

## SOCIAL INCLUSION PROGRAM



People of different origins showed their traditional dances and songs at a social gathering organised by HOPE (Humanitarian Organisation for Poverty Eradication) on April 17, 2021. More than five groups from different cultures took part, with the main goal being to explore the communication aspects of cultures and connect different peoples.

Many participants wore traditional dresses. Guests also shared dinner and enjoyed Punjabi, Chinese and New Zealand singing and dancing.

HOPE is conscious that every individual has their own unique identity - and that concept was very clear in this place where different groups got the chance to cherish - and share - their culture and heritage in a space open to the community.

It was Sukh Saini's first time at the event and she was amazed how so many different cultures were able to get along together as a big family at the social inclusion event.

"Some people do not know other communities. When we come over here, we know more about others."

Dr.Khurram Malik, director of HOPE, said the Social Inclusion event provides a platform for people from diverse backgrounds to overcome obstacles and barriers that have stood in the way of their productive lives.

HOPE's Social Inclusion Program brings families, communities and cultures together, encourages them to learn about each other and also about New Zealand. It is a great space to express joy and to boost confidence and connections with people from all over the world.



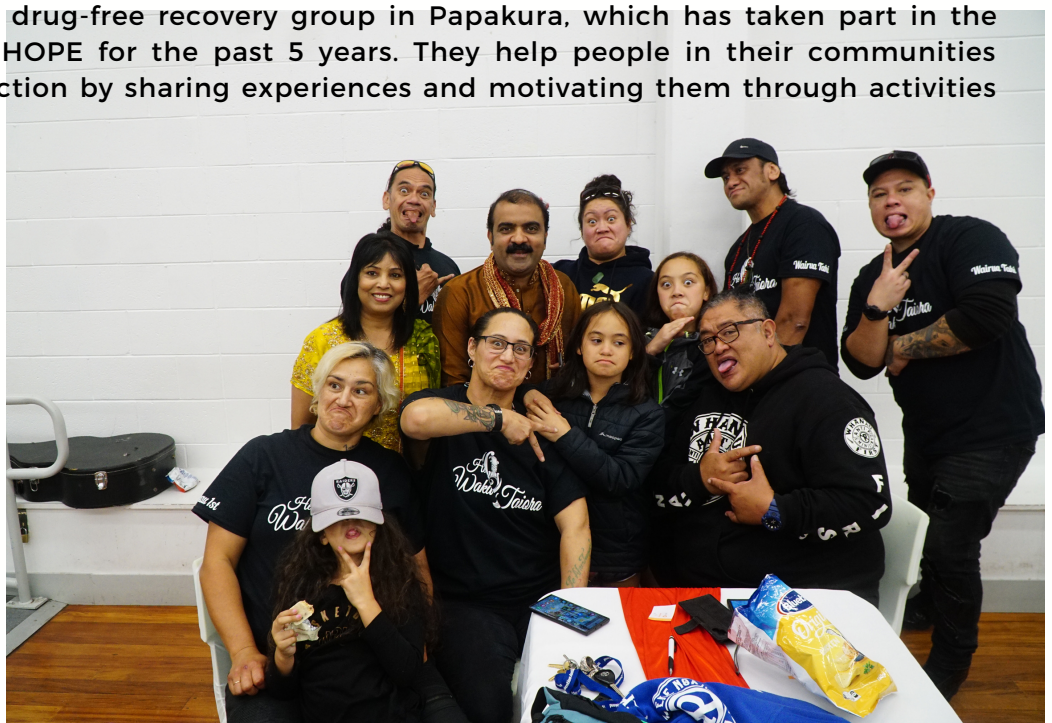


## DIFFERENT CULTURES GOT TOGETHER IN A SOCIAL INCLUSION EVENT BY HOPE

He Waka Taioira is an alcohol and drug-free recovery group in Papakura, which has taken part in the social inclusion programme with HOPE for the past 5 years. They help people in their communities towards a better life without addiction by sharing experiences and motivating them through activities related to Maori culture.

A member of this community shared her experience of the Social Inclusion Programme after watching the traditional music and the powerful haka:

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Wendy Tian is a 12-year-old girl from China, who participated in the beautiful Chinese and Indian dance show. For Wendy's mother, who is a supporter of the humanitarian goals of HOPE, it is important to share with the world the beauty of peaceful Chinese dance, and the knowledge of an ancient culture.

