

Community Sector Taskforce



'Te kai a nga Rangatira he korero'

Community Sector Taskforce



PURPOSE

The purpose of this document is to compile the feedback from the regional forums regarding the Sector-Government Relationship Agreement. At the time of writing this version (Version 1.0) the National Development Manager facilitated eleven (11) of the 17 regional forums. The Taskforce wanted to engage with the Sector on this topic for the following reasons:

- To raise awareness amongst the Tangata Whenua, Community & Voluntary Sector about the upcoming consultation around the Sector-Government Relationship Agreement
- Provide leadership and encourage engagement in the process of developing the Agreement
- Seek feedback to a paper prepared by the Taskforce on what should be included in the Agreement.

PROCESS

The Community Sector Taskforce prepared a paper entitled *Developing a Relationship Agreement between the Tangata Whenua, Community and Voluntary Sector and Government – 2010* paper (see pages 3-and included it in the Community Korero documentation as information for attendees.

The National Development Manager who facilitated each of the regional forum, provided background to the attendees and then invited everyone to Caucus and discuss the following points:

1. The Taskforce has developed a paper with some key elements that we think the Sector-Government Relationship Agreement should include. Can you please provide feedback on the following:
 - a. Is there anything missing?
 - b. Is the process stated in the document appropriate
 - c. Any other comments

In addition, everyone was invited to participate in the On-Line Discussion Group on the Taskforce website.

FEEDBACK

Is there anything missing?

- Acknowledge the diversity of the Sector
- Acknowledge the Tangata Whenua and Tangata Tiriti relationship model
- Commitment to the Relationship Agreement cannot be impacted with changes of Government.
- The Agreement must be with the Crown so that it has longevity (i.e. government means different Parliamentary parties – Crown means entities i.e. Ministries and Government Departments).
- Local government need to be engaged in this process. Our relationship with government is at a local level – not central.
- Acknowledge the multicultural diversity of the Sector
- The signing should be by every Tangata Whenua, Community & Voluntary Sector organisation as well as every crown entity (including local and central).
- An independent authority (made up from representatives from major political parties) to guarantee the continuity of the Agreement (model: Reserve Bank)).
- Respect is the most important component of the Agreement.
- It is essential that our value systems are incorporated in any Agreement and for the Government to declare their value systems.
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Is the process stated in the document appropriate

- The process must give every organisation an opportunity to have input particularly those who already have some sort of relationship with the government.
- The process defined is very appropriate
- The Taskforce is the organisation who brought this to us. They should have a more active role in the consultation process.
- DIA should be the lead agency with this kaupapa because they are the only department that stretches across the whole of the Sector (like the Taskforce)

Any other comments

- The timeframes are unrealistic
- The major feedback at the forum in November was for the process to be respectful. The selection process for the Steering Group does not reflect a respectful method.
- If it wasn't for the Taskforce, we would not have know that the Relationship Agreement was even being developed. Why hasn't our local government known about it and communicated it to us.
- There was nothing wrong with the Statement of Government Intentions, only the government agencies didn't do what their Prime Minister and other Ministers signed up to.

**DEVELOPING A RELATIONSHIP
AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE TANGATA
WHENUA, COMMUNITY AND
VOLUNTARY SECTOR AND
GOVERNMENT – 2010**

BACKGROUND

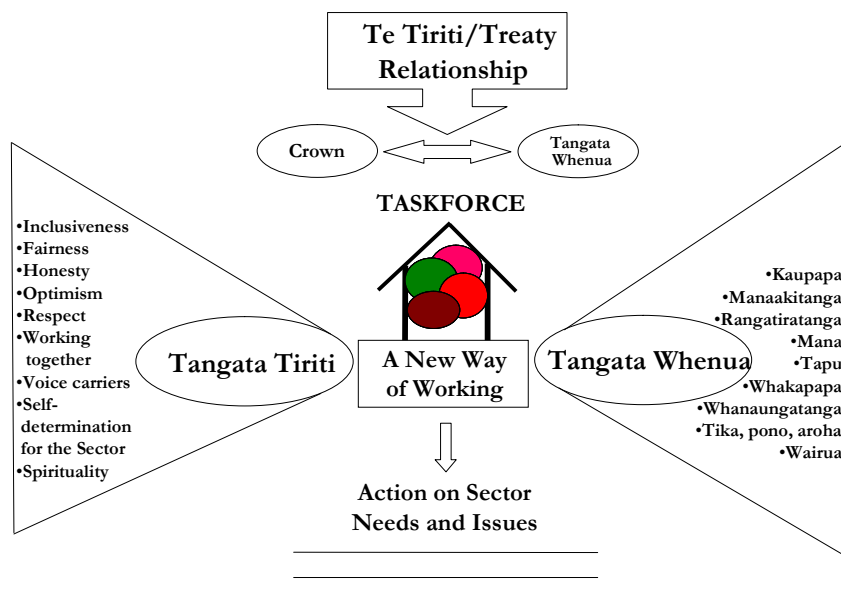
A forum between the Tangata Whenua, Community and Voluntary Sector and Government held on 11 November 2009 focused on the following areas:

- Identification of the key elements of a Relationship Agreement
- Identification and agreement on the process needed for the continued development of the Relationship Agreement after the Forum
- Discussion of the Government's response to two recently released reports on the sector development by ANGOA and BBGE reference group

IDENTIFICATION OF THE KEY ELEMENTS OF A RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENT

When considering what should be contained in an agreement, the Taskforce believes that each participating party should incorporate certain statements that would reflect their values base and what is important to them. The Sector starts with our declarations¹ as a statement of our approach to working in communities informed by the values set out below in the context of the Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi Relationships Framework operating in the Sector.

FIGURE 2



The Taskforce believes that government should develop its own declaration whereby it sets out its perspectives on the Sector, itself and relationships with people working in the Sector.

The declarations from both Government and the Sector can be used to inform the practical next steps in the development of a relationships agreement by developing some joint statements that reflect a shared application of the respective values bases of the two parties as follows:

- **Identity** - who are we to each other
- **Intent** – what does each party seek to achieve by entering into this relationship agreement
- **Relationship** - how do we develop common protocols of engagement and engage different worldviews together ² Managing different expectation.
- **Working together** – how do we work together on matters of interest and concern to both of us i.e. shared decision making and working collaboratively from a relationships perspective
- **Handling issues** – how do we engage kawanatanga alongside tinorangatiratanga and respect each other’s autonomy in the relationship

¹ Tangata Whenua Declaration & Tangata Tiriti Declarations

² Recognition of the different power and accountability structures – i.e. Government top-down legal authority, Sector bottom-up relationships approach

The principles of the SOGI³ are set out below. Engaging the development process from a relationships perspective will ensure that the language used is in a context that is connected to the philosophy and values set out in the Sector's Te Tiriti o Waitangi/Treaty of Waitangi Relationships Framework and its associated values. This is why it is important for the Government to enter this process having identified its values and its declaration in relation to the community. If this step occurs, it is unlikely that the agreement would look anything like the principles in the original SOGI and the government is correct to avoid engaging this earlier work.

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- Ensure mutual interests can be achieved through co-operation and shared decision making
 - Respect the independence of tangata whenua, community and voluntary groups and organisations
 - Demonstrate effective two way communication that acknowledges and respects worldview difference
 - Recognise and operate shared leadership between government ministers and the Tangata Whenua, Community and Voluntary Sector acknowledge and support the positive role played by umbrella, national and strategic collective bodies
 - Embrace innovation and creativity using the values of Tangata Whenua and Tangata Tiriti together
 - Respect and recognise cultural diversity
 - Are founded on community and constituent accountability and appropriately practice that makes sense to communities.

IDENTIFY AND AGREE ON THE PROCESS NEEDED FOR THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF THE RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENT AFTER THE FORUM

As mentioned in the Cabinet paper,⁴ the government has committed to a conclusion of this work by 30 November 2010.

The Taskforce believes that Government should identify how it wishes to engage itself politically and at the level of Government Agencies. 'All of government' must engage in this process thus assuring the Sector the authenticity of the Agreement.

The work of the Steering Group should be taken around the motu to check for alignment and to seek tautoko of the completed work.

The document should be signed by both Government and the Sector to emphasis the equality and reciprocity of the relationships.

There needs to be an implementation plan developed as part of the development of the relationship agreement. This is to ensure that there is a shared decision about the scope of the agreement and how it will be used, e.g. it should feature in the party manifestos of political parties. The implementation plan would need to include:

- Accountability to the Sector and the Government
- Longevity – avoiding the need to redo this process every time there is a government change
- Ownership- managing expectation

⁴ CAB Min (09) 31/5A, 13

TANGATA WHENUA

The Tangata Whenua Caucus at the National Forum reiterated that any Agreement between the Government and Tangata Whenua (of the Tangata Whenua, Community & Voluntary Sector) must be signed with Iwi. Tangata Whenua Taura Here roopu engage in this process via the Kaitiaki and Manaakitanga of Mana Whenua/Tangata Whenua of each rohe.