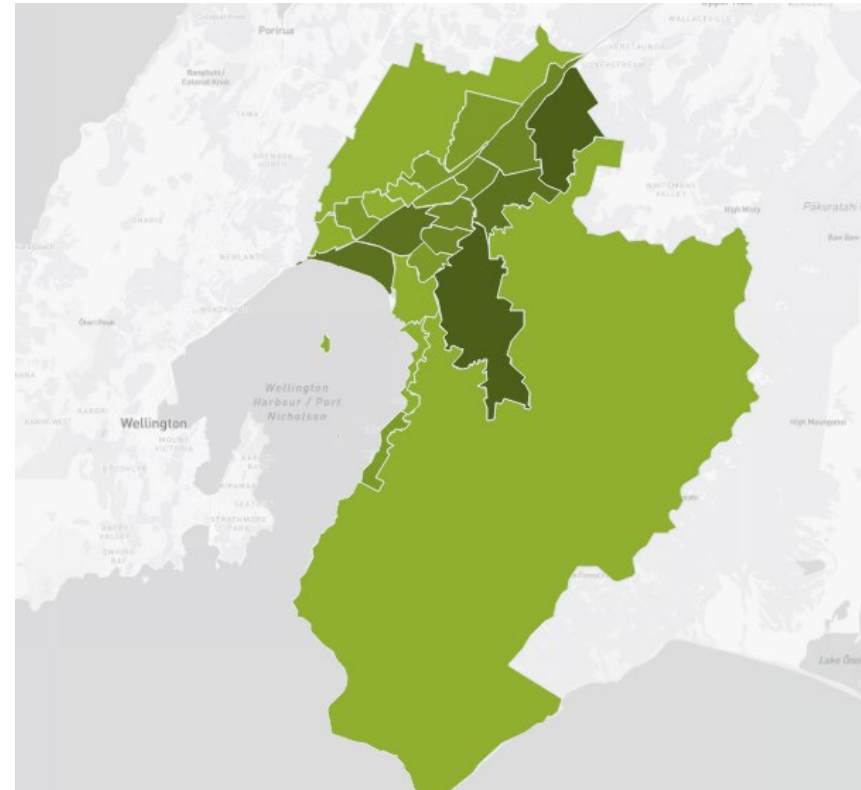


Census 2023: Key trends & insights

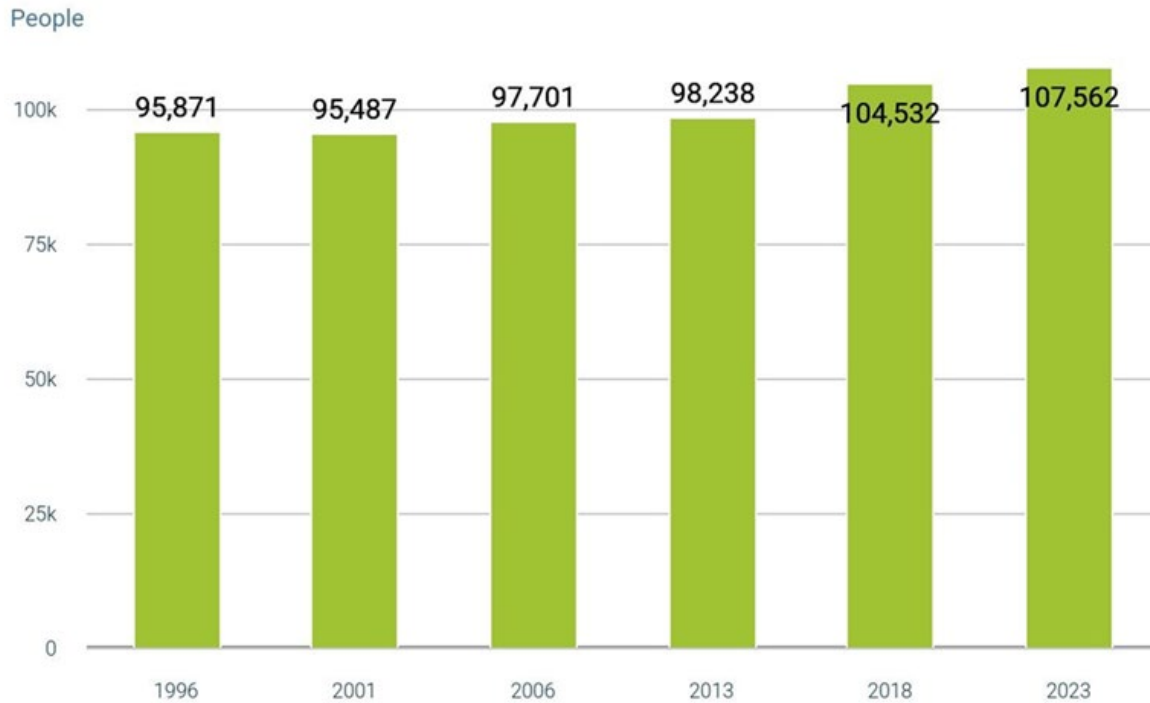
Mike Nuth – Principal Advisor, Research & Evaluation

What I am covering

- Key Census 2023 findings:
 - Lower Hutt's population growth
 - Changing population structure (age, ethnicity)
 - Socioeconomic issues identified by the data
 - Implications for Council



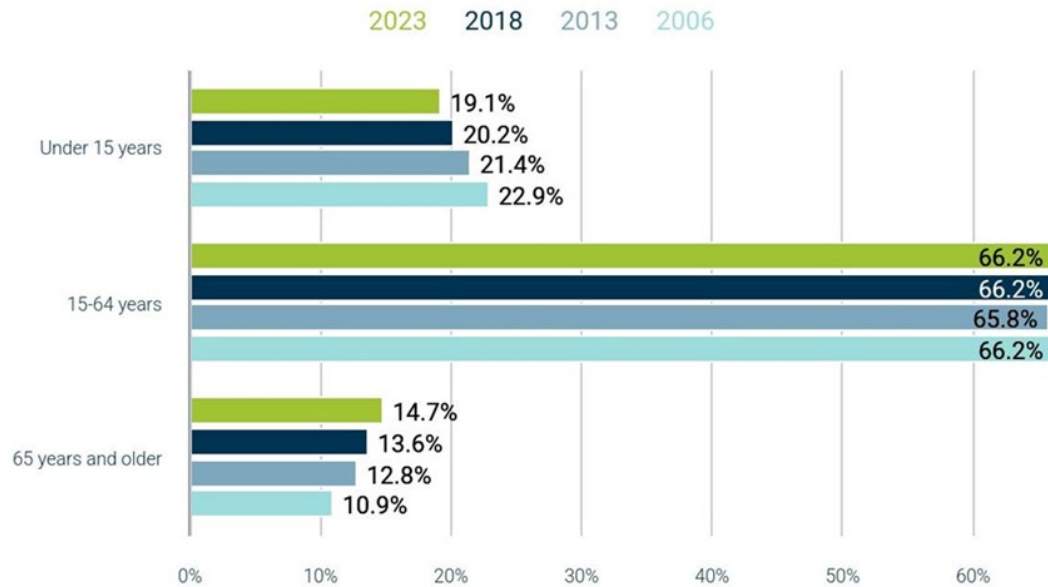
Population growth



- 3% growth from 2018 based on residents in Lower Hutt on day of Census.
- Estimated Resident Population vs. Usually Resident Population.
- Sense Partners' projection for Lower Hutt for 2023 = 113,034. Stats NZ's projection 114,030.

Our population is aging

Census usually resident population, % of total



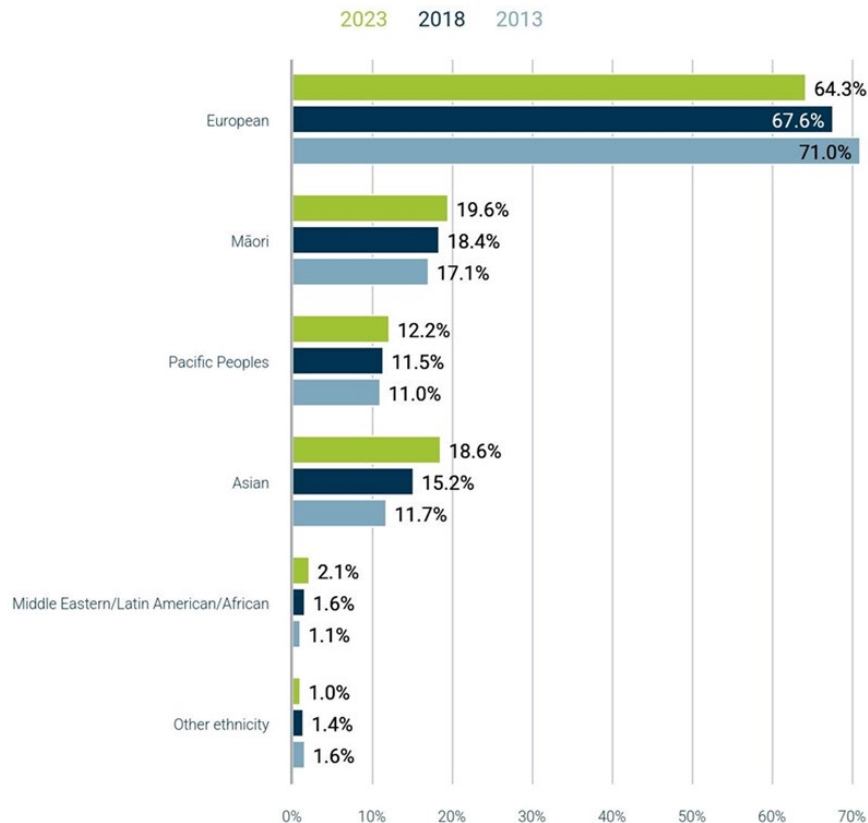
- Our declining birthrate is resulting in our population aged 15 and under to decline.
- Residents aged 65+ are growing as a proportion of our population.
- Population growth owes largely to net migration, and less so on natural growth (i.e. births minus deaths).

Implication

- What does an aging population mean for Council's provision of services?

Our population is becoming more diverse

Census usually resident population, % of total



- Our European population is declining as a proportion of Lower Hutt’s population, while all other ethnic groups are growing.
- 27.8% of our population is born overseas.
- Population growth largely depends on Lower Hutt competing with other population centres.

Implication

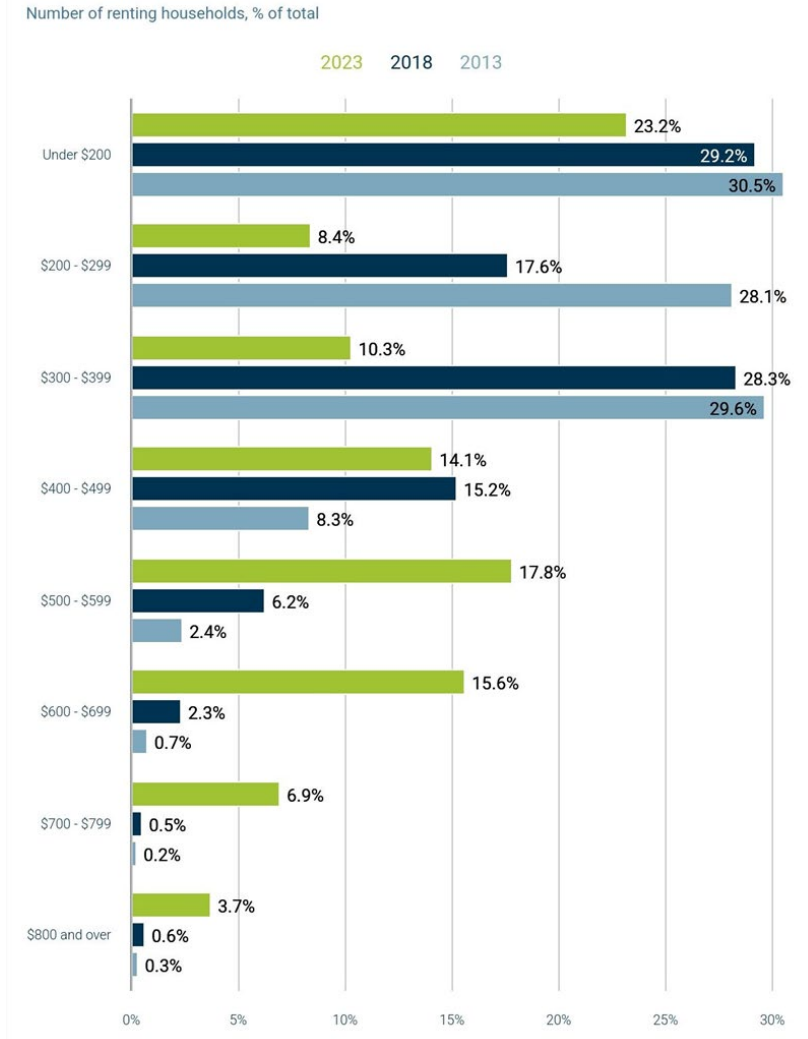
- How do we ensure that Lower Hutt remains an attractive place to live?

Rental market inflation

- Census data indicates the extend of rental market inflation since 2018.
- Low-income households are especially vulnerable.

Implication

- What is happening to low-income households in an inflated rental market?



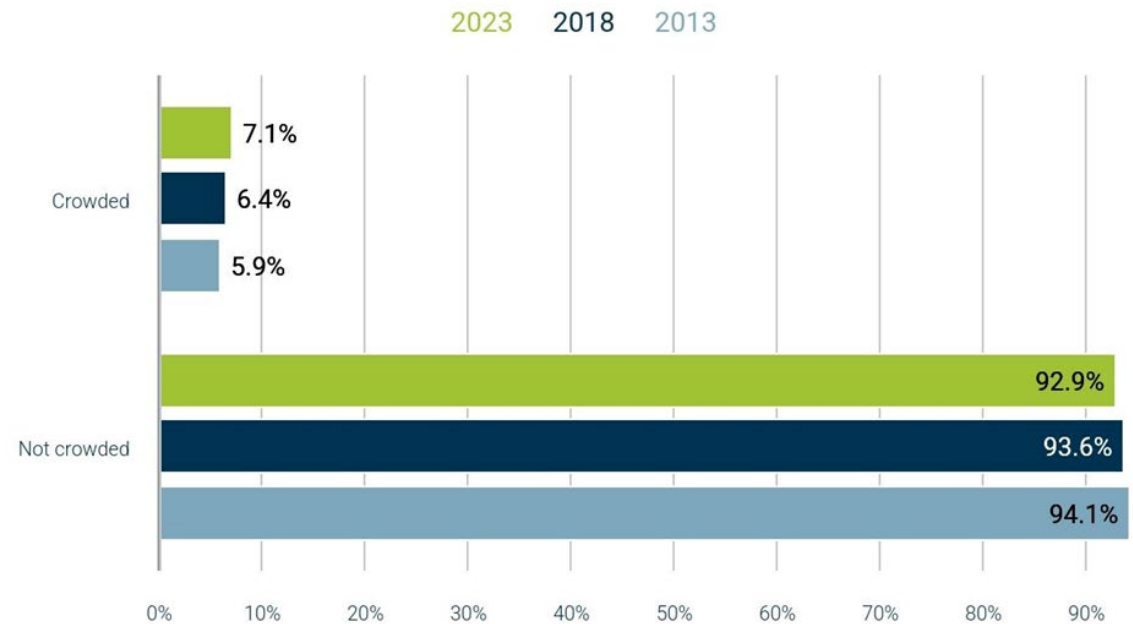
Household crowding is increasing

- Census 2023 tells us that household crowding in Lower Hutt is increasing.
- In 2023, 2,664 households in Lower Hutt (7.1% of all households) experienced crowding. This is an increase of nearly 400 Lower Hutt households experiencing crowding since 2018.

Question

- Which areas of the city are most affected?

Number of households, % of total



Crowding in high deprivation areas

Families and households, Household crowding index: Crowded for wards in Lower Hutt City



Area		2023		2018		2013	
Name	Level	% of total	Level	% of total	Level	% of total	
Western Ward	201	3.5%	192	3.4%	132	2.4%	
Harbour Ward	432	5.8%	366	5.2%	333	5.1%	
Northern Ward	555	10.2%	426	8.4%	396	8.1%	
Central Ward	360	5.6%	324	5.2%	264	4.5%	
Eastern Ward	630	10.1%	564	9.3%	513	8.9%	
Wainuiomata Ward	498	7.9%	438	7.4%	369	6.5%	

Families and households, Household crowding index: Crowded for statistical areas 3 in Lower Hutt City

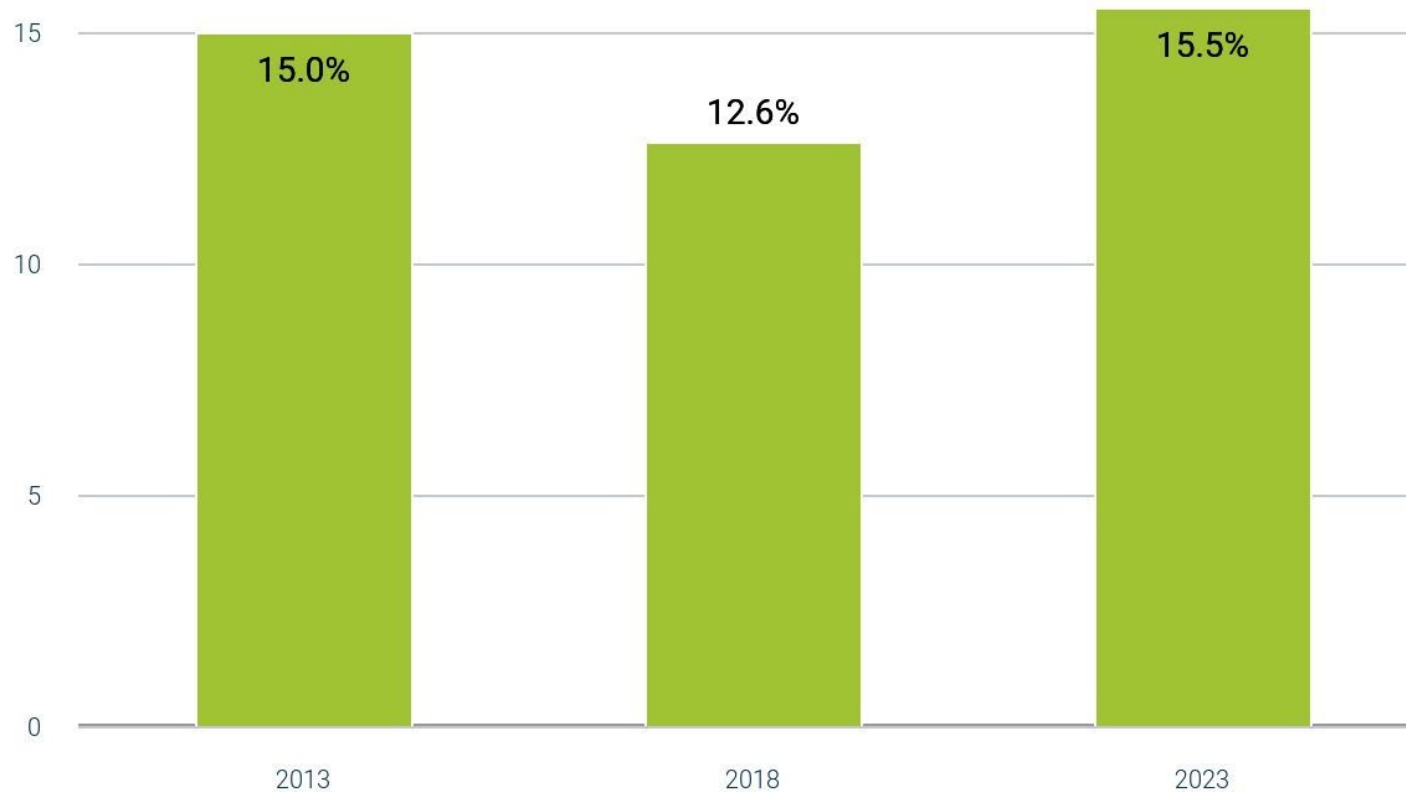
Area	2023		2018		2013	
Name	Level	% of total	Level	% of total	Level	% of total
Lower Hutt City Rural	12	3.5%	12	3.8%	3	0.9%
Taita-Manor Park	312	14.0%	246	12.4%	234	12.7%
Stokes Valley	246	7.3%	189	5.9%	165	5.2%
Kelson	21	2.0%	21	2.1%	15	1.6%
Belmont	21	2.2%	30	3.3%	9	1.0%
Tirohanga	12	3.0%	9	2.2%	3	0.8%
Normandale	21	2.9%	9	1.3%	15	2.2%
Maungaraki	42	3.1%	42	3.0%	21	1.6%
Hutt Centre	162	5.1%	144	4.6%	132	4.5%
Korokoro	15	2.8%	6	1.1%	12	2.4%
Petone	201	6.6%	174	6.2%	159	6.4%
Waiwhetu	147	9.0%	105	6.8%	96	6.6%
Moera-Gracefield	75	11.5%	66	10.2%	60	10.0%
Eastern Bays	12	1.5%	12	1.5%	12	1.6%
Avalon	138	7.2%	120	6.3%	90	5.1%
Naenae	384	13.4%	381	13.6%	345	13.2%
Boulcott	51	5.4%	45	5.0%	33	3.8%
Epuni	165	7.1%	135	6.1%	126	5.8%
Wainuiomata	492	8.1%	426	7.5%	366	6.7%
Waterloo	129	6.4%	102	5.2%	84	4.4%
Eastbourne	18	1.6%	27	2.5%	15	1.5%



Taita North has the highest incidences of crowding

Household crowding index, crowded, Taita North

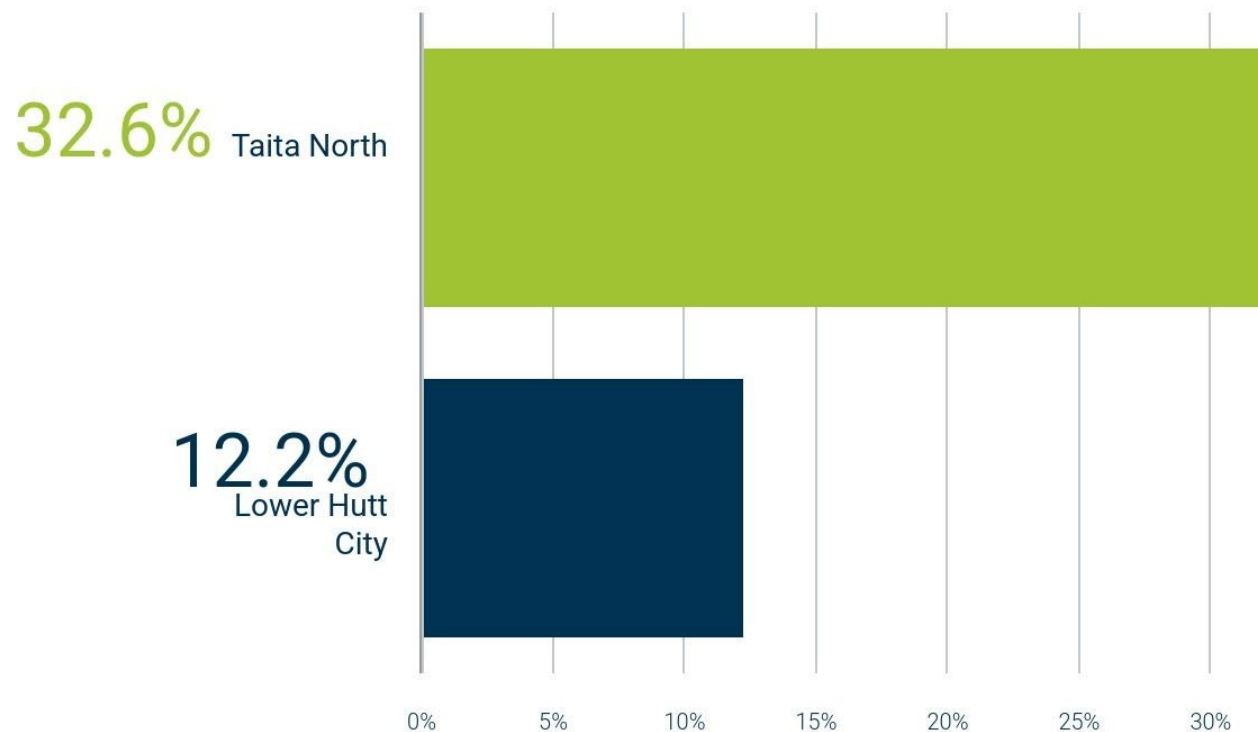
% of total



Pacific Peoples are disproportionately affected by household crowding

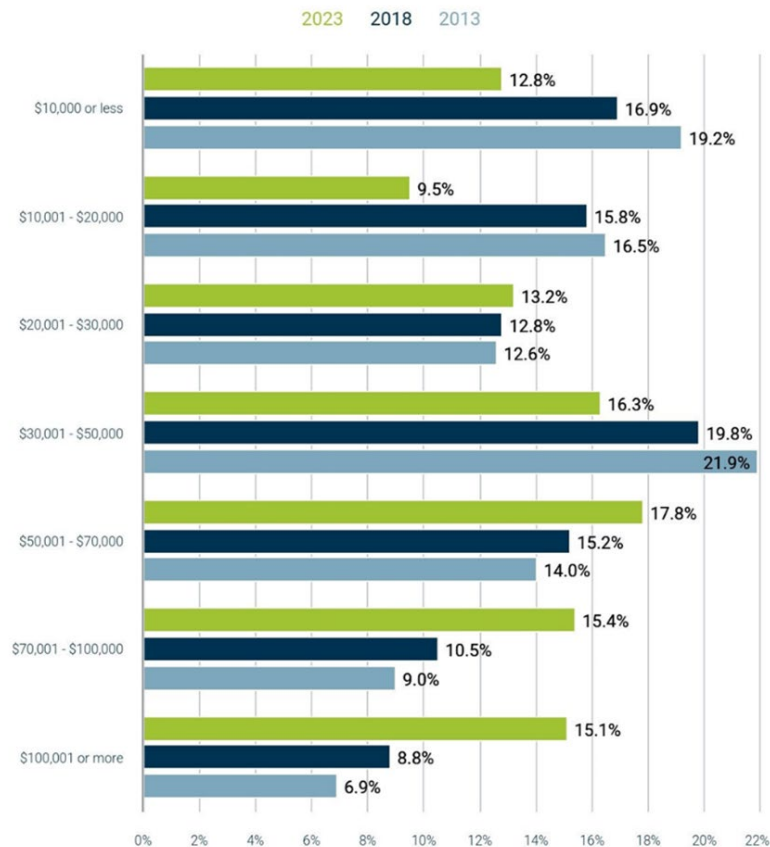
Ethnicity, Pacific Peoples, 2023

% of total



Personal incomes in Lower Hutt are increasing

Population aged 15+, % of total



- Since 2018, there has been a significant increase in the proportion of residents earning more than \$50,001 per year and a decrease in those earning \$50,000 or less.
- The most notable growth is in the number of residents earning \$100,001 or more annually.
- Changes in total personal income levels suggest that Lower Hutt may be attracting high-income individuals from other population centres (e.g. Wellington).

Question

- Why are personal incomes increasing?
(inflation and migration)

The Lower Hutt population is becoming more qualified

- There has also been growth since 2018 in the proportion of residents who have a bachelor's degree or a post-graduate qualification, and a decline in the proportion of residents who do not have any qualifications.
- Qualification data further suggests that Lower Hutt has experienced internal migration from tertiary qualified professionals looking for a more affordable place to live.

Population aged 15+, % of total



Conclusion

- Lower Hutt's population growth is largely from net migration rather than from natural growth.
- Our population is becoming more ethnically diverse but is aging as our birthrate declines.
- Lower Hutt appears to have experienced an increase in the migration of tertiary qualified and high-income earners to Lower Hutt since 2018 (probably from Wellington).
- Rental market inflation appears to have placed a burden on low-income households, with a probable causal relationship with an increase in household crowding (esp. in Taita).



What Hutt City Council needs to think about

- What does an aging population mean for Council's provision of services? How do we cater for an aging population?
- Given that our population growth largely depends on migration, how can Lower Hutt maintain its competitiveness as an attractive place to live?
- How can Council help ensure that all residents can live comfortably in Lower Hutt, regardless of their socio-economic status?

