

A NEW BEGINNING

FOR THE COMMUNITY SECTOR

A PROPOSAL TO FORM A NEW SECTOR ENTITY



A WORD FROM MARION & SIMON



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ANGOA

In July, we published a proposal to amalgamate our two organisations and form a new entity – known for the moment as Working Title Aotearoa. Since then, we have clarified that our aim is to form a new entity, and to bring our two organisations to an end. This is a significant change of emphasis, focusing on a new future rather than on what has been.



SIMON CAYLEY
SOCIAL
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PARTNERS

As we prepared the original proposal, we set up a Tiriti Reflection Group from our two Executives, and their input has been invaluable. They hosted three meetings to discuss Tiriti dimensions of the Proposal, and we have included their thinking as we revised the Proposal.

In the weeks since the Proposal was published, we sought your views. The feedback has been very positive, and we have tried to incorporate your responses in this revised version of the Proposal.

We are proposing a hybrid structure. It will be a Trust, but will embed genuine influence for the formal supporters of the entity by enshrining an ongoing right for them to elect a minimum number of the trustees. We are also preparing a skills matrix that will inform both trustee elections and appointments. Our hope is that through this structure we ensure our organisation is agile and able to make swift and sound decisions, but also ensures it remains connected to its support base.

Thank you to all of you who have given us your views – in meetings, on the phone, in personal conversation, and by email or online. We are tremendously encouraged by the strong support we are receiving and we present with confidence this revised Proposal.

We are still planning for the new entity to be formally set up by the end of December 2014, and able to start its work in 2015. At this stage, we have still not proposed a name for the new entity, and have retained “Working Title Aotearoa”.

We are still also seeking suggestions for the name of the new entity, and we will seek suggestions at the AGMs of SDP and ANGOA, on 18 September and 9 October respectively. A final decision on the name will be made after the AGMs.

Watch this space for any further developments!

1 WHAT COULD WORKING TITLE AOTEAROA BE AND DO?

WHAT WILL WE BE?

Purpose

The purpose of Working Title Aotearoa is to contribute to thriving communities by promoting and strengthening the Sector:

- Te Whakakaha - Strengthening the collective voice of the Sector to build a stronger Aotearoa/New Zealand.
- Te Hāngai - Applying Te Tiriti o Waitangi in the context of the Sector's work and its contribution to charitable outcomes across Aotearoa
- Te Whakatairanga - Engaging the Sector as a whole and enhancing its independence and relevance;
- Te Āwhina - Assisting communities to work collectively to progress their own aspirations and well-being – environmental, social, cultural, economic;
- Te Whakawhanaungatanga - Creating opportunities for the Sector to connect and learn from each other;
- Te Whakanui - Promoting the unique characteristics and impact of the Sector;
- Te Tautoko - Supporting strategic advocacy and leadership development within and on behalf of the Sector to enhance charitable outcomes within Aotearoa;
- Te Tautoko - Supporting Maori self-determination/Tino Rangatiratanga, especially within the sector;
- Te Whakapuawai - Developing the capacity of the Sector to succeed through meeting shared needs, supporting innovation, and participating in civic affairs;

Principles

The Trust is committed, in attaining its purpose, to apply the following principles:

- a. Te Tiriti o Waitangi must be visible and real in our community and our nation and embedded within our organisation, using a Treaty relationships framework.
- b. The community sector is an essential contributor to our society.
- c. As a linked and responsive organisation we are listening, acting, communicating – always engaged in dialogue with the sector, able to move quickly in response to new issues and always with full transparency.

WHAT WE WILL DO?

The work of Working Title Aotearoa can be grouped in three broad categories:

1. Hui— Being a forum for the sector:
 - a. face to face and online meetings and workshops – sector-wide meetings, sub sectors, issues focused,, ideas sharing, in different centres, addressing tough issues and planning collaborative responses

- b. using the tikanga and insights of both Tangata Whenua and Tangata Tiriti, affirming who we are as a sector
 - c. electronic discussions and forums open to all within the sector, linking the sector to new ideas, new tools, new models here and world-wide
2. Awhina— Practical support for the sector:
 - a. offering accessible and relevant support to groups within the sector
 - b. submissions and representations so policy can be more effective
 - c. exploring and supporting new ways of building strong communities
 - d. liaison with people in local and central government so they can have best access to the strengths, skills and insights of the sector
 3. Korero—A public voice for the sector:
 - a. highlighting the many voices of the sector, and making sure we are being heard and seen
 - b. being a link between the sector and central government
 - c. promoting the sector - its value, its diversity, its success – to the media, the public, decision makers, and within the sector

TIRITI WORKING GROUP

We propose that a Tiriti Working Group will be established supporting the work of the Trust. It will have a work programme and resource that ensures the principles of the Trust are enacted, and will have an initial life span of five years.

2 STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

PARTICIPATION

Formal Supporters: We propose that those not-for-profit organisations that have affirmed they support the purposes of the Trust, and have paid any subscription fee that may have been set by the Trustees, can be Formal Supporters.

Sector Champions: Some participants will take the option to enrol as Sector Champions, using the model of Imagine Canada. Sector Champions are organisations who have a desire to invest in the shared objectives of creating stronger communities and enhancing the whole community sector, by contributing to Working Title Aotearoa. We see these as peer leaders who will actively work with and alongside others.

Affiliates: We know that many people and organisations will want to support the new organisation. They can become Affiliate Members as a commitment to the kaupapa of Working Title Aotearoa and the sector. Affiliate organisations can include Crown entities, government departments, Local Government groups, and for-profit organisations, as well as individuals.

STRUCTURE

The proposed structure is a Charitable Trust, with the powers of Working Title Aotearoa vested in a Trust Board made up of between five and nine members. The Trust Deed will require at least an annual meeting of formal support organisations, which will appoint some of the Trustees.

We propose that a minimum of three Trustees be elected by formal support organisations on a rotating basis, and that the remainder can be appointed. The culture of the Trust Board will be one of listening, acting, reciprocity, communicating – always engaged in dialogue with the sector, able to move quickly in response to new issues, always with full transparency.

At least once a year, the Trust Board must conduct an accountability process with Formal Supporters of the Trust, using a format determined by the Trustees – both face to face and electronic meetings, for example.

3 WHAT NEXT?

A Joint Oversight Group, with input from the Tiriti Reflection Group, has been appointed by the two Boards to oversee the whole process. They will continue to work closely with a Tiriti Reference Group. A project coordinator is working with the Executive staff of ANGOA and Social Development Partners to undertake the discussion with members, and get the new body up and running.

The AGM of each organisation will be asked to support the establishment of the new organisation. They will also be asked to authorise their Board to approve a final Trust Deed, and appoint members of an Interim Trust Board, by 31 December 2014. These Interim Trust Board members will be able to appoint further Trustees. The Interim Trust Board will be charged with establishing the new body, inviting community organisations to sign up, commencing a programme of work, and convening an Inaugural Annual Meeting no later than 12 months after the start date of the new entity.

The first Annual Meeting will receive an accountability report from the Interim Trust Board, and will elect Trustees for varying terms, to begin the cycle of rotation. These members can appoint further members, with varying terms to ensure both continuity and skill retention.