

## GLSNZ BASELINE SURVEY 2011

### Quick Facts – Social Good

What is the extent to which graduates of New Zealand’s universities contribute to the good of New Zealand society?

#### Our findings

1. New Zealand university students show high levels of social capital (i.e. they take part in community projects, are responsible citizens, value altruism, and show high levels of tolerance).
2. Evidence from other cultures shows that those who undertake certain courses show lower levels of social capital. However, our data show that New Zealand university students may be unique in this regard.
3. Women, Māori, Pasifika, International and Postgraduate students all show high levels of social capital.
4. Social capital is most strongly affected by values.

#### Why is this research important?

- It shows that university graduates can make an important contribution to society
- It helps counteract some negative stereotypes of students
- It highlights the importance of New Zealand’s universities in promoting a better society
- It helps us to understand how best to promote social capital
- It will be the first study to examine the factors that affect social capital among graduates over time

If you are interested in finding out more about ‘Social Good’ in this study, please contact Dr Jackie Hunter ([jhunter@psy.otago.ac.nz](mailto:jhunter@psy.otago.ac.nz)).