

New Zealand

Ethnicity in New Zealand

Power relations

Pacific Islanders: The Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, staffed largely by Pacific Islanders, was established in 1990 to provide policy advice on the development of Pacific Island people in NZ. The Ministry took over from a semi-autonomous unit within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which had been established after a number of years of advocacy by Pacific Island people. Thus, the year 1990 roughly marks the point at which Pacific Islanders became politically relevant in the New Zealand Government. Pacific Islanders remain objects of positive discrimination, reserved places in the parliament.

Asians: Asians are introduced as new group starting in 1996, when Ethnic Minority Party representing Asian minority (mostly Indians and Chinese) was formed (²⁴⁰⁷). Although party existed only for a year it indicates rising interest of Asian minorities to influence politics. Size of minorities was updated based on 1996 Census (²⁴⁰⁸). It is also important to note, that according to 2006 Census Asians constitute 8.8% of population and is the fastest growing minority.

²⁴⁰⁷ [Wikipedia, 2014]

²⁴⁰⁸ [Statistics New Zealand, 2006]

It is worthwhile noting that the relative share of New Zealand's Asian population has steadily and significantly increased since the 2006 census. This reassures the findings in the above comment about the Asian community being the fastest growing minority. From 2006 to 2013, the number of people who identified themselves with at least one Asian ethnicity has increased by 33%, and Asians now constitute approximately 12% of New Zealand's population (²⁴⁰⁹). The increase to a population share slowly approaching the size of the Maori community (15% as of 2013 (²⁴¹⁰)) is however not accompanied by an explicit representation of interests of the Asian community in government, as is true for the Maori.

²⁴⁰⁹ [Statistics New Zealand, 2013]

²⁴¹⁰ [Statistics New Zealand, 2013]

In 2008, Pansy Wong, who had been elected as first ethnic Asian MP in 1996, was appointed as the first Asian cabinet minister in the history of New Zealand (²⁴¹¹). Although this does not mark a change in the status of political power of Asians in New Zealand, there seems to be an increased political involvement of Asians in New Zealand politics, albeit so far not organized along the lines of a political party or the like.

²⁴¹¹ [The New Zealand Herald, 2008]

- Maori are coded as powerless from 1946 -1972. In this period, although the office of Minister of Maori affairs already existed in order to give political advocacy to the interests of Maori, none of the Ministers was actually ethnic Maori. Thus, the current definition of Powerless (Elite representatives hold no political power at the national level without being explicitly discriminated against) seems better suitable than Junior Partner (Representatives participate as junior partners in government) when understanding representatives not solely as individuals representing ethnic interest, but moreover descending from a certain ethnicity themselves.

- With the Matiu Rata taking over the office of Minister of Maori affairs on December 8th 1972, 10 out of 13 Ministers up to 2013 have been ethnic Maori. In fact, from 1996 to 2013, all Ministers of Maori Affairs were Maori themselves, and thus Maori representatives along the lines of the EPR definition (²⁴¹²). For this reason, Maori have been coded as Junior Partners from 1973 to date.

²⁴¹² [New Zealand Parliament, 2014]

- In general, special representation of Maori in Parliament and the bureaucracy stretch well back into the pre- WWII period. There have been independent political parties representing Maori on and off since the 1930s, and most major mainstream political parties have had Maori members appealing to the Maori electorate. A major change in Maori access to power came in 1977 with the establishment of the Waitangi Tribunal to investigate alleged violations of the Treaty of Waitangi (which had been signed between the British Crown and Maori chiefs in 1840). The establishment of the Tribunal elevated the Treaty to semi-constitutional status and led to largescale redress of Maori grievances, without changing executive power or regional autonomy of the Maori.

- The Te Ture Whenua Maori Act of 1993 is a parliamentary statute and aims at regulating the rights to land between Maori and the Crown (²⁴¹³). In essence, it is a reassessment of principles entailed in the Treaty of Waitangi. In section 131(1) for example, the document spells out that "The Maori Land Court shall have jurisdiction to determine and declare, by a status order, the particular status of any parcel of land, whether or not that matter may involve a question of law." (²⁴¹⁴) Since this involves primarily the exercise of legal autonomy, and seems to be a politicised, but not ultimately political matter, it is decided to not introduce a new status of regional autonomy as of 1993 in retrospect.

²⁴¹³ [New Zealand Legislature, 2013]

²⁴¹⁴ [New Zealand Legislature, 2013]

- Another significant step occurred in 1996 - the first election held under the new mixed-memberproportional electoral system established in 1993, which significantly increased the proportion of Maori MPs in Parliament from well below their share of the national population to slightly above it.

- According to an article in The New Zealand Herald, the National party is planning to abolish Maori electorates (known as Maori seats, designated seats for Maori representatives within the New Zealand parliament) by the time the settlement issues surrounding the Treaty

of Waitangi have been completed ⁽²⁴¹⁵⁾. No information on recent developments which confirm this push from 2008 could be found however.

²⁴¹⁵ [Tahana, 2014]

One year prior to this statement, the co-leader of the Maori party, Pita Sharples, suggested to introduce an additional electorate (seven existed at this point and still exist) for Maori living in Australia ⁽²⁴¹⁶⁾. Resistance against Maori electorates has been present for decades, and critique about the basic concept of separate minority representation was officially criticized by a Royal Commission report dating back to 1986 ⁽²⁴¹⁷⁾. While one point of the report was about the fact that Maori representatives first and foremost really only represent Maori concerns, Maori themselves underline the importance of the practice: "Although they were not set up for this purpose, the Maori seats have nevertheless come to be regarded by Maori as an important concession to, and the principal expression of, their constitutional position under the Treaty of Waitangi. To many Maori, the seats are also a base for a continuing search for more appropriate constitutional and political forms through which Maori rights might be given effect" ⁽²⁴¹⁸⁾.

²⁴¹⁶ [Television New Zealand, 2007]

²⁴¹⁷ [Cook, 2008]

²⁴¹⁸ [Cook, 2008]

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Political status of ethnic groups in New Zealand

From 1946 until 1972

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
New Zealanders	0.865	DOMINANT
Maori	0.097	POWERLESS
Asians	0.044	IRRELEVANT
Pacific Islanders	0.038	IRRELEVANT

From 1973 until 1989

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
New Zealanders	0.865	SENIOR PARTNER
Maori	0.097	JUNIOR PARTNER
Asians	0.044	IRRELEVANT
Pacific Islanders	0.038	IRRELEVANT

From 1990 until 1995

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
New Zealanders	0.865	SENIOR PARTNER
Maori	0.097	JUNIOR PARTNER
Asians	0.044	IRRELEVANT
Pacific Islanders	0.038	JUNIOR PARTNER

From 1996 until 2013

Group name	Proportional size	Political status
New Zealanders	0.727	SENIOR PARTNER
Maori	0.132	JUNIOR PARTNER
Pacific Islanders	0.051	JUNIOR PARTNER
Asians	0.044	POWERLESS



Figure 537: Political status of ethnic groups in New Zealand during 1946-1972.



Figure 538: Political status of ethnic groups in New Zealand during 1973-1989.



Figure 539: Political status of ethnic groups in New Zealand during 1990-1995.



Geographical coverage of ethnic groups in New Zealand

From 1946 until 1989

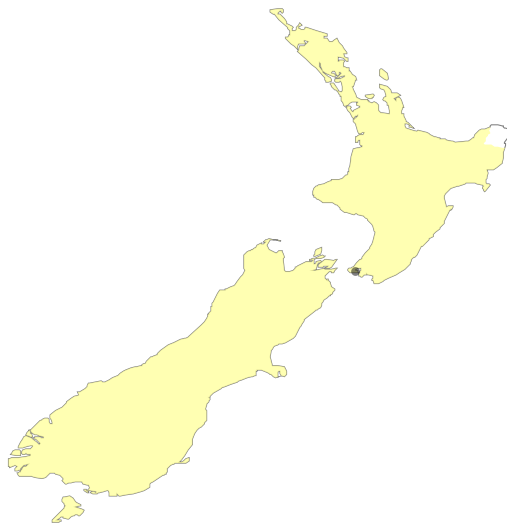


Figure 541: Map of ethnic groups in New Zealand during 1996-2013.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■ New Zealanders	264 270	Statewide
Maori		Dispersed

Table 162: List of ethnic groups in New Zealand during 1946-1989.

From 1990 until 1995

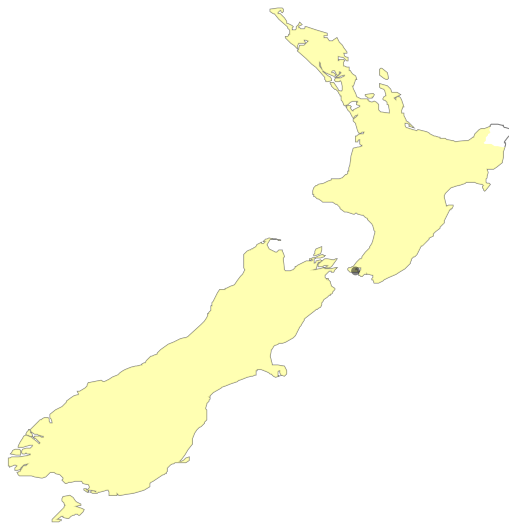


Figure 542: Map of ethnic groups in New Zealand during 1996-2013.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■ New Zealanders	264 270	Statewide
Maori		Dispersed
Pacific Islanders		Urban

Table 163: List of ethnic groups in New Zealand during 1990-1995.

From 1996 until 2013

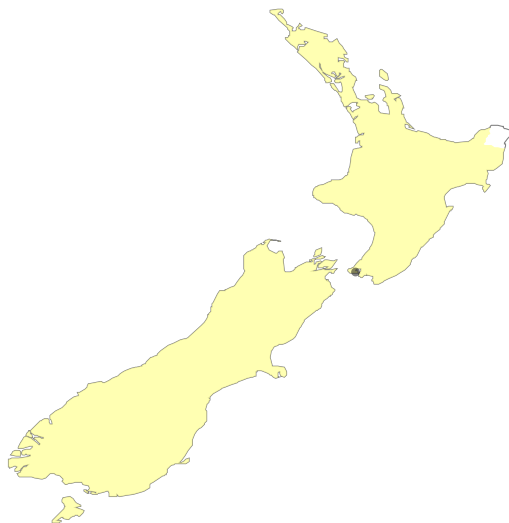


Figure 543: Map of ethnic groups in New Zealand during 1996-2013.

Group name	Area in km ²	Type
■ New Zealanders	264 270	Statewide
Maori		Dispersed
Pacific Islanders		Urban
Asians		Urban

Table 164: List of ethnic groups in New Zealand during 1996-2013.