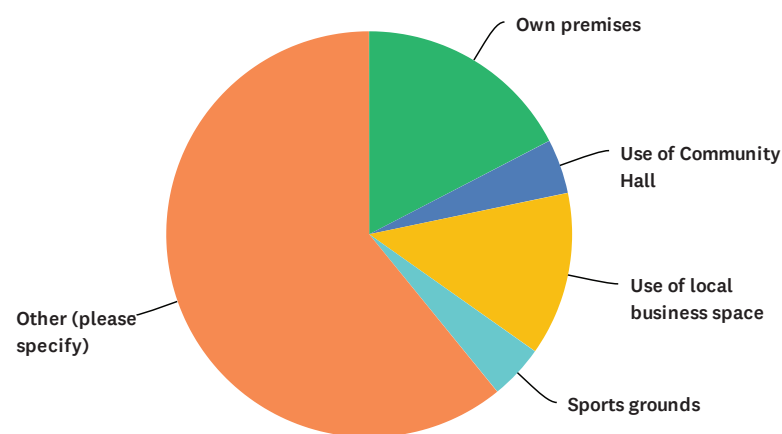
Results here identify the number of times groups meet during a calendar year, see Figure 22, and also what facilities are used for such meetings detailed in Figure 23. Over 60 percent of respondents ticked ‘other’, highlighting this as an area difficult to categorise. Facilities in the other category include a broad range of meeting places including park benches and outdoor spaces for Irish Mammies in New Zealand meetings, to groups who meet at national or local conferences and at competition events.

Figure 22: Meetings



| ANSWER CHOICES | RESPONSES |    |
|----------------|-----------|----|
| under 10 times | 56.52%    | 13 |
| 10-20 times    | 21.74%    | 5  |
| 20-40 times    | 13.04%    | 3  |
| 40 times plus  | 8.70%     | 2  |
| TOTAL          |           | 23 |

Figure 23: Facilities

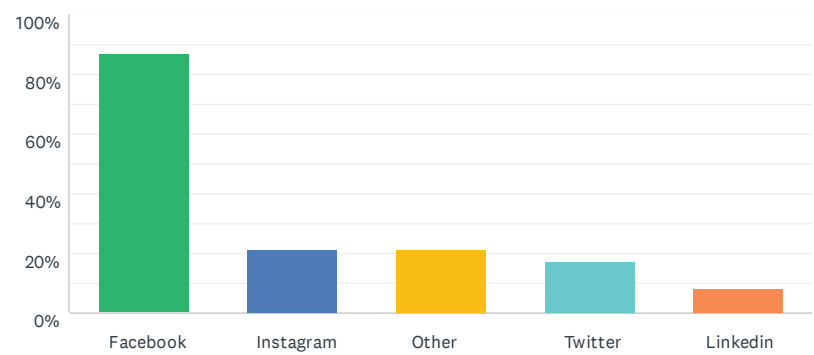


| ANSWER CHOICES              | RESPONSES |    |
|-----------------------------|-----------|----|
| Own premises                | 17.39%    | 4  |
| Use of Community Hall       | 4.35%     | 1  |
| Use of local business space | 13.04%    | 3  |
| Sports grounds              | 4.35%     | 1  |
| Other (please specify)      | 60.87%    | 14 |
| TOTAL                       |           | 23 |

## 5.10 Social Media

Details regarding meetings, events and activities were shared with members through social media platforms or online, in all cases. While some group leaders specified contact through email, the vast majority of groups, twenty in total, have a Facebook page. Figure 24 details these social media platforms used.

Figure 24: Social media



| ANSWER CHOICES         | RESPONSES |    |
|------------------------|-----------|----|
| Facebook               | 86.96%    | 20 |
| Instagram              | 21.74%    | 5  |
| Other (please specify) | 21.74%    | 5  |
| Twitter                | 17.39%    | 4  |
| Linkedin               | 8.70%     | 2  |
| Total Respondents: 23  |           |    |

# TUILLEADH EOLAIS FURTHER INFORMATION RĀRANGI PĀRONGO

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This project was led by the Principal Investigator, Professor Sonja Tiernan, Eamon Cleary Chair of Irish Studies and co-director of the Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies, University of Otago.

The complete project results are available to access, including a pdf of this report to download, on the Friends of Ireland website <https://www.friendsofireland.co.nz>

The majority of people completing surveys for this research expressed an interest in being added to the email list for both the Embassy of Ireland and the Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies. These email addresses have now been added to contact lists through which news and events are shared.

The Embassy of Ireland, Wellington is planning a follow on project from this research to enable the sharing of the personal stories reported by 600 respondents to the survey.

There will be further activity to gather more details about Irish groups in New Zealand through the Friends of Ireland website.

It is permissible to copy and use any of the material in this report and from the data visualisation sources online, provided that the source is appropriately acknowledged. If you would like more information on the research or have any questions, do not hesitate to get in touch at [info@friendsofireland.co.nz](mailto:info@friendsofireland.co.nz)

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**POBLACHT NA H EIREANN.**  
**THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT**  
**OF THE**  
**IRISH REPUBLIC**  
**TO THE PEOPLE OF IRELAND.**

**IRISHMEN AND IRISHWOMEN :** In the name of God and of the dead generations from which she receives her old tradition of nationhood, Ireland, through us, summons her children to her flag and strikes for her freedom.

Having organised and trained her manhood through her secret revolutionary organisation, the Irish Republican Brotherhood, and through her open military organisations, the Irish Volunteers and the Irish Citizen Army, having patiently perfected her discipline, having resolutely waited for the right moment to reveal itself, she now seizes that moment, and, supported by her exiled children in America and by gallant allies in Europe, but relying in the first on her own strength, she strikes in full confidence of victory.

We declare the right of the people of Ireland to the ownership of Ireland, and to the unfettered control of Irish destinies, to be sovereign and indefeasible. The long usurpation of that right by a foreign people and government has not extinguished the right, nor can it ever be extinguished except by the destruction of the Irish people. In every generation the Irish people have asserted their right to national freedom and sovereignty; six times during the past three hundred years they have asserted it in arms. Standing on that fundamental right and again asserting it in arms in the face of the world, we hereby proclaim the Irish Republic as a Sovereign Independent State, and we pledge our lives and the lives of our comrades-in-arms to the cause of its freedom, of its welfare, and of its exaltation among the nations.

The Irish Republic is entitled to, and hereby claims, the allegiance of every Irishman and Irishwoman. The Republic guarantees religious and civil liberty, equal rights and equal opportunities to all its citizens, and declares its resolve to pursue the happiness and prosperity of the whole nation and of all its parts, cherishing all the children of the nation equally, and oblivious of the differences carefully fostered by an alien government, which have divided a minority from the majority in the past.

Until our arms have brought the opportune moment for the establishment of a permanent National Government, representative of the whole people of Ireland and elected by the suffrages of all her men and women, the Provisional Government, hereby constituted, will administer the civil and military affairs of the Republic in trust for the people.

We place the cause of the Irish Republic under the protection of the Most High God, Whose blessing we invoke upon our arms, and we pray that no one who serves that cause will dishonour it by cowardice, inhumanity, or rapine. In this supreme hour the Irish nation must, by its valour and discipline and by the readiness of its children to sacrifice themselves for the common good, prove itself worthy of the august destiny to which it is called.

Signed on Behalf of the Provisional Government,

**THOMAS J. CLARKE,**

**SEAN Mac DIARMADA,**

**THOMAS MacDONAGH,**

**P. H. PEARSE,**

**EAMONN CEANNT,**

**JAMES CONNOLLY,**

**JOSEPH PLUNKETT.**



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and Scottish Studies

