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## Community - Paradoxes

- A small intimate society, with a highly fragmented social order
- A nation of migrants with high degrees of inter-marriage, yet sharply defined ethnic boundaries
- A society with a strong egalitarian ethos, yet with striking differences in life chances for its citizens
- A 'young' society with an aging population, which is harsh on its young

## What ideas to address these paradoxes?

- Focus on bridging social boundaries
- Challenge traditional welfare delivery models – decentralise, empower individuals and communities
- Tackle child poverty and educational inequality head on
- Put children and young people at the top of national priorities

## Growth and Community – are they mutually exclusive?

- Growth allows us to address pressing social concerns
- Economic growth is necessary for life satisfaction and social cohesion
- Growth without community will not deliver the outcomes we seek
- Social investment has measurable benefits including economic benefits

## Nation Building

- We need a strong, galvanising narrative of our nation's history
- Don't turn ethnic categories into strait jackets – celebrate diversity while building common purpose
- Government should do no harm, use evidence-based methods, support and grow effective programmes
- Use our current resources more effectively
- Need to construct a common ground to negotiate Treaty and constitutional issues

