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Cultural well-being enshrined in New Zealand law



News from Creative New Zealand on how a recent change in NZ law places obligations on local government to focus on 'the four well-beings' and recognise the importance of arts and culture to local communities there.

Creative New Zealand welcomes the return of a formal well-being focus for local government, through the Local Government (Community Well-being) Amendment Bill which became law this week. The new law has seen the four aspects of community well-being – cultural, social, environmental and economic – brought back into the Local Government Act.

Bringing back the well-beings will mean councils have a legislative responsibility to promote the cultural well-being of their communities. Arts, culture and creative activity have a huge contribution to make to this, as well as other aspects of well-being.

“Local councils play a really **key role** in providing opportunities for all New Zealanders to engage with the arts, wherever they live,” says David Pannett, Senior Manager for advocacy.

“The reinstatement of the four well-beings is formal recognition that councils have a significant role to play in lifting the quality of life of our people, and the health of our environment,” Local Government New Zealand President Dave Cull said in a **recent statement**.

Healthier people, improved education outcomes, greater social cohesion and an increase in job opportunities are all examples of how engaging with the arts improves the lives and well-being of New Zealanders.

Creative New Zealand’s Creative Communities Scheme (CCS) is delivered in partnership with all 67 territorial authorities around Aotearoa. CCS supports cultural well-being in communities by funding projects that encourage participation, support **diversity** and enable **young people**.

Read **full article on Creative New Zealand**

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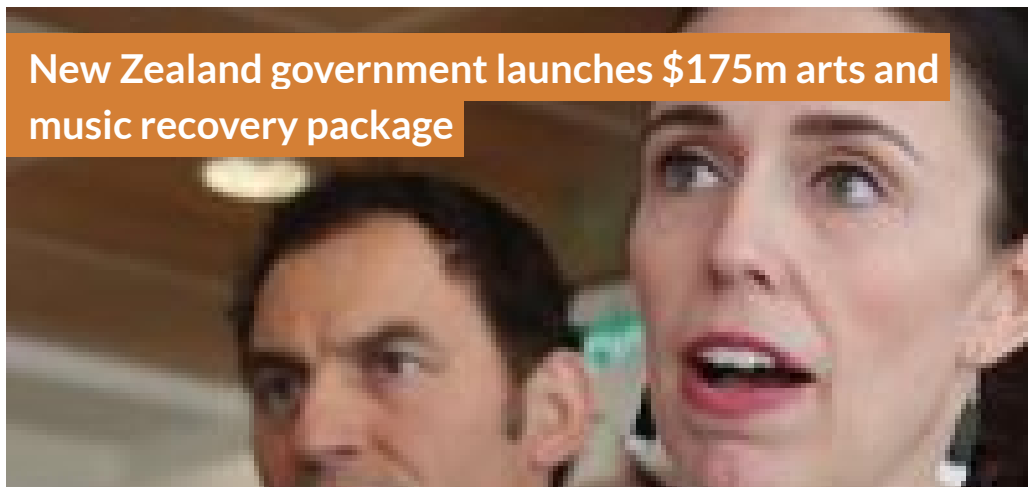
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