An Open Government Data Case Study

Telling a different story about the nation

Learning more about New Zealand crime being at an all-time low

Who: Salvation Army of New Zealand
What: The annual 'State of the Nation' report explores the extent of progress being made in New Zealand across key social indicators
Where: http://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/
Why: Written to encourage public debate around New Zealand's social progress
When: 2007 –

The Salvation Army has published its independent monitoring report, 'State of the Nation', for the past eight years. This aims to encourage public debate around New Zealand's social progress.

The 'State of the Nation' report uses a significant amount of government data, however only the data provided by Statistics New Zealand and NZ Police is open data. This data is available on the NZ.Stat and Infoshare free web tools run by Statistics New Zealand.

"The quickest and easiest way to learn that New Zealand's recorded crime has fallen for the fifth consecutive year."

The Police and Statistics New Zealand open data can be searched via metadata, be displayed in adjustable table options, and downloaded in CSV format for further analysis.

NZ.Stat is an OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) product, jointly developed by participant National Statistical Offices.

The positive impacts of using the NZ.Stat are deeper analysis and engagement, and easier visualisation, as the downloaded data can be combined with other datasets and previous years' results using statistical tools. This provides a quicker, more robust, and less manual process using the Statistics NZ and NZ Police data in comparison to the other data used in the report.