

# Ethnic Advantage 2025

## United Against Headwinds

### Preamble

Get ready to dive into an electrifying exploration of how New Zealand's vibrant Ethnic Communities are the heartbeat of social cohesion!

This conference will shine a spotlight on the incredible contributions Ethnic Communities make to our society, especially as we navigate the stormy seas of global tensions, skyrocketing living costs, rising unemployment, and looming threats of conflict. Join us for a dynamic and inspiring event celebrating unity, resilience, and the power of diversity to build a stronger, more connected New Zealand.

Insights gleaned from each session in the conference will feed into what government is currently doing so that Ethnic Communities' voices are included.

### Key takeaways for participants

- **The Role of Ethnic Communities in Social Cohesion:**
  - Understanding the diverse cultural contributions that holds us together as New Zealanders.
  - Celebrating success stories and understanding what works.
- **Challenges and Opportunities in Times of Crisis:**
  - Addressing the impact of global geopolitical tensions on local communities and what they can do about it.
- **Building Resilience Through Unity:**
  - Promoting practical dialogue and mutual understanding with each other.
  - Showcasing community-based initiatives to strengthen social bonds and share best practice.

**Date:** Saturday, 28 June 2025

**Venue:** Aotea Convention Centre, Auckland

**Audience:** Ethnic community leaders, ethnic service providers, ethnic faith leaders, heads of government agencies, ethnic media, representatives from philanthropic organisations.

## Proposed programme

Time	Session	Speakers
8.30 – 8.50 am	<b>Registration</b> Opportunity to view stalls	
8.50 – 9.05 am	<b>Mihi Whakatau</b>  <b>Level 1, Hunua Room</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei</li> </ul>
9.05 – 9.15 am	<b>Welcome</b>  <b>Level 1, Hunua Room</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jehan Casinader, Reporter of the Year by the NZ Television Awards - Emcee</li> <li>Mervin Singham, Chief Executive at the Ministry for Ethnic Communities</li> </ul>
9.15 – 9.45 am	<b>Panel: Minister's Sofa Interview</b>  <b>Level 1, Hunua Room</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minister Mitchell, Minister for Ethnic Communities, Police, Corrections, Emergency Management &amp; Recovery, Sport &amp; Recreation</li> <li>Minister Brown, Minister for Auckland, Health, State Owned Enterprises</li> <li><b>Moderator:</b> Jehan Casinader</li> </ul>
9.45 – 10.45 am	<b>Panel: Cultivating Social Cohesion -</b> Multiple views on NZ's social cohesion  <b>Level 1, Hunua Room</b>  <b>Audience Q+A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dame Jenny Shipley, Former Prime Minister</li> <li>Rahul Watson Govindan, Chief Executive at Philanthropy New Zealand</li> <li>Ireen Rahiman-Manuel, Founder of Impactdev360</li> <li><b>Moderator:</b> Jehan Casinader</li> </ul>
10.45 – 11.15 am	<b>Morning Tea</b> Opportunity to view stalls	

<b>11.15 am – 12.10 pm</b>	<b>Panel: Foreign Interference –</b> Community experiences and Governments' responses  <b>Level 1, Hunua Room</b>  <b>Audience Q+A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andrew Hampton, Director-General of the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service</li> <li>Pratima Namasivayam, DCE Advisory, Analytics, Ministerial at the Ministry for Ethnic Communities</li> <li>Nathan Smyth, Deputy Secretary for National Security &amp; Resilience at the Department of Home Affairs Australia</li> <li><b>Moderator:</b> Ziena Jalil, Campaign Asia Pacific's Women to Watch Finalist</li> </ul>
<b>12.10 – 12.15 pm</b>	<b>Sponsor One Remarks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Professor Damon Salesa, Vice-Chancellor at Auckland University of Technology (AUT)</li> </ul>
<b>12.15 – 1.25 pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b> Opportunity to view stalls	
<b>1.25 – 1.30 pm</b>	<b>Cultural Performance</b>  <b>Level 1, Hunua Room</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tierra Viva – Colombian Dance Group</li> </ul>
<b>1.30 – 1.35 pm</b>	<b>Sponsor Two Remarks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Harshvendra Soin, President of Asia Pacific and Japan Business at Tech Mahindra</li> </ul>
<b>1.35 – 2.30 pm</b>	<b>Panel: United in Crises</b> - National emergencies and disaster management  <b>Level 1, Hunua Room</b>  <b>Audience Q+A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dave Gawn, Chief Executive at NEMA</li> <li>Red Tsounga, President of the Aotearoa Africa Foundation</li> <li>Sarah Stuart-Black, Secretary General of Red Cross New Zealand</li> <li><b>Moderator:</b> Jehan Casinader</li> </ul>
<b>2.30 – 3.00 pm</b>	<b>Presentation:</b> <b>Ethnic Evidence – Do we know our numbers?</b>  <b>Level 1, Hunua Room</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deb Potter, Principal Analyst at the Ministry for Ethnic Communities</li> </ul>
<b>3.00 – 3.45 pm</b>	<b>Afternoon Tea</b> Opportunity to view stalls	

3.45 – 4.30 pm	<b>BREAKOUT CONCURRENT</b> <b>Financial Sustainability for Community Organisations</b>  <b>Level 1, Hunua Room</b>  <b>Audience Q+A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rahul Watson Govindan, Chief Executive at Philanthropy New Zealand</li> <li>• Jenny Wang, Founder of the CNSST Foundation</li> <li>• Dr Anwar Ghani, Director of Amanah Ethical and NZI Products &amp; Services</li> <li>• A.K. Yap Asian Engagement Advisor at CLM Community Sport</li> <li>• <b>Moderator:</b> Berlinda Chin, Chief Advisor to the Chief Executive at the Ministry for Ethnic Communities</li> </ul>
3.45 – 4.30 pm	<b>BREAKOUT CONCURRENT</b> <b>Kai and Discourse – Is it ‘food for thought’ or ‘food for action’?</b>  <b>Level 3, Waitakere Room 1</b>  <b>Audience Q+A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manjit Grewal, Co-Founder of Ekta New Zealand</li> <li>• Tony Green, Co-Founder of Mahia te Aroha</li> <li>• Aram Wu, Food rescuer at Fair Food</li> <li>• <b>Moderator:</b> Kimberley Wu, Director of National Operations at the Ministry for Ethnic Communities</li> </ul>
3.45 – 4.30 pm	<b>BREAKOUT CONCURRENT</b> <b>Community resilience and foreign interference</b>  <b>Level 3, Waitakere Room 2</b>  <b>Audience Q+A</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sean Hansen, Director of National Security &amp; Detective Superintendent at New Zealand Police</li> <li>• Blair W, New Zealand Security Intelligence Service</li> <li>• <b>Moderator:</b> Ruksana Shaikh, Director of Security &amp; Resilience at the Ministry for Ethnic Communities</li> </ul>
4.35 – 4.45 pm	<b>Closing remarks</b>  <b>Level 1, Hunua Room</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mervin Singham, Chief Executive at the Ministry for Ethnic Communities</li> </ul>
4.45 – 4.50 pm	<b>Farewell</b>  <b>Level 1, Hunua Room</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jehan Casinader, Emcee</li> </ul>
4.50 – 5.30 pm	<b>Networking</b>	