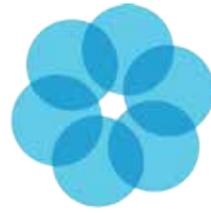
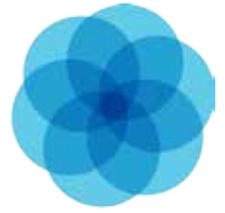


Korero



Hui



Awhina

Hui E!
Community Aotearoa

He Kōrero Whakataki

Briefing to the incoming Minister
for Youth, Whānau Ora and the
Community and Voluntary Sector

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Introduction

Nā runga anō i ngā whakaaro ki a rātou mā kua wehe atu ki tua o te ārai, haere, haere, okioki atu rā. Tātou ngā waihotanga o rātou mā, tēnei te mihi kau atu ki a koutou. Otirā, ki a koe e te rangatira Peeni, nei rā te mihi nui, kua riro ki a koe i ngā kawenga matua hei ārahi i ngā take mō ngā taiohi, whānau, ā, hāpori hoki. Nā reira, e tika rā ki te mihi atu nā runga i ngā kupu o tō tupuna a Ta Hemi Henare, kua tawhiti kē te haerenga mai, ki te kore e haere tonu, arā hoki, he nui rawa ngā mahi, ki te kore e mahi tonu.

Congratulations on your new role as Minister for Youth, Whānau Ora, and the Community and Voluntary Sector. As per our brief conversation I look forward to meeting with you and working closely based on a genuine partnership for a strong community and voluntary sector that intrinsically includes youth and whānau.

This briefing is an introduction to the current priorities of the community and voluntary sector, and the work of Hui E! Community Aotearoa (Hui E!) in strengthening, connecting and supporting the sector.

About Hui E!

Hui E! Community Aotearoa was created to bring the community sector together and strengthen its bonds by being a whole of sector voice through hui, kōrero and āwhina. We advocate on behalf of the wider sector as well as being a catalyst, broker or initiator of sector activity. Traditionally we've had strong and genuine working relationships with the Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector and associated portfolios and can be a key link agency for government in their interactions with the sector. We maintain a network of around 140 community organisations and formal supporters, including tangata whenua organisations, charities, and not-for-profit entities. We have a strong commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi-based practice in

relationships with the tangata whenua and wider community sector.

We also have very strong international linkages to the United Nations and CIVICUS, the world alliance for civic participation and we work across sectors to localise the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)¹ for New Zealand and create a whole community perspective.

¹ In 2015, countries, including New Zealand, adopted the [Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development](#) and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals at an historic UN Summit. With these new Goals that universally apply to all, countries committed to mobilize efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

Community priorities

The community sector is huge and diverse and every community organisation has goals unique to the communities and people for which it advocates. Hui E! has been established to work with and alongside community organisations and enable a strong, sustainable, future focused and connected community sector. We believe that a partnership between government and the community sector is an essential part of building a strong resilient society.

The community sector wants a government that provides better support for the people of New Zealand who are disadvantaged; remedy inequality; and better interact between the government and the community sector.

Leading up to the General Election Report, we released Ngā Take Whakahirahira a Hapori – Community Priorities in the upcoming election report, which identifies five major areas of concern to the community sector, including:

- 1. Ngā take whare–Housing**
- 2. Ngā take rawa kore–Social disadvantages**
- 3. Ngā hiahia a ngā tamariki–Children needs**
- 4. Hauora–Mental Health & Addiction**
- 5. Taiao–Environmental issues**

We welcome the commitment of the Labour-led government to ensuring every kiwi has a home, reducing child poverty, and committing New Zealand to erasing its carbon footprint by 2050. The SDGs provide a framework for shared action “for people, planet and prosperity” where no one is left behind and we would like to see strong commitment from the new government to these goals. Your portfolio aims to strengthen the community and voluntary sector in addressing these issues on the ground. Hui E! has been a key partner with government to ensure stories of our sector are named, described and promoted and that the sector is a strong, reliable and trusted partner.

Ngā Take Whakahirahira a Hapori is the result of research, outreach and interviews with many of the not for profit non-governmental organisations, that together comprise part of the community sector in Aotearoa New Zealand. While the report highlights many of the concerns by the community sector, it also offers many possible solutions proposed by those who work on the coal-face of community development.

Housing

Housing has become a major issue in New Zealand and is a top priority for many community organisations. Major concerns include affordable housing especially for minority groups (SDG#10, 3, 11)², the steep increase in costs of owning a house (SDG#10), as well as security and health of places where people live (SDG#3). We welcome the government’s housing policy to ensure every Kiwi has a home, which is affordable, safe and warm and encourage strong links between your portfolio and that of Minister Phil Twyford (SDG#17).



² This list of goals is not necessarily exhaustive and puts NZ’s community priorities into the SDG context.

Social disadvantages

Along with housing, several community sector organisations expressed an urgent need in tackling poverty, in an effort to address long-term solutions to the lack of affordable housing. Low wages were a driving force behind the growing inequality, in addition to unemployment, poor job quality, high cost of living, and

debt (SDG#1, 3, 8, 10). Often multiple social disadvantages intersect, creating a more deeply ingrained problem and community sector voices expressed hopes to see policies aimed at tackling inequality in all of its forms; gender and ethnic conflicts and institutionalized racism (SDG#5, 10).

Children issues

Children issues are a primary concern for New Zealand and we welcome the Prime Minister's new portfolio of reducing child poverty (SDG#1, 2, 3, 4, 8). We strongly advocate for a genuine partnership (SDG#17) between the government and the many community organisations that are working with the communities to support these children and their whanau. Organisations also identify intergenerational poverty in particular as an important subject to tackle moving forward.



Mental health and addiction

New Zealand's youth suicide rate is the highest of a long list of 41 OCED and EU countries, and New Zealand has one of the world's worst records of bullying in schools (SDG#1, 3, 10, 11). Issues like crime and poverty can have an increased effect on young people who already deal with mental health issues at a high rate, however this is not unique to young people only. There are insufficient

resources to deal with the high demand of services and community organisations advocate for joint action between the government and the community sector in order to provide better support for people suffering from all sorts of mental health issues (SDG#17, 3). The community sector wants to see more done for mental health awareness and support.

Environment

A healthy environment contributes to a healthier social climate and is a common good that impacts all people (SDG#1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16). Environmental protection (SDG#13, 14, 15, 6) – of our freshwater for example, is therefore a priority for the community and voluntary sector. We are very pleased about the appointment of the Minister for Climate Change and the Government's announcement of its commitment to a

zero carbon act, an independent climate commission and an inclusive emissions trading scheme. Organisations that protect New Zealand's environment need to be adequately funded and work in strong partnership with the government (SDG#16, 17, 13) to achieve its goals.



Heoi anō. Ngā mihi.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anaru Fraser'.

Anaru Fraser

Kaiwhakahaere Matua – General Manager

Hui E! Community Aotearoa
120 Featherston Street, Wellington

anaru.fraser@huie.org.nz

huie.org.nz