



THE
TANGATA WHENUA,
COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR
RESEARCH CENTRE

Our Strategies in Action

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BACKGROUND / TE TIMATANGA

Mihimihi

*Ki o tatou waka rangatira, ki o tatou maunga whakahi, ki o tatou awa korero,
Tena koutou, kia ora tatou katoa.*

*Ka mihi atu ano hoki, ki o tatou mate huhua, kua takahi atu i te ara whanui,
ki te kauika tangata, ki te tonuitanga, ki te huinga o te kahurangi
Haere koutou, haere koutou, haere o ti atu.*

*Kia hoki mai kia tatou nga kaihautu o nga kaupapa kei mua i a tatou
Tena koutou, tena koutou, kia ora tatou katoa.*

Introduction

Aotearoa New Zealand lacks a robust body of research focused on the Tangata Whenua, Community and Voluntary Sector (Bradford & Nowland-Foreman & Te Korowai Aroha, 2001). Yet there are over 90,000 organisations, groups or clubs which make up this sector (Statistics NZ, 2007), and 70 percent of New Zealanders over the age of 16 belong to these organisations (Vowles, 2004). Until now there has been no single institution in this country with a research programme dedicated to enhancing our understanding of the 'third sector' or civil society in Aotearoa New Zealand

The first Community-Government Relations Working Party stressed in their report (2001) the need for greater research by and about the community & voluntary sector. In the following year, the Community-Government Relationships Steering Group (2002) went on to observe:

Research undertaken by the community sector, for the sector, is an important part of developing its robust independence. A programme of research and good information about the sector should be developed as an ongoing process within the sector itself....

Throughout the life of the Working Party (2000-01) and the Phase Two Steering Group (2001-02) there has been strong agreement on the immediate need for further research into the sector as a priority, and for coordination and review by the sector of existing and ongoing research work

In 2003/04, the Community Sector Taskforce picked up these issues and convened a meeting in March 2004, with interested representatives of Tangata Whenua, Community & Voluntary organisations, independent researchers, tertiary institutions, philanthropic funders and government departments. That meeting affirmed the idea of working towards a third sector research centre which would be a partnership with Tangata Whenua, Community & Voluntary organisations and researchers, be multi-disciplinary, and be multi-institutional.

From this initial meeting, a group of interested individuals continued working together to bring the vision for the Centre into being. A Memorandum of Understanding (the MOU) was drafted and signed up to by eight organisations committed to collaborating on, and supporting this vision, and formal letters of support were received from a further 12 organisations. Funds were raised from the ASB Community Trust, and access to computing capacity, staff time and other assistance in-kind was donated by Unitec NZ. The Centre was also successful in winning support from the Government's Digital Strategy Community Partnership Fund for a two year period to establish the Research Centre's first project – The Clearing House - a web-based "clearinghouse" for Tangata Whenua, Community and Voluntary Sector research.

Funding was in place for this project by July 2006, when the informal group of people who had been meeting to progress the Centre vision was established as an interim Governance group for the Centre. This group was established under the wing, and with the support of the Community Sector Taskforce, and through both its composition and modus vivendi has aimed to live out the "new way of working" for the Tangata Whenua, Community and Voluntary Sector (Community Sector Taskforce, 2006).

The interim Governance group was established with a brief to get the Centre up and running and report back to the wider group of representatives of all those organisations which had signed the Memorandum of Understanding by the second half of 2007 with proposals for endorsement by that wider group on an on-going structure, constitution and strategic direction for the Research Centre.

Unitec NZ's role is being the fund holder for The Clearing House, and its Not For Profit Management Programme staff team has been the major driver in establishing this project. Their ongoing role has been to provide a physical home for the project, contribute significant assistance in-kind, and to maintain day-to-day project oversight on behalf of the interim Governance Group.

The Community Sector Taskforce's role has been to convene key Tangata Whenua, Community and Voluntary Sector stakeholders around the wider Research Centre discussions and engagement – including the development of the overall vision and philosophy of the Research Centre.

The role of the tertiary institutions who have signed up to the Memorandum of Understanding is to contribute their research knowledge to The Clearing House project, technical expertise to assist in the development and implementation of a quality review process for what goes on the site, support to groups wanting help with research and/or publishing research, and support for the development of a Code of Practice. Beyond The Clearing House it is envisaged that the Research Centre will also develop many opportunities for collaboration on research, capacity building and networking among the MOU partners.

The role of the Tangata Whenua, Community and Voluntary Sector organisations involved is to share their research work, their research needs and interests to inform the development of The Clearing House and the wider activities of the Research Centre. As well as academic research The Clearing House is established to hold case stories, working papers and other community research in the widest sense.

A Project Manager was recruited and appointed in October 2006. Since then the project has implemented Phases 1 and 2 of The Clearing House website www.communityresearch.org.nz, attracted over 180 subscribers, and begun the process of lodging research content. It has also drafted and completed the "Code of Practice" for community researchers (July 2007), and established a register of community researchers. The way The Clearing House has been set up:

- encourages a partial wiki (or collaborative peer) approach to development of knowledge (both to verify the suitability and quality of submitted resources, and to add value by enabling readers to "frolic" -- Flag, Rate, Link, and Comment on resources)

- enables use of creative commons licences (to enable wider but still protected use of resources by others), as well as traditional copyright of material, and
- promotes te reo (Māori language) metadata (alongside English metadata standards) to honour the language and the context in which resources are lodged in The Clearing House.

In 2005, a Working Group to establish the Research Centre identified that the overarching purpose of the Research Centre would be:

To contribute to the strengthening of the capacity of the Tangata Whenua, Community and Voluntary Sector through research.

It was determined that:

- The focus of the Research Centre will be serving our diverse Tangata Whenua, Community and Voluntary Sector. It will support innovation, and offer leadership in promoting the sector to the nation and the world.
- The Research Centre will operate within a Tiriti/Treaty relationships framework.
- The Research Centre will specifically focus on undertaking and promoting the gathering and dissemination of research that is collaborative and inclusive, and which demonstrates high standards of research.

Values

The Working Group also established the following values on which the operation of the Research Centre is based:

Rangatiratanga

By weaving our values, tikanga, skills, ahuatanga, cultural diversity and world views we become self determining and stand in a place of Mana.

Collaboration

The Research Centre will promote, conduct and sanction research which is developed in collaboration with the sector, conducted in a participatory, co-determined manner, and involves a range of partners, for example government and the scholarly community.

Te Tiriti/Treaty Relationships Model

The Research Centre will recognise that there are distinct kinds of community organisations within Māoridom that are not, and do not wish to be defined within the term 'community and voluntary sector', but which would also benefit from increased research capacity.

The Research Centre will act in a manner that is truly collaborative through recognising and working within an understanding of these distinctions. In particular the Research Centre is committed to working in line within a Te Tiriti Relationship Framework; *'A New Way of Working for the Tangata Whenua, Community and Voluntary Sector'* – (Community Sector Taskforce, 2006).

Inclusiveness

The Research Centre will ensure that existing research and new research is easily accessible to all potential users and interest groups. It will also support research initiatives that enable community and tangata whenua organisations to participate in decisions about the research and to gain practical benefits from research outcomes.

Diversity

Research should reflect the wide range of organisations and interest groups that constitute the Tangata Whenua, Community and Voluntary Sector and the broad range of research philosophies and methods that can inform the work of the sector and its role in civil society.

Excellence/Good Practice

The Research Centre will demonstrate ways to raise the standards of research within the Tangata Whenua, Community & Voluntary Sector and the Tertiary Institutions through better use of our collective understanding and analysis of our experience.

Leadership

The Research Centre will aim to be recognised as a key resource for and within the sector through

- demonstrating and encouraging good practice in research and
- collaboration, including the promotion of Tangata Whenua and Community-based approaches which are most appropriate and valued by the sector
- providing information and advice on doing research with the sector to other sectors such as universities and government
- encouraging reflection within the sector about the knowledge, experiences, customs and ways of working within the sector
- informing and influencing public opinion about the sector and on issues of concern to the sector, and
- hosting respected international researchers and practitioners.

Tangata Whenua, Community and Voluntary Sector centered

The Research Centre will encompass a Tangata Whenua, Community and Voluntary Sector focus reflecting the distinct norms, values and principles which distinguish this sector from the market and the state (see Attachment One: Tangata Tiriti and Tangata Whenua Values for the Sector).

Innovation

The Research Centre will provide a hub able to disseminate new ideas, approaches and good practice from across Aotearoa New Zealand and overseas – leading towards more forward thinking, innovation and enhanced capacity.

FUNCTIONS OF THE CENTRE / NGĀ KAU PAPA O TE WHARE WANANGA RANGAHAU

The functions of the Tangata Whenua, Community and Voluntary Sector Research Centre include:

Research

To support and encourage collaborative research involving Tangata Whenua, Community and Voluntary Sector organisations together with researchers from tertiary institutions

To undertake and commission research and support others in doing so, in a way that is in line with the values of the Centre

To contribute to long term trend analysis

Communication Hub

To disseminate research findings

To inform policy development and public debate

To generate and maintain international and national links

To link and partner students, researchers, tangata whenua and communities around specific research initiatives

To foster 'conversations' based on research, inter-sectorally, to contribute to the research focus of the Centre (identifying research needs and gaps in knowledge within the sector), to policy development and public debate

To provide and encourage teaching, education and training about research in the sector, including standard setting and informing teaching about the sector

Capacity Building

To contribute to the sector identity and strengthen the sector's knowledge of best practice in the management of services and other activities

To provide training to enhance the research capacity of tangata whenua community and voluntary sector organisations

To act as a 'clearing house' to give people a place to come to find out what exists already

To develop a research agenda by engaging in dialogue with the tangata whenua, community, the sector, researchers, scholars and government, to find out what their issues are and what research is required to inform policy processes

To increase the ability of tangata whenua and community organisations to use existing research and publicly available data, such as Census data.

OUR STRATEGIES IN ACTION / NGĀ RAUTAKI

The vision of the Tangata Whenua, Community and Voluntary Sector Research Centre will be implemented primarily through five key strategies:

<p>Strategy One : Visibility and Access / Nga Kitenga me nga Putanga</p> <p>Promoting the visibility of and access to community research in Aotearoa/New Zealand.</p>	<p><i>Activities / Nga Mahi</i></p> <p>1.1 Establish, operate and develop 'The Clearing House" web-based research www.communityresearch.org.nz</p> <p>1.2 Actively promote the Research Centre and the Clearing house.</p> <p>1.3 Organise and promote research-based hui, seminars, workshops and conferences</p> <p>1.4 Promote community research associations, journals & newsletters</p>
<p>Strategy Two : Quality & Good Practice / Te Pono me te Tika</p> <p>Promoting quality assurance and good practice in community research in Aotearoa/New Zealand.</p>	<p><i>Activities / Nga Mahi</i></p> <p>2.1 Develop and promote community research Code of Practice (COP)</p> <p>2.2 Role model good practice in any research undertaken or commissioned by the Centre</p> <p>2.3 Develop and promote templates, guides and capacity building opportunities for researchers (on working with the Sector) and form the Sector (on doing & contracting</p>

	research).
<p>Strategy Three : Connected / Nga Hononga</p> <p>Promoting and strengthening connections across different sectors, among researchers and the Sector – nationally and internationally.</p>	<p><i>Activities / Nga Mahi</i></p> <p>3.1 Establish inclusive and well-connected process for governance and accountability of the Research Centre (and its projects)</p> <p>3.2 Establish international links and promote international exchanges</p> <p>3.3 Organise and promote virtual meeting places, including The Clearing, James, Email List etc</p> <p>3.4 Organise and promote face to face meeting opportunities</p>

<p>Strategy Four : Strategy Research / Nga Mahi Rangahau Rautaki</p> <p>The selective conduct or commissioning of research of strategic significance to the Sector (where required either because of a gap or because ownership by the Sector is especially important.</p>	<p><i>Activities / Nga mahi</i></p> <p>4.1 Identify and analyse community research needs, gaps and demands</p> <p>4.2 Advocate strategic sector research agendas</p> <p>4.3 Undertake or commission meta-research (what does the body of research in a field say, what do we do and what do we need to know)</p> <p>4.4 Provide an accessible home for longitudinal sector-wise and other strategic data (such as, data on resourcing the sector, non-profit organisation statistics, sector confidence/state of the sector surveys etc)</p>
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<p>Strategy Five : Sustainable Organisation / Kia Tu Tonu te Whare</p> <p>Ensuring the on-going sustainable operation of the Research Centre (financially, ethically, culturally and environmentally)</p>	<p><i>Activities / Nga Mahi</i></p> <p>5.1 Implement Te Tiriti/Treaty based relationship framework in structure and processes</p> <p>5.2 Implement appropriate planning, staffing, budgeting and monitoring systems</p> <p>5.3 Establish fund-raising strategy and secure sufficient, diversified income streams</p> <p>5.4 Minimise environmental 'foot print' in the way all activities are planned and implemented.</p>
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Tangata Whenua, Community and Voluntary Sector Research Centre (2007) Code Of Practice for the Tangata Whenua, Community and Voluntary Sector Research Centre, Version 2.0, <http://www.communityresearch.org.nz/COP.htm> (accessed August 2007)

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ATTACHMENT ONE: VALUES FOR THE SECTOR / NGA KAINGAKAU O NGA WHARE

At the May 2004 National Hui of the Community Sector Taskforce a number of Tangata Tiriti and Tangata Whenua values for the Tangata Whenua, Community and Voluntary Sector were developed and confirmed by both caucuses:

Tangata Tiriti Values	Tangata Whenua Values
Inclusiveness	Kaupapa
Fairness	Mana
Honesty	Manaakitanga
Optimism	Rangatiratanga
Respect	Tapu
Working together	Whakapapa
Voice carriers	Whanaungatanga
Self determination for the Sector	Tika, Pono, Aroha

Community Sector Taskforce (2006)

These in turn were based on two declarations developed out of a series of forums, hui and fono held around the country in the lead up to the 2004 National Hui.

Tangata Whenua Declaration

The Maori declaration, a summary statement, was developed from all forums and hui held around the country and was the consensus of all Maori present. It sets out the base position unpinning the work of the Taskforce as follows:

We are a first nations people;

The basis of our identity is Whanau, Hapu, Iwi and through whakapapa we link the land, the people and all living things in our world;

We are culturally diverse as Iwi/Maori but through the practice of tino rangatiratanga we can act in the interests of all peoples, the land and our environment;

Our beliefs come from Te Ao Maori. Our practice of tikanga Maori includes the disciplines of mana, rangatiratanga and manaakitanga;

Tikanga sets the framework for our governance and also defines, regulates and protects the rights of whanau and Hapu;

Our marae are expressions of our culture, tikanga, values and principles which sustain our uniqueness;

The importance of consensus decision making stems from the need to work collectively to get things right – weaving the people together;

An holistic approach to leadership is needed in order to practise accountability to Whanau, Hapu and Iwi – ko te iwi te rangatira o te rangatira – people are the chiefs of the chiefs;

For a Tiriti/Treaty relationship to bear fruit for all people of Aotearoa/New Zealand the one-world view of the Crown needs to open up to Te Ao Maori;

Through a negotiated view of the kawanatanga function, leading to a more active involvement of Maori in governance activity for all people, the needs of New Zealanders, via the Sector, will be addressed more fully, more effectively and in a more sustainable manner.

The acknowledgment of Te Ao Maori and the respect for tino rangatiratanga will assist the reform of the kawanatanga function in the interest of all peoples, the land and all living things;

We are committed to governing ourselves through the expression of mana motuhake, our enduring power leading to our self-determination.

Tangata Tiriti Declaration

This Declaration reflects the voices of Tangata Tiriti - Pakeha, Pacific and other non-Maori ethnic groups within the Sector. We celebrate that we are placed in this land of Aotearoa/New Zealand founded on the basis of a contract binding Tangata Whenua and Tangata Tiriti in relationships of trust and mutual honour. We celebrate our proud history of freedom of association and freedom of speech, enriched by the contribution of countless people through volunteer service.

We are everywhere

For just about every place, every interest, every activity, every type of person, every ideal – there’s a club, a society, a trust, a committee.

We are part of everyone’s lives

Every person and their family contribute to our sector and/or benefits from what we do.

We are values based

We are driven by a particular purpose, ideal, or vision, and we have a set of values by which we live.

We are diverse

We are as proud of our unique differences as we are of what binds us together. We change as needs change, as communities change, as time passes.

We are voluntary

Our existence is not compulsory, but comes from the choice of people.

We rely on the energy, skill and goodwill, the gifts of time and other resources, of countless individuals both voluntary and paid.

We are advocates

There are ideals, people, principles, specific situations, which brought us into being, and we will always be impelled to "speak for" them, whatever else we do.

We are not-for-profit

Even when we are large and complex, the reason for our being is our original vision – being business-like is a means not an end.

We are community-linked

We all have people as our base – and we always need to be responsive to them. We are accountable

We must give account of what we are doing, and how – our members & our communities decide our direction.

We contribute to community wellbeing

There is an "added value" to our life and work– the binding together of families, of whanau, of communities – because of our shared vision and shared effort.

We are multi-cultural and multi-ethnic

We are immensely enriched by the work and life of communities from ethnic groups originating from all over the world.

We are worldwide

Many of us have important international links and we interact with others around the globe.

We are placed in this one world, with its natural and physical environment, and we believe together we can enrich both the earth and those who inhabit it.

We wish to live up to Te Tiriti/The Treaty of Waitangi

ATTACHMENT TWO: SECTOR RESEARCH REQUIREMENTS / NGA RANGAHAU WHAKARITENGA

The Community-Government Relations Working Party (2001) identified the following as some of the priority research needs for the community and voluntary sector:

- Small community organisations: what are the particular demands and issues facing small, flax roots groups?
- Advocacy, innovation and service delivery functions: is there an optimal balance between these roles?
- Governance arrangements: what governance arrangements are actually used in Aotearoa New Zealand non-profit organisations, and how does this effect effectiveness?
- Community organisations life cycle: what are the factors involved in the
- emergence and decline of voluntary and community organisations?
- Membership and participation: who participates in the community and voluntary sector and why? Is there a 'civic core' of givers, volunteers and members?
- What is the nature of the Iwi/Māori manaaki organisations?
- What is the nature of Pacific people's organisations in Aotearoa New Zealand
- What is the nature of the informal community and voluntary sector, including those not legally incorporated?
- The history of the community sector in Aotearoa New Zealand
- The role of churches and other faith based communities in the sector
- Fund raising: how do organisations fund their activities including use of in-kind contributions?
- The nature of charitable giving to the community and voluntary sector

- The viability of the sector, and particular parts of it
- The economic contribution of the community and voluntary sector
- The contribution of the community and voluntary sector to civil society
- Leadership in the community and voluntary sector - what is its nature? who are leaders, how do they become leaders?
- What is happening with membership and volunteering with the sector? What are the trends?
- Partnerships: documenting existing case studies and models
- Treaty based partnerships in the sector: documenting case studies and models
- Accountability systems and processes: what exists and what is their impact?
- Management practices and trends: what exists and what is their impact?
- Evaluation, learning and review: what currently takes place in the sector?

This would need to be up-dated and further consultation undertaken with the sector on current priorities. Some of these research needs have also at least been partly met since the 2001 Report was prepared (for example, through work commissioned by New Zealand Federation of Voluntary Welfare Organisations, Philanthropy New Zealand, Office for the Community and Voluntary Sector, Statistics New Zealand, and the Committee for the Study of the Not for Profit Sector in New Zealand And new issues may have emerged, such as the impact of increased regulation on charitable organisations, the impact of the emergence of gaming funders on the sector, etc.