

Theme	Idea	Purpose (why)	Unique ID
Civics education & encouragement of voting	Provide more opportunities to interact with MPs Parliament, government officials	<i>To increase awareness and understanding of government among individuals and groups to increase participation</i> School visits, mock parliaments, linking Parliamentary engagement teams and Speaker's outreach efforts. What your vote translates to in Parliament, what do MPs do, how to engage with them. Making government/politics/MPs relatable so they are approachable/not intimidating. Understanding petitions, submissions, select committees through community engagement, free and inclusive community events. Government officials to be based or travel to regions to understand impact of government policy on local communities.	EPIAG1
	Create awareness about voting, including encouraging voting at all levels, experimenting with direct voting such as in school, customise voting messages for diverse groups	<i>Get more people to pōti, vote at all levels</i> Having youth representation would make youth feel more connected, engaged and empowered. There needs to be appropriate representation across diverse groups who can act as role models to communicate messages. Local Government New Zealand's current campaign to encourage voting in local government elections is an example of this. https://twitter.com/lgnz . Develop a citizens' handbook	EPIAG2
	Compulsory civics education and engagement programmes in schools, including teach about MMP	<i>Enable the understanding of government, Parliament processes at an early age instead of beginning at the University level.</i> Promote programmes that teach democracy by doing.	EPIAG3
	Increase awareness and involvement of local governments	<i>Increase participation and engagement in local government</i> Support communities and district councils to bring together their local active citizens on a regular basis - at least every three months - to get to know each other better and to share what they can and are doing for the wellbeing of their place.	EPIAG4

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Community focus, social cohesion	Ensure NZ's democracy expresses the values of equality, inclusion and empowerment	<p>Improving access to the political process for the many classes of people who are excluded (e.g., young, illiterate, homeless, poor, digitally excluded)</p> <p>While New Zealand guarantees basic civil and human rights, and many institutions have been developed to express the value of equality (e.g. voting in elections and referenda), many people are concerned about unequal access to the political process. In reality, many classes of people are excluded (e.g. young, illiterate, homeless, poor, digitally excluded) while other classes of people are able to gain access and influence though, for example, donations to political parties. Open government and active citizenship must be practised in ways that overcome discriminatory barriers to participation.</p>	EPIAG5
	Increase safe spaces for people to come together and share ideas	<p>Create safe physical and digital spaces for people to come and talk about their issues and needs</p> <p>Examples of this could be marae, community centres, libraries. Tap into the experience and knowledge that is in CAB and areas of govt policy and services that can be improved. Focus on building relationships and stop being transactional. Fund community conversations, masterclasses and other adult education initiatives that develop the shared skills and public intelligence of active citizens. Draw on conversation from Workshop 1 on online safe spaces.</p>	EPIAG6
	Promoting social cohesion in communities across Aotearoa.	<p>Build on RCOI recommendations 28 and 29 to promote social cohesion</p> <p>The RCOI report describes social cohesive society as one in which all individuals and communities have a sense of belonging, social inclusion, participation, recognition and legitimacy.</p> <p>Recommendation 28 of the RCOI into the terrorist attack of Christchurch mosques on 15th March identifies MSD as have responsibility and accountability for coordinating a whole-of-government approach to building social cohesion, including social inclusion. Recommendation 29 urges MSD to collaborate with</p>	EPIAG7

		communities, civil society, local government and the private sector on development of a social cohesion strategic framework and monitoring and evaluation regime.	
	Improve capacity across society to address problems by providing resources to support civil society action aimed at public problem-solving.	<i>Developing the capacity of civil society to actively participate in and facilitate self-government at different scales, would strengthen the democratic system and legitimacy of policy choices.</i>	EPIAG8

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Deliberative Processes	Trial participatory budgeting in local government.	<p><i>Establish a centralised fund to which local and regional councils can apply for assistance with piloting participatory budgeting and provide training and information about how it works. In addition, central government should provide resources setting out how such processes work and how councils might implement them.</i></p> <p>Involving citizens more deeply also strengthens democracy, connects citizens better to officials and elected representatives, increases efficiency (in the sense of making better decisions that do not have to be undone later on), and most fundamentally leads to the delivery of services that more genuinely reflect what people need. Participatory budgeting works by putting up a proportion of a local body's budget for new infrastructure spending and then asking residents to make trade-offs as to how that fund should be spent. This directly activates local knowledge and understanding of local needs. Deep engagement of residents, often numbering in the tens of thousands in moderate-sized cities, ensures the decisions have widespread support and perceived legitimacy. The expertise of public officials can be brought to bear by</p>	EPIAG9

		<p>creating steps in the process where they comment on the technical feasibility of suggested spending.</p> <p>The long-term expectation would be that they ultimately fund such processes from local government's own budgets.</p>	
	<p>Democratic and institutional innovation (e.g., Citizens' Assemblies, regional hubs)</p>	<p><i>Contemplate having an alternate mechanisms to the submissions-based consultation processes, which do not work for ordinary people and is eroding trust and confidence in democracy.</i></p> <p>Aotearoa has perhaps a unique opportunity and an obligation to design forums of Citizens' Assemblies that honour the values and priorities of both tangata whenua and tangata tiriti working cooperatively for the mutual and socially just wellbeing of all our peoples and te taiao, co-designed in a tripartite tangata whenua, tangata tiriti and government partnership. These include the needs of future generations and of the environment on which our lives depend. Potential to observe/assess initiative in this area and use it as a research piece/proof of concept to take forward. Te Reo o Ngā Tāngata/The People Speak (https://www.thepeoplespeak.nz/) made a submission and could be a group to work with.</p> <p>On some marae, values, and procedures of deliberation similar to those in Assemblies are used traditionally. The process resembles that of justice mediation, forms of conflict resolution and peace making and has many names and applications in resolving and healing human divisions. During setting up of Citizen Assemblies, values underpinning all activities are agreed by participants; those such as manaakitanga, whanaungatanga, kaitiakitanga, and more, provide a resonant basis for action for Aotearoa.</p>	<p>EPIAG10</p>

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Meaningful engagement and consultation	Create a hub for people to engage submit proposals like petitions	<p><i>Remove barriers in the process of collecting feedback by providing multiple channels for people including exploring different formats to cater for diverse needs.</i></p> <p>This could be done by providing options for written, infographics, video, audio, in person, sign language, braille. Provide templates and exemplars of what is expected. Provide people who can support those people who need help like the elderly, children and those with a disability. Ultimately, we need to attempt to get as many people as possible to participate across all ages. Incorporate multiple channels to provide feedback including social media, either boosting the current consultation portal run by DIA and increasing its functionality.</p>	EPIAG11
	Simplify and incentivise the process of engagement and consultation. Closing the feedback loop will help participants see their contributions have been welcomed and genuinely considered and encourage them to take part again	<p><i>Enhance engagement and consultation by government agencies</i></p> <p>Integrated and joined up consultations where possible to avoid consultation fatigue, provide reasonable time frames, take into account people's lives when seeking consultation, consider the possibility of providing costs for attending consultations, involve diverse agencies and organisations, maintain ongoing relationships with communities, regional outreach, use of plain language. Should use the marae model for engagement where there is no hierarchy. Everyone has the opportunity to feel manaakitanga of marae and feel welcomed.</p> <p>People struggle to see the impact of their input, Government needs to show connection between impacts and feedback, detail the consultation process, keep submitters informed, publish results of consultation, require sources to be referenced in government advice, especially so that submitters and the public can see if and how their ideas are being used.</p>	EPIAG12

	<p>Promote the use of the community engagement tool (IAP 2)</p>	<p><i>Introduce a recognised engagement framework to promote community engagement across public service agencies</i> Phase wise implementation of the community engagement tool across agencies to incorporate community engagement right from the initial stages, be transparent about level of community involvement in different projects, will help overcome the perception that consultation is carried out after decisions have been made.</p>	<p>EPIAG13</p>
	<p>Establish a small government unit/ an all of government head of profession for public participation</p>	<p><i>Create an all-of-government head of profession for public participation who would be responsible for developing knowledge, capability and capacity, and standards in agencies across the government</i> This could be under the Public Service Commission and dedicated to fostering the active citizenship which can impact the common good and wellbeing of all New Zealanders as well as supporting a community of practice that supports learning and development amongst people working in this field. A joint civil society/government public engagement Community of Practice or Hub, revive COP on public participation with regular meetings. Improve public engagement, better policy and decision-making, improved trust and confidence in the public service and the government.</p>	<p>EPIAG14</p>
	<p>Consider the principles of the UN Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters (Aarhus Convention) in the New Zealand context.</p>	<p><i>Explore the potential of public participation in decision making</i> New Zealand endorsed Principle 10 of the Rio Earth Summit Declaration in 1992, which spelled out that protecting the environment was not only a government responsibility but also a responsibility for civil society and the private sector. The principle also said that in order for civil society and the private sector to be able to play their part, they needed legal rights to information and access to justice (https://www.unep.org/news-andstories/story/unep-implementing-principle-10-rio-declaration).</p>	<p>EPIAG15</p>