

Queenstown Lakes District COVID-19 Intelligence Report. Week ending 3/7/2020

Before you start reading this report

The purpose of the report is to present data during the time of the COVID-19 global pandemic and the Queenstown Lakes Districts response. This data should help inform the immediate response, as well as shape subsequent recovery. This document is intended as a tool for use by key stakeholders.

This report is split into two sections:


SECTION 1:

Immediate Impact

SECTION 2:

Understanding the wider context: Our district at a glance

How to read this report

- The focus of this data is **primarily economic**; however this will evolve
- There is a **time lag** in some data, for example MarketView is a week behind. Please be mindful of this as this data will not reflect the situation as it stands today
- Primary data sources are:
 - QLDC welfare registrations
 - Census 2018
 - Infometrics
 - Quality of Life 2019
 - MarketView
 - Beca
- Throughout the report this symbol  is used to invite the reader to pause and consider **insights, impact and further analysis**.
- This report will **evolve** each week to include additional data and scenario testing

Section 1:

Immediate Impact

Welfare

The Queenstown Lakes District Council welfare registration form was launched on 24 March 2020 in response to the [level 4 lockdown](#).

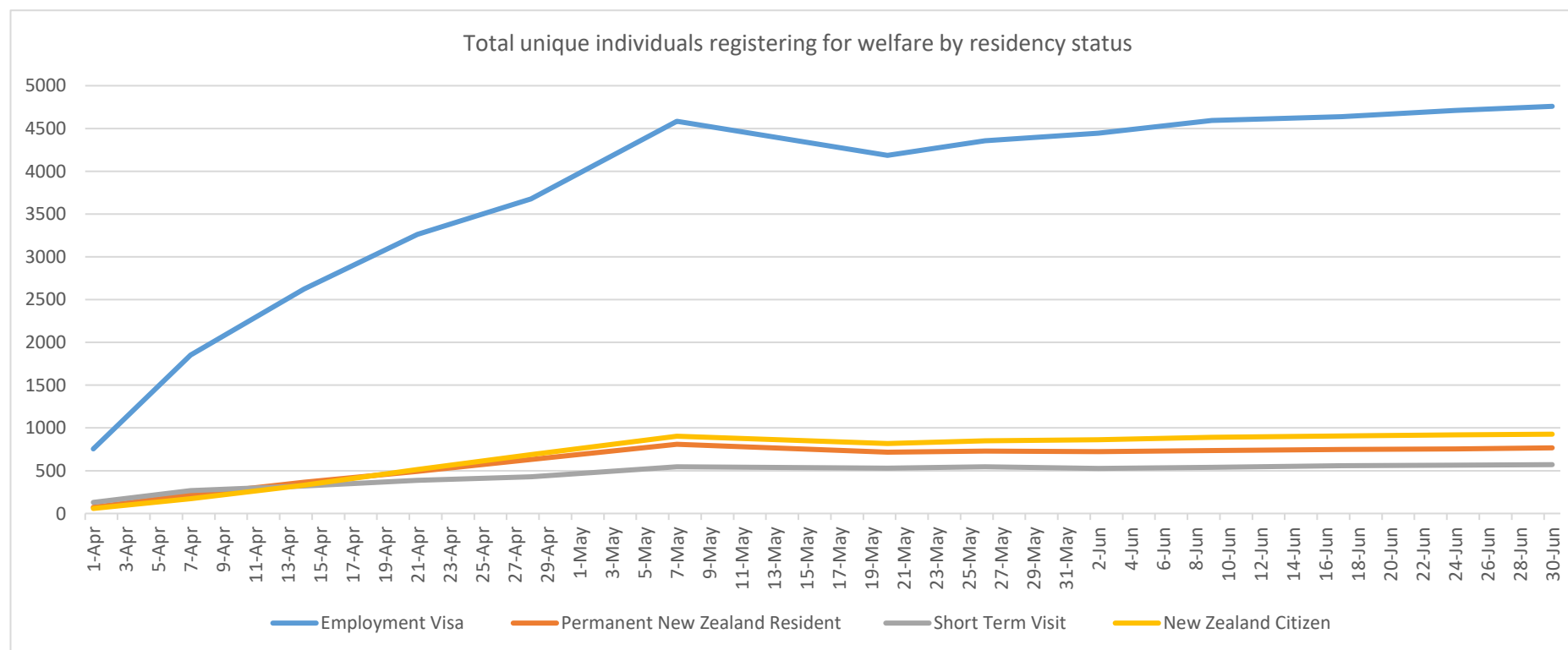
The following data provides a snapshot of the data from the welfare registration form.



WELFARE REGISTRATIONS

The residency status of those registering for welfare remains consistent, with **76% being made by those on employment visas**. A closer look at those on short term visitor visas suggests these are people waiting on a work visa, with a small number of tourists stuck due to the lock down. Therefore, these two residency categories have been combined. A steady number of registrations are being made by NZ citizens and permanent residents.

****Please note that the welfare data has been migrated into a new system and the data cleansed. Therefore, the slight dip in numbers is reflective of more accurate reporting of unique individual data.**

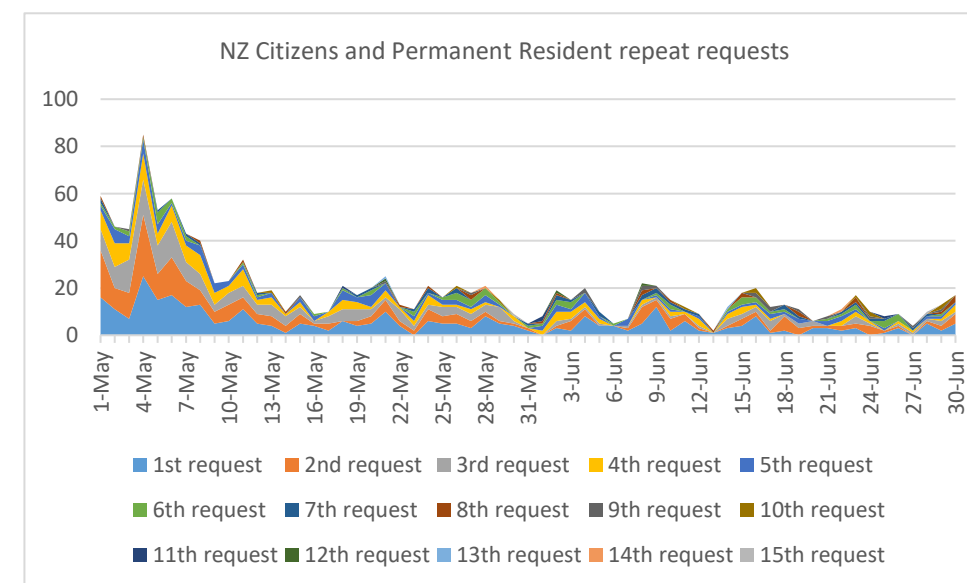
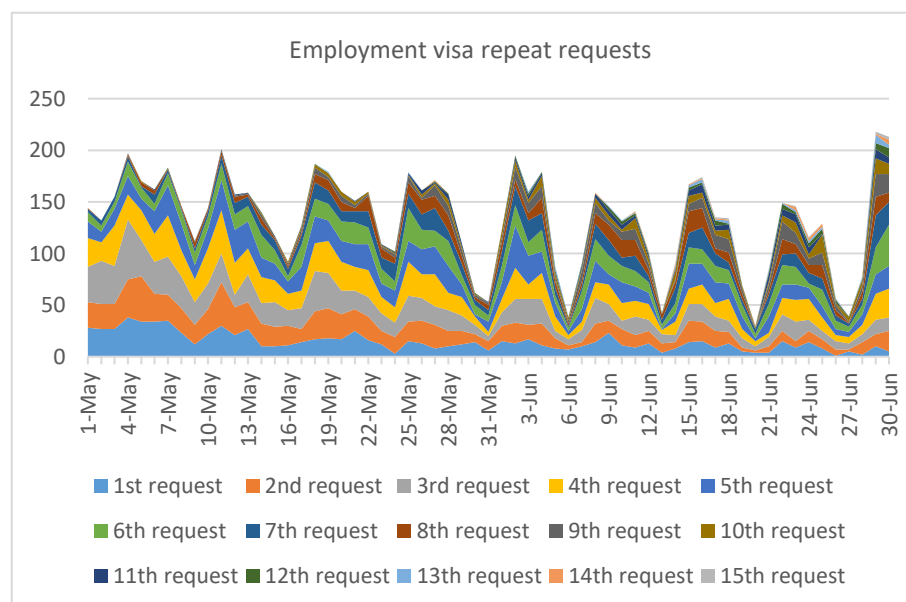
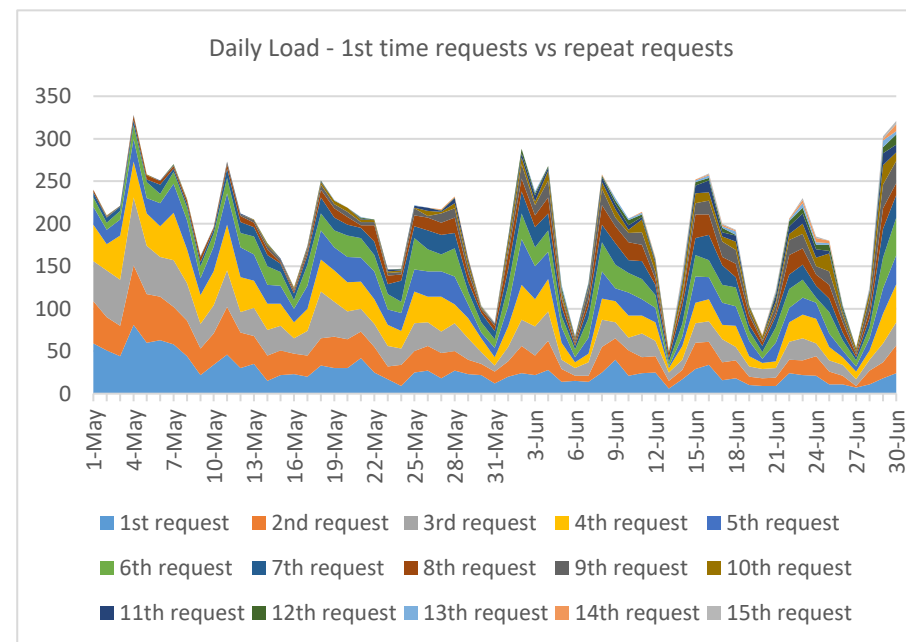


DAILY LOAD - 1ST REQUESTS VS. REPEAT REQUESTS

We are now able to provide additional insights into instances of repeat welfare requests.

The graph shows the number of first time welfare requests has dropped, however the number of repeat requests means we are still seeing on average 200 – 300 requests per day.

Further analysis highlights the majority of these requests are from migrant workers, as demonstrated by the breakdown by residency status. Not include is the breakdown by Short Term Visitor Visa – these are averaging around 10-15 per day repeat requests.



WELFARE REGISTRATIONS FROM MĀORI

A total of **119** welfare registrations have been received from Māori.

- Total number of dependents (children or dependent adults) reported: 84
- 28% of these individuals are unemployed
- 40% are on the wage subsidy.
- Around one third of these individuals have made more than one request.



Research has shown that Māori are 1.5 times more likely to experience unmet health needs due to cost, and lack of sufficient transport is twice as likely to be a barrier to accessing health services. Māori unemployment is double that of non-Māori, and the majority of those employed are in insecure roles. It is anticipated that these inequalities will hit young Māori hardest, as youth is a predictor of unemployment.

THE ETHNICITY PROFILE¹ OF PEOPLE REGISTERING FOR WELFARE:

The following profile represents all people registering for welfare

41% European (includes NZ European)
27% Middle Eastern, Latin American, African

29% Asian
2% Pacific Peoples

2% Māori

NATIONALITIES OF INDIVIDUALS REGISTERING FOR WELFARE:

The below covers all visa types. Nationalities have been grouped for the benefit of reporting. Please note that over 1,000 responses were classed as 'not specified' and a large number said that New Zealand was their country of residence, reflecting the wording of the question; 'What is your country of residence?' as opposed to 'What was your country of residence prior to moving to New Zealand'.

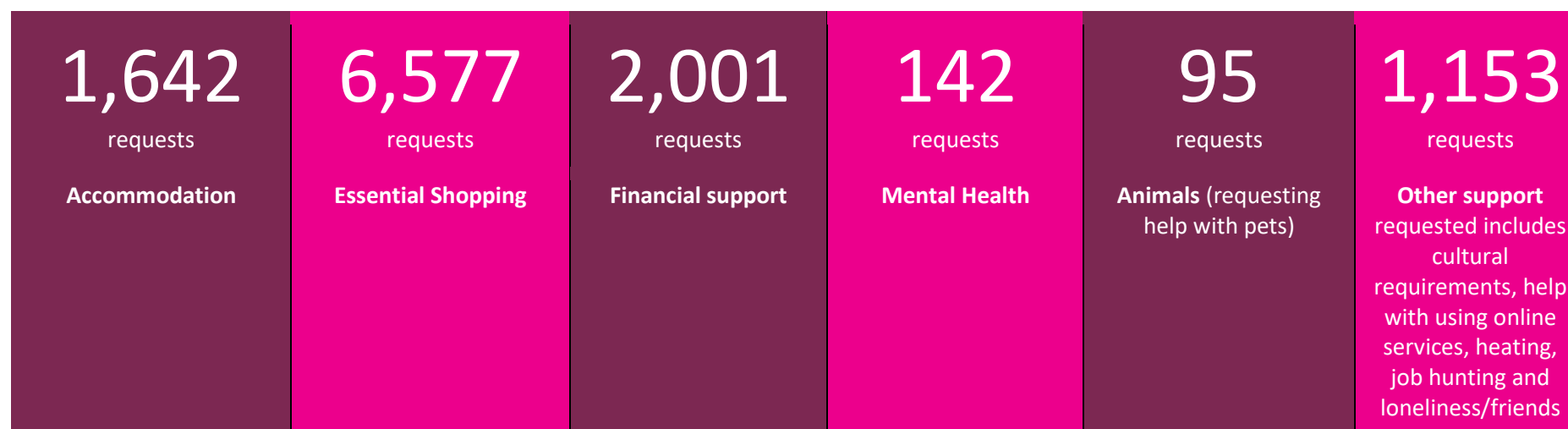
Nationality	Count of Unique Individual	Nationality	Count of Unique Individual
UK and Ireland	1082	Nepal	121
South America	1080	Scandinavian Countries	88
South East Asia	649	Australia	63
Mainland Europe	646	Pacific Islands	54

¹ Please note that these categories are defined by Statistics NZ, Census.

India	400	Sri Lanka	30
America and Canada	217	Africa	24
China	195	South Africa	16
Korea	130	Russia	11
Japan	127		

TYPE OF SUPPORT

The following summarises the number of requests per type. People can request support across multiple categories i.e. food and essential shopping. A small proportion of those working in the district are sending money back home to families. The majority of these people are from the Philippines. This data does not represent repeat requests, only the needs of unique individuals. It does reflect how many individuals are making repeat requests for food vouchers on a weekly basis.

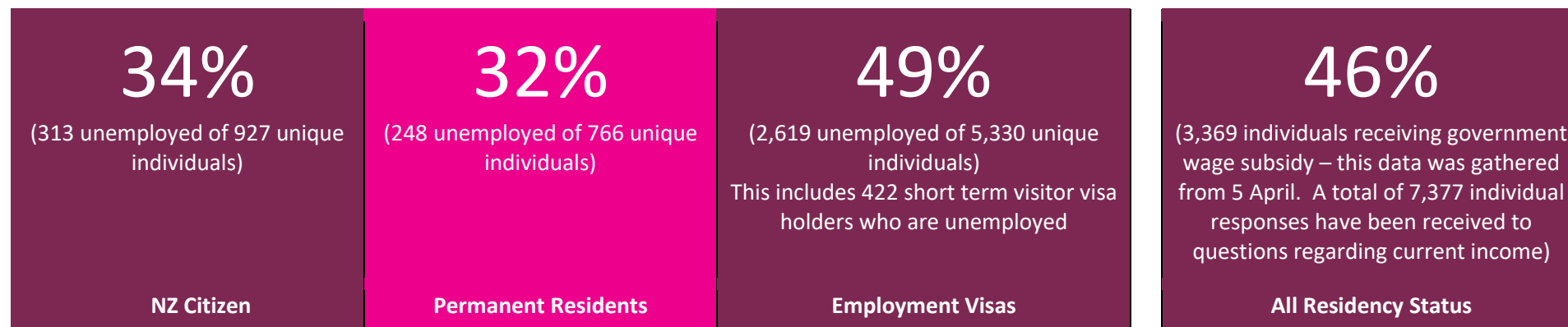


As at 1 July 13,298 supermarket vouchers have been distributed in Queenstown and 1,319 in Wanaka. These are total numbers which mean that one individual might have requested a voucher multiple times. The large discrepancy in these figures also reflects individuals who have passed the needs assessment section of the welfare form and headed to the voucher request.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF REGISTRATIONS²

The total unemployment rate for those using the welfare registration as at 2 June 2020: 45% (this is not the overall unemployment rate for the district).

Those registering for support are being asked their current employment status. Analysis looked at the number of people now unemployed under each residency class:



TRACKING UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE DISTRICT

Taking unemployment data of unique individuals applying for welfare (just those on employment visas), alongside the number of benefits claimants (NZ citizens and Permanent Residents), gives us an indication of how unemployment is tracking.

11% of the total working age population (3,225 individuals)

We will continue to track this number as we understand repatriation and the impact of the end of the wage subsidy. We will also continue to pursue regular updates from MSD (local and national reporting) regarding the number of benefits claimants. In addition, we will track this number against economist predictions for unemployment in our district.



² Source QLDC welfare registration form



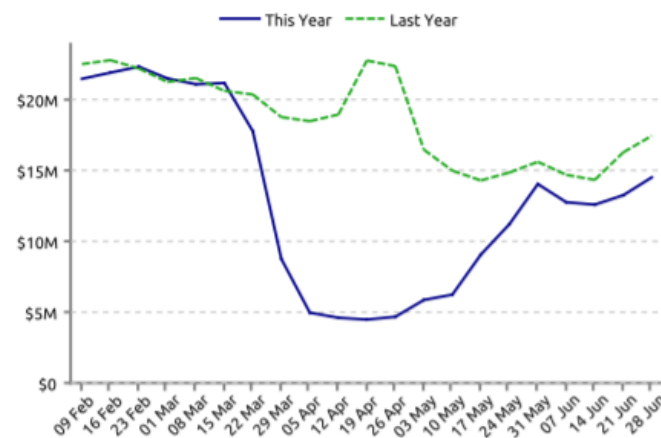
It is worth considering the impact that the end of the wage subsidy scheme will have on the unemployment rate that we have started to track as part of this report. In addition, the number of individuals stating they are on a percentage salary reduction or reduced hours may move to being unemployed. This is very much dependent on the industries in which those individuals work. Economic data suggests that 63% of all jobs in our district have an output related to tourism. With this in mind, we can expect this percentage to be reflected in the unemployment rate. Those on employment visas will not be eligible for support from MSD such as unemployment benefit, leaving these people with zero form of income.

An economic scenarios report has been conducted by Infometrics and will start to inform this report from next week.

Spending

The following graph is provided by Marketview and captures spending data for the district. Tracking spending is important to recovery as it demonstrates the consumer confidence of locals, as well as the impact of domestic tourism.

1. WEEKLY VALUE OF SPENDING



3. Change in value of spending

SWLY

-16.8%

CUMULATIVE

-30.0%

*Same week last year

Traffic Movements

Beca report weekly on regional state highway usage for QLDC/ New Zealand Transport Agency roads (Report for 10/6/2020, no updates have been received since last week).

-0.6%

State highway usage compared to same day last week.

-30.5%

State highway usage compared to same day in week commencing 17/2/2020



As we move into a recovery phase, understanding traffic movements will be useful, especially in tracking domestic tourism flows. There may be opportunity here to think of this data in terms of climate change action.

Impact on QLDC finances

ESTIMATED SHORTFALL IN REVENUE \$25.3M BECAUSE OF COVID-19 IMPACT:

- | | |
|--|---------|
| • Reduced User Fees Revenue e.g parking, refuse, general charges | \$5.9m |
| • Reduced Other Income e.g tourism business leases, infringements and airport dividend | \$10.5m |
| • Lower Rates income | \$4.4m |
| • Reduced Development Contribution | \$4.5m |

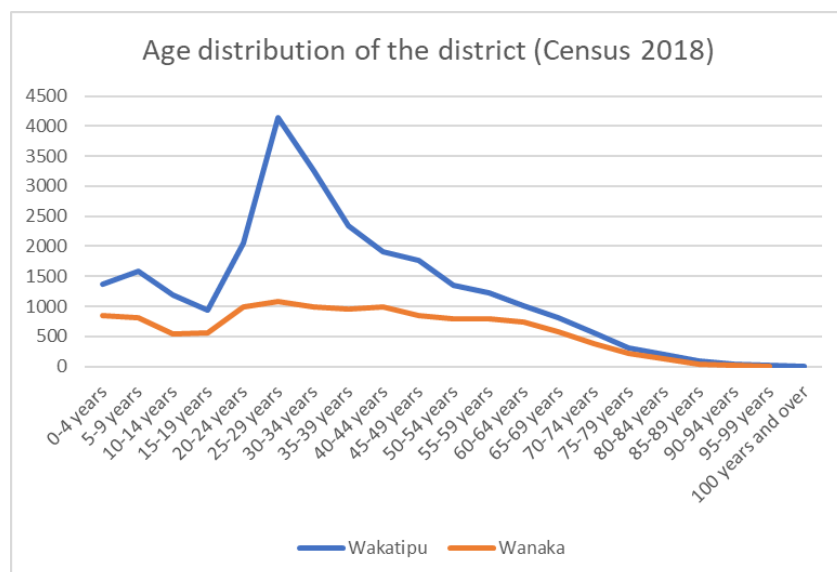
Council is still intending to continue to invest in its significant capital programme for Annual Plan 2021:22. This is a large programme which will provide a vital stimulus to the local economy. QLDC has also submitted \$68m in contributions from the Crown Infrastructure Partners “shovel ready” fund.

Section 2:

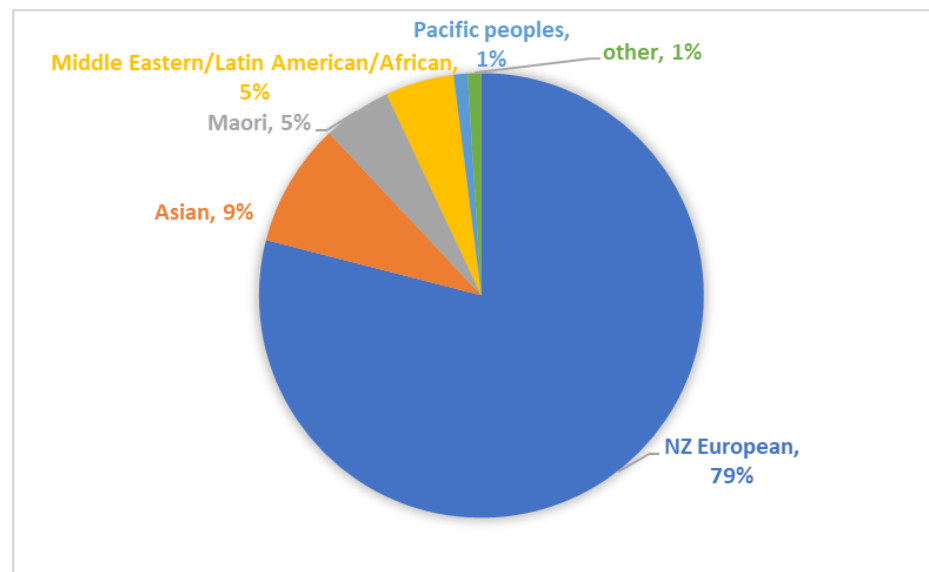
Understanding the wider context: Our district at a glance

Understanding our demographic³

AGE PROFILE



ETHNICITY PROFILE



³ Source: Statistics New Zealand, Census 2018

DISABILITY PROFILE

9%

have difficulty seeing even with glasses

42 people

(0.1%) people cannot see at all

7.5%

have difficulty hearing even with a hearing aid

33 people

(0.09%) people cannot hear at all

8%

have difficulty remembering or concentrating

36 people

(0.1%) people say they cannot remember or concentrate at all

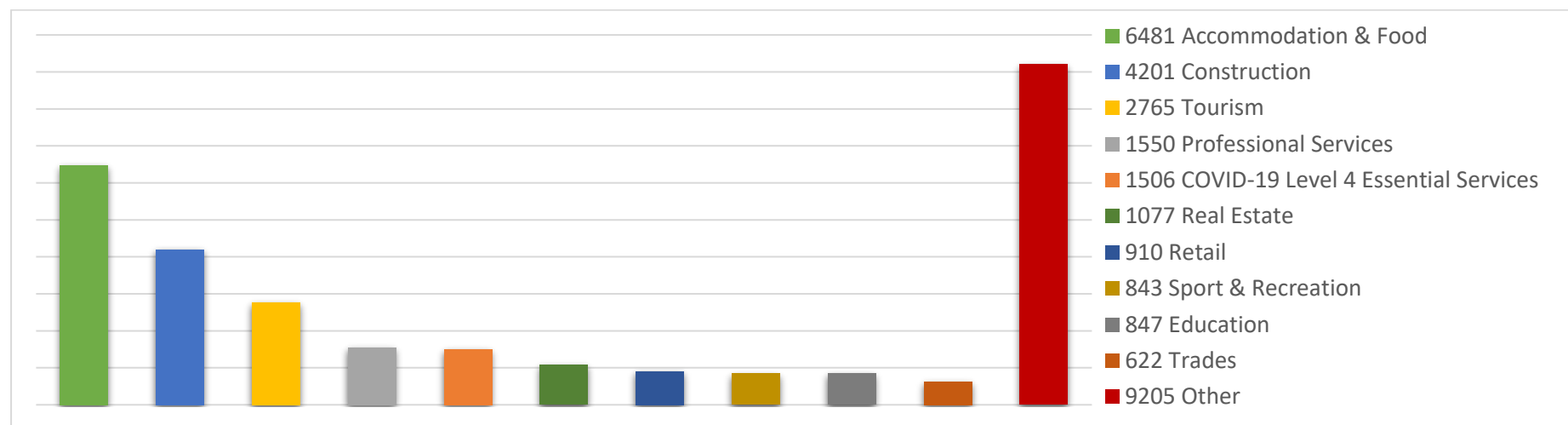


Academic research tells us that during economic downturns particular demographics are more likely to be exposed, more sensitive and less able to anticipate, cope with, or recover from the effects. These groups include young people, Māori and other minority ethnic groups, as well as those with disabilities.

In the QLDC Quality of Life 2019 report, these groups are identified as being more likely to have minimal or no disposable income, be renting their property, be unable to heat their home due to cost, experience barriers when accessing medical services. Māori are significantly more likely to be unemployed.

Work and Income

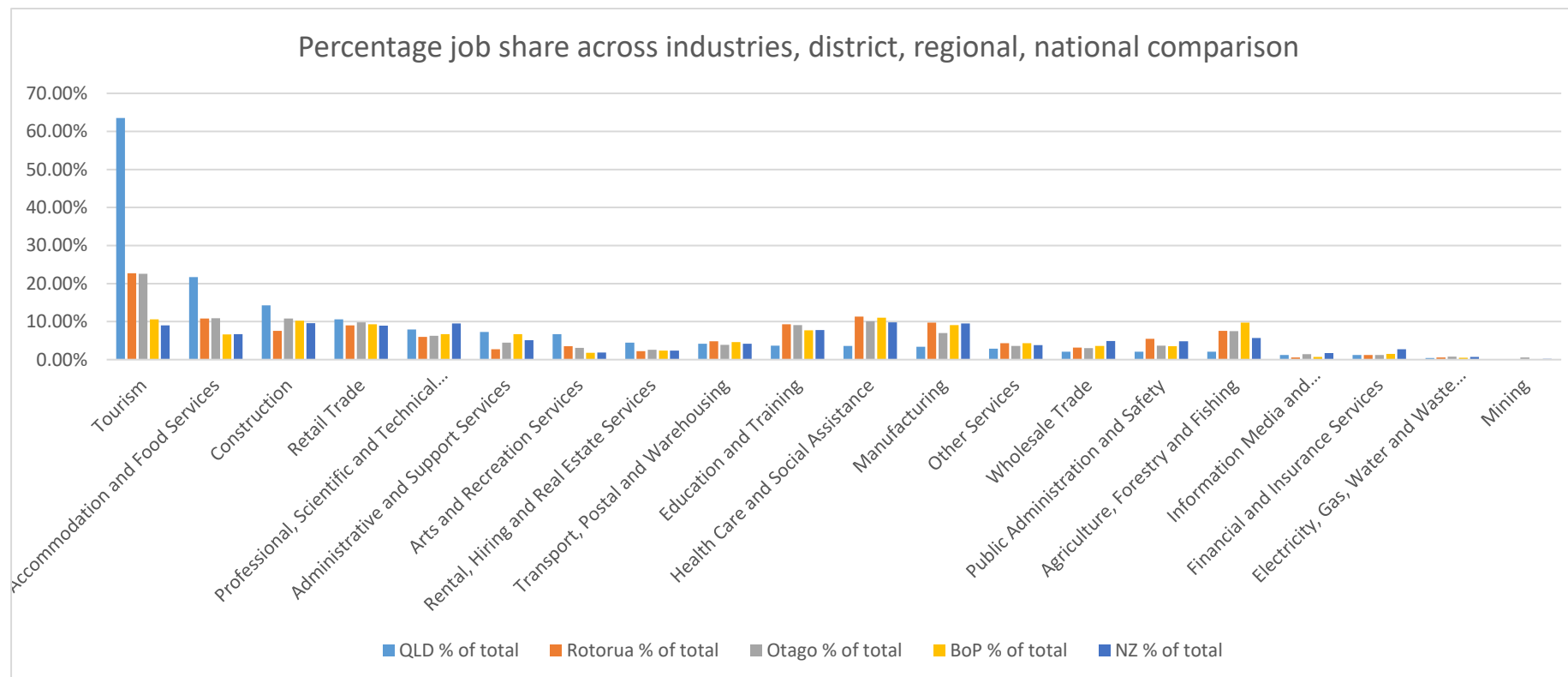
The following graph is based on Infometrics data, which identifies the number of jobs in the district's 50 largest industries. These jobs have been categorised into broader headings for the benefit of this report.



Source: Infometrics, 50 largest employing ANZSIC 7-digit industries, 2019

Tourism is not a traditionally defined industry by Economists. However, we can estimate the proportion of output from each industry that goes to tourism. In the Queenstown-Lakes district, a very high proportion of output from industries like retail trade, accommodation, food services goes to tourism. When ranking tourism as an industry, industries like accommodation and food services are double counted i.e. on their own and as part of the tourism industry.

The following graph compares the economy of the district to Rotorua (as a tourist hub), the Otago region with the Bay of Plenty, as well as the New Zealand average.



Source: Infometrics, Tourism analysis

ABILITY TO WORK FROM HOME

Infometrics have estimated using industry specific data that approximately 37% of people can currently do their job from home, the lowest in the country.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

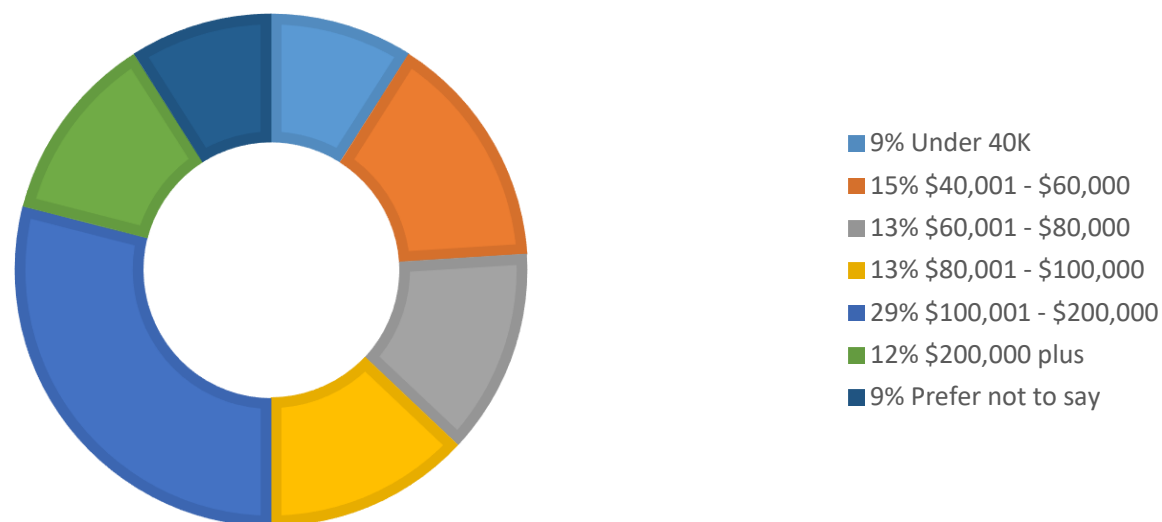
Economists are currently estimating the unemployment rate to be anything between 8% and 30%. Using the job distribution data we have we can start to test these scenarios and understand what this might look like in our district.

VISAS

The data in reports one (dated 3/4/2020) and two (report dated 9/4/2020) was early analysis and to ensure greater accuracy we will be working with Immigration NZ and Infometrics to work on this visa data for future reports.

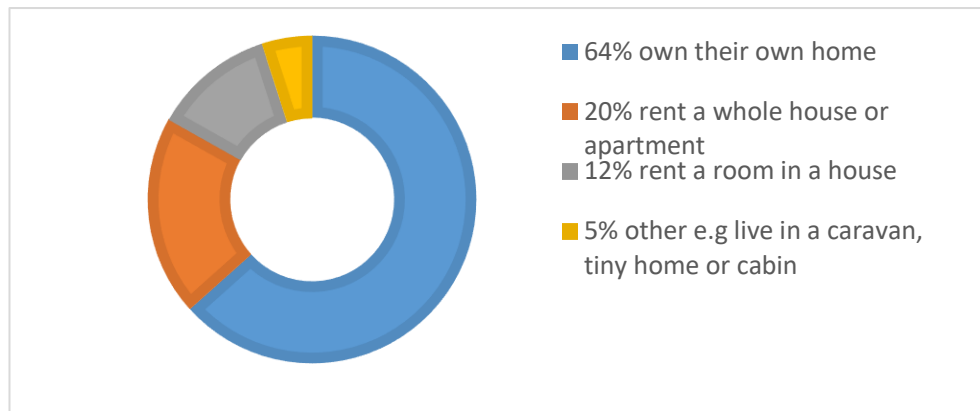
HOUSEHOLD INCOME

Due to the issues Statistics New Zealand have had with collating Census 2018 data, household income data is not available from this source. However, Quality of Life 2019 data can be used to provide a picture of household income, prior to COVID-19. This data could be used to model different scenarios regarding impact on household income.



Housing

Quality of life data suggests:



\$1,204,273

AVERAGE CURRENT HOUSE VALUE is \$1,204,273 (Infometrics Quarterly Economic Monitor)

\$526

AVERAGE WEEKLY RENT: \$526 per week (March 2018, based on 2010 prices) (Infometrics Quarterly Economic Monitor)

The average weekly rent of \$526 per week, compares to a national average of \$398 per week (Infometrics data). This means if a person receives the current full-time government subsidy of \$580 per week, they will have around \$54 left per week to cover all other costs. Housing supply (over/under) is calculated using census 2013 data. Infometrics will update figures once further Census 2018 data is released. However, it is likely in our district there will now be an oversupply of housing.



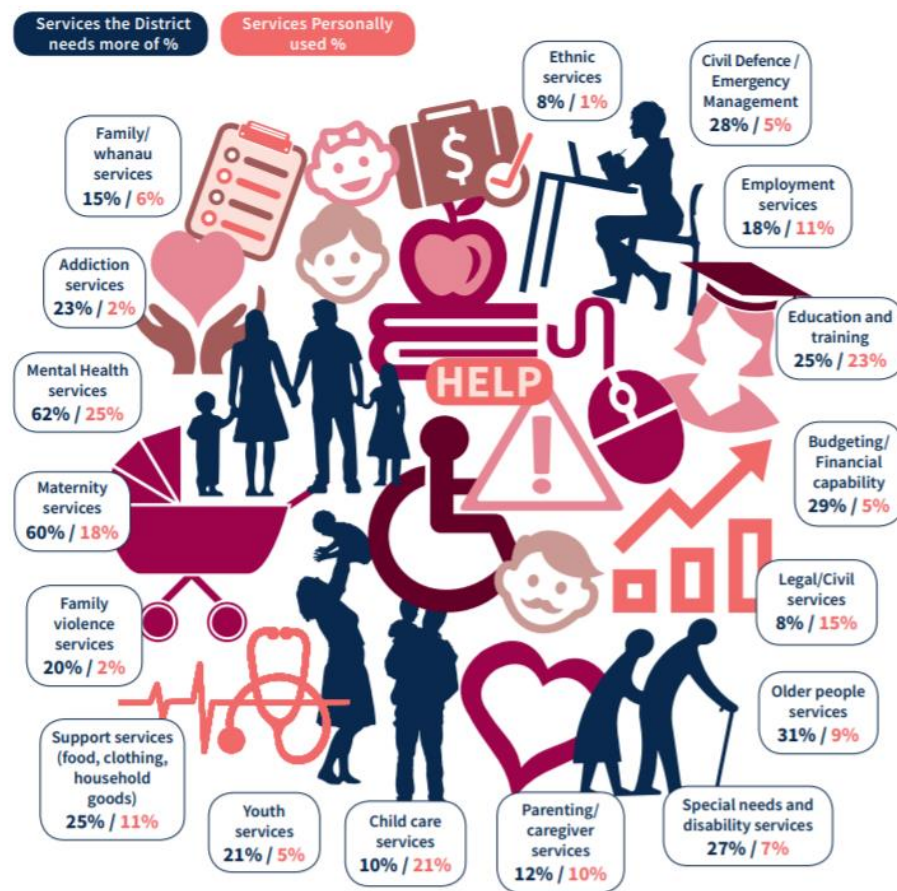
Tracking the average house price in the district over the coming months will be a key indicator of recovery. Some points to consider when analysing this data will be:

- > Impact on house prices
- > Changing supply and demand
- > Changes in overseas investment and property
- > How many people may find themselves in negative equity

Access to Key Services

In the Quality of Life 2018 survey, respondents were asked to identify key services they had personally used as well as services that the district needed more of. Given that 25% said they had accessed mental health services, further questions were asked in 2019 to provide insight into the type of services accessed. The following infographic presents the findings, demonstrating a perceived shortfall in key community and health services.

QUALITY OF LIFE 2018 REPORT FINDINGS – ACCESS AND DEMAND FOR KEY SERVICES



QUALITY OF LIFE 2019 REPORT FINDINGS – MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT BEING ACCESSED

FAMILY CENTRE/OTHER COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES



GP/DOCTOR



COUNSELLOR/PSYCHOLOGIST

