

HEI HEI/ BROOMFIELD

MEN'S RESEARCH

A project to gain an understanding of the interests of men in the Hei Hei / Broomfield suburbs of Christchurch City and to ascertain whether a men only group would be both desirable and sustainable.

Prepared for Hei Hei / Broomfield Community Development Project

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"Stratagem"

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1.0 Executive Summary

National and international research, reports and support groups tend to focus on men's issues from a reactive point of view. For example, there is a raft of self improvement courses, commentaries and other literature largely relating to the numerous aspects affecting men's health, men's behaviour, relationship breakdowns, and how to fix what is wrong with men. While this approach is very important and is critical in many situations, there is little information regarding:

- what men do in their leisure time,
- what are their interests and hobbies,
- given the choice and opportunity what would they like to do,
- whether or not they meet together or even if they want to meet together.

The need for an understanding of these aspects of men's lives was reiterated by many people during the course of the project and the interest generated was significant.

By and large men were conspicuous by their absence within many of the various community groups and functions attended, although the research showed that men were very active within their communities and their families as individuals. Also, there was visible and anecdotal evidence to show that men were just "getting on with it" but it was generally unreported and unnoticed in the wider societal context and consequently often undervalued.

Information for the project was gathered from organisations, groups, literature search, discussions with community leaders, national and international web sites, and most importantly, by individual discussion with men in the Hei Hei / Broomfield area. During the course of the project, in excess of 170 men were addressed either at group meetings or were met as individuals. While a target sample of 50 men was nominated in the brief, 70 participated in the community consultation with ages ranging from 21 years to 87years. To the question of what activities or interests respondents would like to pursue, those under the age of 35 were more interested in education and training of various forms, while those over this age were more oriented towards leisure, sport and hobby activities. Sport was a significant activity for most of the respondents. Forty nine respondents said they would either participate or might participate should a men-only group be formed

Some difficulty was encountered in conducting the community consultation as most group functions were predominantly attended by women. Also many respondents were initially reticent to participate, but once there was the assurance of strict confidentiality and that the research was not about men's health or men's issues, information was provided freely. Of the 70 men who participated in the project only 3 were Maori, the remainder being European. Within the local Maori community based at Te Puawanga ki Oautatahi Trust in Gilberthorpes Road, the activities of Maori men came within the programmes of the Trust. A similar situation would appear to be present within other ethnic groups in the Hei Hei / Broomfield area. Even so it would be reasonable to assume that there may be a number of non European men not participating in

there own organisations. Likewise, while men with disabilities in the Hei Hei / Broomfield area are catered for within their own support structures, there may also be a number of others that are non participants or who would also like to be part of a men only group.

One overarching indication from the research was that men “like to do stuff” and that socialisation occurs in the doing. This is supported by virtually every organisation practitioner contacted and is reinforced by the Men’s Sheds programme introduced in Australia. Another matter of significance was that apart from a number of community support organisations in Christchurch such as the Canterbury Men’s Centre and the Men’s Advocacy Network, there is virtually no government or local authority agency support specifically for men. While the issues surrounding the health of men is of paramount importance, the focus of this research is an attempt to capture the positive and proactive activities undertaken by the men in the Hei Hei / Broomfield communities and to determine whether a group specifically for men would be not only supported but also be sustainable. Consequently the narrow focus of the research is intentional and should be seen as contributing to the wider context surrounding the lives of men. Section 4 provides the background matters associated with the project.

The research indicates that there would be support should a men only group be established, but does not consider how it would be developed, organised, lead or funded

The research has particular relevance to virtually every priority stated in the Christchurch City Council’s “Strengthening Communities Strategy” document 2008.

2.0 Brief

To examine:

The social / activity situation of the adult male population in the Hei Hei / Broomfield area within the following groupings-

- Men of middle age at home during the day ie: shift workers, unemployed.
- Men of middle age available in the evening.
- Solo fathers.
- Older retired men.

To determine:

- What are the men’s interests?
- Would they like to be part of an organised men’s group?
- If they would like to be involved in a group, what time, where, and how often should it meet?
- What are the barriers for those interested in forming a men’s group?

To assess: Whether a group would be supported by men in the Hei Hei Broomfield area.

Sample targets

To make contact with 50 men across the demographics of the brief and 20 groups and organisations

3.0 Limitations and Assumptions

- As there is no direct statistical information covering the demographic groupings outlined in the brief, data has been developed indirectly, the accuracy of which could be in question. For example; the shift work population is not stated.
- The area statistics include North Hornby, Broomfield and Islington. While Broomfield is a discrete unit, the research assumes that North Hornby equates to Hei Hei and only part of Islington falls within the study area. While the figures shown can only be considered as indicative, it is unlikely that they compromise the basic thrust of the research
- The new residential subdivisions on the west side of Gilberthorpes Road and North of Broomfield Common (Masham) may have changed the character of Broomfield and Hei Hei. The influence of these new developments did not feature as an issue during the community consultation and consequently has not been considered an significant aspect to the research.
- The research does not include men from Maori, Pacific Island or other ethnic groups who participate within their own activities and programmes.

4.0 Research Context

The heart of the research centres around the community consultations addressed in section 9. For this purpose a basic questionnaire was developed (refer to appendix V). As the consultation developed, it became very apparent that many of the respondents were tentative about taking part, but once it was established that the questionnaire was non- intrusive, that the information provided would be treated in strict confidence, and was not about health and other personal matters, information was given freely.

The following observations and perceptions, sourced from local, national and international commentators help put the research in context:

- 'Around 50% of men in New Zealand don't have any friends they can rely upon in times of crisis' (Men's Advocacy Network).
- 'Many men neglect their health, visit doctors less often than women and put up with health problems longer' (CEO Age Concern).
- 'Many men often feel isolated from other men'.

- ‘Men admire the friendships women have but often don’t know how to create the same for themselves’.
- ‘Men don’t have a life – instead we have an act, an out show, kept up for protection’ (Steve Biddulph, Australia’s foremost authority and author on men’s issues).
- ‘The three enemies of men are loneliness, compulsive competition and emotional timidity’ (Steve Biddulph)

The following comments were provided by local practitioners who had involvement and experience of working with men.

- ‘Men like to do things and go on outings outside their normal environment’. (Liam Goff – Whareora Trust Barrington).
- ‘It would be good for men to do things together rather than be dragged along to activities by their wives’ (Presbyterian Support).
- ‘Men and boys need to do things together’ (Constable Bruce Ward– Youth Education Officer).
- ‘Men like doing things’
‘Men will generally attend meetings where there is a speaker – men like information – Sumner Parish have an “All Blokes Group”’ (David Winfield –Vicar, St Mary’s Halswell).
‘Men like doing things’ and ‘Men like projects’
‘Men like to be helpful’ (Jaquie Stevenson –Vicar, St Columbas Hornby)

5.0 Hei Hei /Broomfield Community

The communities of Hei Hei, Broomfield and Islington lie in the outermost western region of Christchurch City within the Riccarton / Wigram Community Board area, bounded by Carmen Road to the East, the Islington main power line boundary to the West, Arcon Drive in Broomfield to the North and Waterloo Road in Islington to the South. Within the study area there are four distinct communities consisting of- the Broomfield community north of Buchanans Road, new developments west of Gilberthorpes Road, established residential east of Gilberthorpes Road and part of the community of Islington between Moffett Street and the main trunk railway line (refer to Appendix III).

6.0 Existing Information / Gaps

While there is considerable national and international information regarding men’s issues, groups and courses, there is a shortage of information regarding how men spend their leisure time and more particularly, that given the choice and opportunity, what men like to do. There is no men-specific research listed on the Christchurch City Council database although presumably this may have been included in a general sense in other Council reports. There are no men’s groups listed in the CINCH (Community Information Christchurch) library database under ‘Societies and Clubs’.

In October 2006, Family and Community social work student James Souter conducted research into men's groups in Christchurch, New Zealand entitled "What Works for Community Based Men's Groups". The researcher contacted fourteen group facilitators who were either directly or indirectly involved with men's issues.

While the report did not address directly the focus of the Hei Hei / Broomfield research, the following general findings have relevance:

- Men are less likely to seek help and therefore less likely to join groups.
- Men are interested but are tentative to join groups.
- Men need time and space to find what suits them.
- Groups need to be activity orientated and of interest to men.
- There was a difficulty in finding men's groups for the research.

7.0 Local Community Organisations

The following groups and activities serve the Hornby / Hei Hei- / Islington / Broomfield area.

Anglican Care (Hei Hei / Broomfield Community Development Project)
Canterbury Fiji Social Services Trust (Hei Hei)
Hei Hei /Broomfield Craft Group
Hei Hei Community Centre
Oasis Baptist Community Church (Hei Hei Community Centre)
Salvation Army (Wycola Ave, Hei Hei)
Seventh Day Adventist Church (Hei Hei Community Centre)
Anglican Parish of Hornby (St Colomba's)
Hornby Community Care Centre
Hornby Heartlands
Hornby Presbyterian Church (Amyes Road, Hornby)
Hornby Primary School
Hornby Youth Workers
Problem Gambling Foundation (Hornby Heartlands & Multicultural Centre)
Kids First Kindergarten
Plunket
Social Worker in Schools – Hornby cluster
To Horomako Kohanga Reo

A number of organisations not located within the Hei Hei / Broomfield area provide services into the community ie: CYFS, CreativeWorks Employment Service, GAIN Canterbury, Housing NZ.

While men participate in a number of the above organisations the services provided are not generally men focused.

Appendix IV lists the services and programmes provided by each group.

8.0 Demographic Profile

It is important to acknowledge that the research was aimed at men who were most likely to be available during the day hence the demographic groups selected are a “best fit” for the purposes of the research and consequently are only indicative. Likewise, the demographics for Islington include data from a much larger area than that contained within the project boundary. For example, not including the more rural aspects of Islington, there are in excess of three hundred and sixty properties many of which are multi tenanted, but only two hundred of these fall within the project boundary. As with the demographic groups the statistical data is also indicative only. Within the social demographics there is no Census category specifying numbers of men doing shift work although it is quite possible that the community consultation included some shift workers.

In summary: Male population data of Community area

<u>Total Male Population</u>	<u>North Hornby</u>	<u>Broomfield</u>	<u>Islington</u>
European	1101	741	981
Maori	192	153	177
Pacifika	102	72	57
Asian	57	81	42
Middle Eastern/ Latin American	9	21	15
Other Ethnicities	192	120	171
Not included elsewhere	54	30	24
Totals	1707	1218	1467
Income source			
NZ Superannuation or Veterans	189	123	135
Other Super, Pensions, Annuities	33	30	27
Other Government Benefits	33	18	21
Domestic Purpose	12	3	3
Labour force			
Not in labour force	306	228	207
Unemployment Benefit	30	18	18
Employed part time	84	57	66
Family Situation			
Male sole parent	30	21	18

9.0 Community Consultation Summary (survey)

The following information is a compressed summary from 70 men who responded to the community consultation research questionnaire. While 6 respondents answered only parts of the questionnaire, because of the significant sample size, it is unlikely the quality of the research was compromised.

Q1. Are you involved in any local men’s activities either within or beyond Hei Hei / Broomfield ? (list).

Salvation Army shop – Kids programme – Touch rugby – Monthly St Columbas men’s breakfast – Indoor bowls (Community Centre) – Christian men’s group – Cards – Walking group – Arthritis Association – Maori Warden – Pool club – Cooking classes – Exercise group – Good Companions Group – RSA – Hornby Workingmen’s Club – Greypower – Leisure group – Country music – Drama – Teacher – 4x4 off-roading – Rugby league – Family.

Q2. Would you participate if a Hei Hei / Broomfield men’s group was formed?

Yes	No	Possibly
35	21	14

Q3. If a group was formed (with help from CCC, Hei Hei/ Broomfield Community Development Project etc) what interests / activities would you like to share / develop (all suggestions are possible at this stage).

Art – Landscape painting – Share with like minds re: Art – Music – Computing Walking – Fishing – Trips out – Kayaking – Tramping – Out door pursuits Nights out – Bars – Restaurants – Gardening – Family – Diving – Biking Golfing – 4 wheel driving – Hunting – Karate – Indoor bowls – Home brewing Theatre – Mechanics – House renovating – White baiting – Rugby – Anything outdoors – Sport – Camping – Church music – Reading – Libraries – BBQs Card playing – Ten pin bowling – Photography – Handyman activities Speaking – Indoor shooting – Pool – Car museums – Bowls.

A significant number of younger respondents from one source were more focussed on education and training rather than leisure activities. A compressed summary of the collective responses included:

Parenting – Men’s issues – Finance management – Coping with change Cooking – Husbands in today’s world – Education – Literacy – Up skilling Father / child relationships – Men to men talks – Men in today’s society, Home life skills – Retraining for work – Fatherhood – Coping with separation Youth activities – CV preparation – Raising children – Employment

Q4. What particular difficulties (barriers) would you find if a men’s group was formed.

None	22
No Time	7
Transport	4
Own health	2
Family health	1
Family needs	2
Work	5
No response	13
Social stigma	7

Q5. What part of the day / week would suit you to meet with other men.

The responses ranged from anytime, to weekends and evenings. A large proportion of respondents over 50yrs of age opted for Tues, Wed, Thursday with some preferring afternoons. Of those under 50 yrs, any time during the day and weekends was the most common response.

Q6. Are there any other men related issues you would like to note.

- Where to go to in times of difficulty?
- Men's health
- Hobbies
- Communication
- Loneliness
- Social healing
- Communication between sexes
- If a group was formed it would need to forward plan.
- Men like to do stuff.
- Depression
- Anger
- Support and understanding

A copy of the blank survey questionnaire is attached as appendix V

10.0 Consultation Analysis and Observations

Age

Respondents to the questionnaire ranged from 21 to 87 with the median age being 34. The age spread fell into four distinct bands of:

Age (years)	Sample population
21-35	s= 36
40-51	s= 10

58-68	s= 8
70-87	s= 10
Unspecified	S=6

Family situations

Marital status	Sample population
Married	s= 31
Single	s= 26
Widower	s= 1
Sole fathers	s= 10
Unspecified	S=2

It is evident from responses to **Question 1**, that the range of activities undertaken by the respondents was many and varied. Activities reported appear to be more informal, such as family time, and there was a general tone that it would be good for men to do something for themselves. This was also expressed by a number of wives during the course of the research.

Of those respondents over 50 years of age, the following activities were mentioned numerous times.

- Walking
- Fishing
- Bowls (indoor and outdoor)
- Outdoor pursuits (including camping)
- Trips away
- Gardening
- Off-road 4 wheel driving
- Sport – golfing and rugby

On the other hand there were a number of responses tending more towards indoor activities such as-

- Visiting libraries
- Pool
- Photography

There were a number of non specific positive responses within the group under the age of 50.

One respondent was a Maori Warden who had experience with other men's groups in Christchurch and expressed an enthusiasm for a men's group in the area.

Reponses to **Question 2** indicated that 49 of the 70 respondents would or might support a men's only group.

With regard to **Question 3**, the nature of the responses divided into two distinct groups. Those over 50 years of age were more inclined towards sport,

recreation and leisure activities, while those under 50 years, which accounted for 51% of the respondents, were more focussed on education and training. The division is most likely to be due to the younger group accessing various government agencies and community organisations and being available for the workforce.

Within the responses to **Question 4**, seven respondents (solo fathers) considered various varieties of social stigma would be barriers to being part of a men's group.

There was no common or preferred time in to response to **Question 5** which ranged from anytime, to weekends and evenings.

Under the heading of "Other Matters" in **Question 6** the general tenor of the majority of responses concerned men seeking assistance to address a variety of issues that affected their lives

11.0 Other Comments

During the course of the research a large number of women showed an interest in the study and expressed the view that similar research should be undertaken with women in the area. One Maori contact suggested that similar projects be culturally redesigned and undertaken particularly for Maori, and Pacific Island men.

Conclusion

From an overall perspective the research has expressed in written word what has been thought, known and discussed for many years. There is a large body of information dealing with men's issues, but apart from some churches and schools in Christchurch, which have formed men's and "blokes groups" for parishioners and parents respectively, in general, the issue of what men do and what they would like to do has basically gone undocumented and consequently unsupported.

In recent times the concept of the Australian Men's Sheds programme has been examined by Peter McNeur (Director of Wairapa REAP) and Neil Bruce (Community Learning Centres Melville and Cambridge High Schools) with a view of its application to New Zealand. The concept has direct relevance to the Hei Hei / Broomfield research project.

The research indicates that a men only group in the Hei Hei / Broomfield area would be supported although the comment made by James Souter that "men need time and space" suggests that nature of such a group would need to be determined by group members over a period of time. To this end it would be reasonable to trial any group that was established. In view of the under 50 / over 50 division identified in Section 10 Question 3 discussion, whether one group would meet the expressed needs would need further consideration. During the course of the study discussions were held a local person experienced in running groups who expressed a willingness to help set up group specifically for men

Appendix I Hei Hei / Broomfield Men's Research Methodology

The research will be conducted through adapted appreciative inquiry techniques and will be broadly based on the following elements:

Establishment

- Set – up discussions with Christchurch City Council (CCC) staff.
- Formulate and agree on brief.
- Determine time lines and milestones.
- Determine assumptions and limitations.

Existing Information

- Discussions with CCC staff, and other organisations with vested interests.
- What groups exist?
- Access CINCH (Community Information Christchurch) database.
- Assemble current relevant male demographic data.
- Gather existing information through document search and physical means.
- Examine research of social work students.

Information Development

- Determine gaps in existing information.
- Analyse relevant comparative demographic data between 2001 and 2006.
- Organise and undertake discussions with Liam Gough (Whareora), Sydenham Community Project, Linwood Resource Centre, Anglican Family and Community re: development and maintenance of men's groups.

Hei Hei / Broomfield Community Profile

- Consult with local community groups and organisations.
- Examine demographic profile.

Community Consultation

- Develop questionnaire.
- Conduct community consultation of individual community members in terms of the questionnaire.

- Conduct community consultation including - interviewing community leaders, community organizations and provider agencies.
- Speak with church and other men's groups.
- Analyse consultation responses.

Key Community Roles

Determine the roles of-

- Community Centres
- Churches
- Hornby Working Mens Club
- Men's groups
- Other community organisations
- Speciality Clubs and groups
- Sports Clubs

Quality Control

- Evaluate research findings in terms of Stratagem practice guide #2 "Information gathering, Sorting and Analysis."

Research General Observations

- Highlight significant matters from the research.

Reporting

- Prepare a draft report for discussion with CCC Sockburn staff.
- Prepare final draft.
- Prepare final report.

Note: The above methodology is of a general nature only and may change as required.

Appendix II “Stratagem” Ethical Considerations

General

Aspects of Stratagem activities may seek information from individuals and / or may be subject to privilege or commercial sensitivity. Where this occurs, the following standard ethical considerations shall apply.

Respondents

- Respondent’s participation in the research is voluntary.
- Participation is determined by informed consent and does not affect a respondents wish to withdraw at any time during the process.
- The privacy of respondents shall be paramount.
- The risk of harm to respondents as a consequence of taking part shall be managed at all times.
- Being parties to an evaluation, as joint owners respondents will in most cases or circumstances have access to the research findings.
- Respondent’s information shall only be applied to the research at hand.
- The evaluation process and its contents shall have due recognition to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.
- Where applicable commercial sensitivity / advantage shall be protected.

Clients

- Stratagem staff will ensure that the client / researcher / planner confidentiality is maintained.
- Stratagem will ensure the confidentiality of commercially sensitive information.
- Where the research extends to non European groups, culturally appropriate consent, advice and assistance will be sought from leaders for the development of a contact methodology

New Zealand Legislation

The feasibility study process shall be subject to:

- Privacy Act 1993
- Official Information Act 1982
- Human Rights Act 1993

Appendix III Area Map



Appendix IV Community Organisation Inventory

Local Community Organisations

The following is a list of local community organisations and groups which provide community based activities.

Hei Hei Community Centre

Activities and services:

- Afternoon teas
- Art and Craft (some)
- Games
- Guest speakers
- Hei Hei Line dancers
- Mystery tours
- Older adults activities
- Social outings
- Ten pin bowling
- Wycola Indoor Bowls

Anglican Care (Hei Hei / Broomfield Development Project)

Activities and services:

- Advocacy
- Broomfield Wanderers walking group
- Bus trips
- Community Energy Action contact re: curtain bank
- Community lunches
- Cooking classes
- Courses as required
- Craft
- Gentle exercise
- Swimming
- Variety

Hei Hei Broomfield Craft Group

Anglican Parish of Hornby (St Colomba's)

Activities and services:

- AA group
- Disabilities friendship group
- Mainly music (pre schoolers)
- Monthly men's breakfast
- Services
- Treasured times (60+)
- ZONE youth group

Oasis Baptist Community Church (HeiHei Community Centre)

Activities and services:

- Foot clinic
- Fortnightly luncheon (senior citizens)
- Friday After School Club (8yrs – 12yrs)
- "Kidsbus" (5 yrs – 12 yrs)
- School holiday "Bouncy Castle Fun Day"

Seventh Day Adventist Church (Hei Hei Community Centre)

Activities and services:

- Hands of Friendship
- Practical support – gardening and trade skills

Catholic Parish of Hornby

Salvation Army (16 – 18 Wycla Ave)

Activities and services:

- Budget advisor
- Community Wheelbarrow
- Community support and advocacy
- Easy meals
- Family mentoring
- Food bank
- Jigsaw library
- Second hand store

Hornby Presbyterian Church (Amyes Road Hornby)

Activities and services:

- Bread run
- Girls brigade
- Low cost out of school care
- Mainly music
- Playgroup
- Women's café

Problem Gambling Foundation (Hornby Heartlands & Multicultural Centre)

Hornby Primary School

Kids First Kindergarten

Hornby Youth Workers

Canterbury Fiji Social Services Trust

Activities and services:

- Advocacy
- Aged concern programmes
- Holiday programmes
- Language nest
- Luvei Viti (kids club)
- Out of School Care and Education
- Youth at risk
- Youth radio Programme

Hornby Heartlands

Activities and Services:

- Aged concern
- Careers
- Community Board
- Counselling
- CPIT
- He Waka Tapu
- Housing NZ
- Information
- Inland Revenue Department
- Justice

- Lawyer
- NZ Superannuation
- Problem Gambling
- Strengthening Families
- Workbridge
- Youth justice

Te Puawanga ki Oautatahi Trust

Activities and services

- Comprehensive range of Maori community programmes

Hornby Community Care Centre

Activities and Services:

- Citizens Advice
- Handy Scope
- Op shop
- Rooms
- Tai chi

A number of other organisations not located in the Hei Hei / Broomfield area also provide services into the community ie: Plunket, Problem Gambling, CYFS, CreativeWorks Employment Service, GAIN Canterbury, Housing NZ and Social Worker In Schools - Hornby Cluster

Appendix Y Community Consultation Questionnaire

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Consultation Date

Hei Hei / Broomfield Men's Research Questionnaire

Resident # () Age () Family situation ()

.....

Q1. *Are you involved in any local men's activities either within or beyond Hei Hei / Broomfield? (list)*

Q2. *Would you participate if a Hei Hei / Broomfield men's group was formed?*

Q3. *If a group was formed (with help from CCC, Hei Hei Community Development Project etc) what interests / activities would you like to share / develop (all suggestions are possible at this stage).*

Q4. *What particular difficulties (barriers) would you find if a men's group was formed.*

Q5. *What part of the day / week would suit you to meet with other men.*

Q6. *Are there any other men related issues you would like to note.*

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Appendix vi Acknowledgements and References

Acknowledgements

- John Patterson - Third Age
- Presbyterian Support
- Age concern
- Community Liaison Chaplain, Intellectual Disabilities service
- Hei Hei – Broomfield Community Development Worker
- CCC Community Development Advisor Sockburn
- CCC community Recreation Advisor Sockburn
- Mens Advocacy Network
- Canterbury Men's Centre
- Community Worker, Whareora House
- Vicar, St Mary's, Halswell
- Home and Family
- Local Maori Warden
- Broomfield Wanderers
- Branston Intermediate School
- Gilberthorpe School
- Community Development Advisor Te Puawanga Ki Otautahi Trust
- Co-ordinator, Hornby Heartlands Manager Hornby Heartlands

Note;

I am indebted to June Foster- Campbell, Community Coordinator at Hornby Heartlands, for both her assistance and advice and in the contacting 70 men of whom 36 contributed to the community consultation.

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