



**Hui E!**

Community Aotearoa

BRIEFING  
TO  
INCOMING  
MINISTER



Korero



Hui



Awhina



# WHY WE EXIST

Hui E! Community Aotearoa (Hui E!) is a peak body for tangata whenua, community and voluntary sectors. We work alongside community organisations, supporting capacity building, brokering relationships and driving systems change.

We support capacity and capability building among the sector, pulling our networks together to initiate sector activity and provide expertise and advice, especially in times of crisis.

'Hui E! is uniquely positioned to provide advice and support to the Government, using our extensive networks and knowledge of the sector'

## How we can support you

Traditionally we've been a trusted voice for the Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector. We are uniquely positioned to provide advice and support to the Government, using our extensive networks and knowledge of the sector.

Going forward we would like to re-energise our relationship with you, to better support your decisions and work together as we strengthen the community sector.

As part of this we suggest:

- Regular monthly meeting with Hui E! to discuss sector activity and needs.
- Regular bi-monthly meeting with the community peak body group (made up of four core sector organisations) to discuss cross-sector initiatives and what we are doing to strengthen and support the sector.
- Consideration of the attached suggested schedule of visits to key community organisations.

# Addressing sector challenges:

## Items for discussion

There are a number of quick wins that can be gained for the community sector over the next three to six months, as well as longer term work necessary to address systemic challenges the sector continues to face.

We would like to discuss the following 'quick win' items with you during our first meeting:

### **Improving sector collaboration:**

A key work priority for Hui E! is the formation of a collaborative peak body group to support the Government's work in the community sector. The group includes community peak bodies, including some funded through the DIA Community Leadership Fund and Support for Volunteering Fund. We would welcome support from government for this initiative, to assist with engagement by appropriate senior government officials and business leaders.

### **Paid community representation:**

There is a need to ensure the right people are present on all government decision-making panels for community sector recovery and funding design. To do this we recommend core sector representatives are compensated for their time. We would like to speak to you about why we believe this will have an impact on community decision-making.

### **Better collaboration with the community sector:**

We believe the sector's independent voice needs to be stronger within government. This can be accomplished through increased communication, information sharing and decision-making between the sector and government. We, and the community peak body group, are available to support you to ensure your Cabinet colleagues are aware of the implications some decisions have on the community sector.

### **Increased funding for Hui E!:**

We currently receive multiyear funding of \$120,000 per year from the DIA Community Leadership Fund. While this support provides a baseline of funding, it is not sufficient for our programme delivery and staffing requirements. We seek an additional funding \$175,000 of funding per year for four years. This will match funding of other recently funded social sector peak bodies, and will allow us to better cover our operational costs so we can focus on programme delivery across the sector.

# Systemic challenges in community sector funding

The Government has consistently identified access to funding and maximisation of Crown funds as a key issue for the community sector. Our post-lockdown survey highlighted systemic challenges to do with funding which need to be addressed within the sector. Better funding outcomes can be achieved by addressing these challenges. Our peak body group will be interested in discussing these issues with you.

## **Operational funding for front line groups:**

Many community groups have little reserves of operational funding, yet they are providing vital services to their communities. Operational funding is a critical component of project delivery yet isn't an item funders often wish to cover.

*A systemic change to address this challenge would be to set aside twenty percent of all government grants and funds available for community groups to cover operational costs, such as overheads and salary.*

## **Multi-year funding:**

Multi-year operational funding ensured Hui E! avoided staff loss, survived Covid-19 and was available to support community organisations in crisis. Groups on 12 month contracts are at constant risk of losing skilled staff in a workforce which is already traditionally unstable due to funding constraints. This ongoing uncertainty also impacts project and service delivery.

*A systemic change to address this would be to ensure funding for contracted government services is at 100% of programme costs over multiple years, to ensure staff security and programme delivery.*

## **High trust funding:**

Although the government's Wage Subsidy Scheme was accessed by at least a third of the community sector, the sector remains in a fragile and finely balanced position. Right now less than half of community organisations have sufficient operational funding to see them through the next 6 – 12 months, and a majority have cut back on service delivery.

Fast action in early 2020 meant the Covid-19 emergency relief fund flowed seamlessly to our communities. This fund was proof that high trust models of funding between central government and the sector can create conditions for stunning community outcomes. Hui E!'s role facilitating uptake of this funding showed we could play a larger part in the distribution and monitoring of emergency support funds in the future.

*The establishment of high trust funding models that can be accessed quickly and readily by groups in need would better support the sector. Hui E! is well placed to support the facilitation of this form of funding.*



# WHAT WE ARE DOING



Hui E! is focused on facilitating the recovery and long-term sustainability of our sector. Post-lockdown Hui E! joined forces with Philanthropy New Zealand, Volunteering New Zealand and the Centre for Social Impact to carry out a survey of 1,400 community organisations to ask what impact Covid-19 had on their mahi. The top needs identified by the sector included:

- Greater collaboration between organisations (65%)
- Sector-wide leadership to provide a voice and influence (40%)
- Funding to cover salaries and operational costs (62%)

The results identified how we can strengthen the tangata whenua, community and voluntary sectors into the future. Addressing these challenges will help to improve how services are delivered, supported and funded.

## Hui E! is: Improving collaboration and leadership

Our community peak body group comprises Hui E! Community Aotearoa, Volunteering New Zealand, Inspiring Communities and Philanthropy New Zealand.


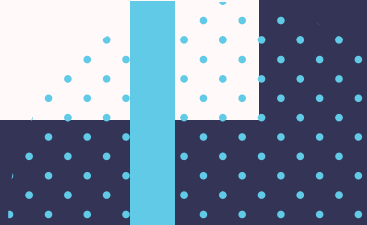
Communities are critical to economic, social, environmental and cultural transformation. Our four organisations represent a critical doorway into this key capacity that we all need to understand better. We ask that you elevate community to a central role in supporting the Government agenda, and we look forward to meeting with you collectively to discuss how we can release this potential together.

No one organisation can be the voice of everybody, but together with our unified sector knowledge, we can be a trusted voice of advice and support for the Government going forward.

## Hui E! is: Facilitating and supporting funding

Many community groups maximise output with limited financial support. The value they provide increases substantially when they are facilitated by Hui E! into applying for funding and grants they otherwise wouldn't access, and matched with our extensive network to amplify their efforts across the sector.

We are also working across the sector to look at how funding could be distributed through a regional, place-based model. The sector has identified the need to strengthen local responses and networks, and we are working with other core agencies to find better ways to utilise these groups.





# VISIT OPPORTUNITIES

We have worked closely with our networks to identify the following opportunities for you around the regions over the next six months.

## Auckland North Community & Development (ANCAD)

3 Gibbons Road, Takapuna, Auckland

An open-ended invitation to meet with ANCAD, a leading social service enabler in the North Shore community and across the wider Auckland region. We suggest a one hour meeting which will include a half hour private discussion with sector leaders about ANCAD, followed by a casual morning/afternoon tea with key community organisations in the North Shore.

## Socialink

17th Avenue West, Tauranga

Socialink are a valuable organisation to build a relationship with in the community sector. The group would like to invite you to join a group of local sector groups for a short korero over lunch and a walk through The Collective, New Zealand's largest co-work space specifically designed for use by the social and community service sector.

## SEWN – Social Equity & Wellbeing Network

Christchurch Community House, 301 Tuam Street

An open ended invitation to facilitate an event at Christchurch Community House for the Minister to meet for a morning/afternoon tea with groups in the Not for Profit Sector. This would be an opportunity for the Minister to speak to the sector about her role and for the sector to share their hopes and concerns.

## The Dunedin Multi-Ethnic Council

Dunedin central

An open-ended invitation to meet with The Dunedin Multi-Ethnic Council (DMEC), a non-profit organisation that supports the multi-ethnic communities in Dunedin. You will meet our leadership team to discuss current issues and priorities before joining the wider team and key members of the community for morning tea.

