Community Development and Social Work
The Unitec “Recipe”

• Unitec has in recent years been unique among Social Work qualifications in New Zealand, in that the Bachelor of Social Practice degree has offered a major specialisation in Community Development.

• Title *Social Practice* incorporates the disciplines/professions of both Social Work and Community Development.

• Thematic emphasis on the values they hold in common, especially a strong commitment to human rights and social justice.

• Implemented in both academic teaching and fieldwork placements.

• Challenge of change to four year degree, with external regulatory constraints.
Academic Courses

• Basic understanding of Community Development introduced from Year 1
• 2\textsuperscript{nd} year course \textit{Community Development and Social Change} compulsory course for all students
• \textit{Social Policy, Treaty Relations and Law} includes analysis of macro dimension and advocacy for policy and legal change
• 3\textsuperscript{rd} year compulsory course \textit{Advanced Social Practice Theory} includes analysis of Community Development
• Elective courses include:
  • \textit{Working with Communities}
  • \textit{Healthy Societies and Communities}
  • \textit{Human Rights, Social Justice and Advocacy}
Practicum Placements

- First placement generic, can be in social work or community development organisation
- Second placement specialised
- Range of creative community development oriented organisations, including:
  - Auckland Action Against Poverty
  - Auckland Council
  - Ranui Action Project
  - McLaren Park and Henderson South Community Trust
  - Ranui Action Project
  - Avondale Community Action
Questions to Ponder

• Default mode of some students and organisations towards personal helping/casework, how to connect private troubles and public issues
• Community development in statutory organisations?
• How to work for social/policy/legal change?
• NGOs increasingly muzzled by funding contracts?