

E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā lwi, e rau rangatira mā. Tēnā, koutou katoa

(All peoples of the world, all speakers, all the chiefly peoples here, all groups. Greeting to you all)

Karakia

E Atua	
Kia hora te marino	May peace be wide-spread
Kia whakapapa pounamu te moana	May the sea be like greenstone
Hei huarahi mā tātou i te rangi nei	A pathway for us all this day
Aroha atu, aroha mai	Give love, receive love
Tātou i a tatou katoa	Let us show respect for each other
Amine	Amen

Nau mai, haere mai, piki mai. Kia ora hui hui mai tātou katoa

(Welcome, welcome, welcome to you all. Greetings to all gathered here)

Ko wai au?

Ko Hananui me Ruahine ngā maunga.

Ko Te Ara a Kewa te moana, ko Oroua te awa.

Ko Tākitimu me Tainui ngā waka.

Ko Ngāi Tahu te lwi i taha tōku whaea.

Ko Ngāti Kauwhata me Ngāti Raukawa ngā lwi i taha tōku pāpara

Ko Pania Coote ahau.

Ko Motu Pōhue tāku papa kāinga

Nō reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa.

I'm Co-Chair of Hui E! Community Aotearoa, one of four organisations that have partnered to bring you this webinar, with support from the Todd Foundation. I have spent over 30 years serving my community as a volunteer and more than 20 years working in the area of Maori health, strategy and management.

It has been challenging times through COVID 19 for many people and organisations, such as reduced income, having to rationalise and restructure. Therefore, I've chosen this whakataukī to settle us in very unsettling times. To create a safe space for constructive and visionary kōrero to take place.

Whāia te kotahitanga o te wairua. Mā te Rangimarie me te aroha e paihere.

Pursue unity of spirit. Be bound together by peace and love.

We've proven in Aotearoa over the past few months and years what can be achieved when we unite; when we put people first; when we strive for peace and love.

That doesn't mean we're all the same, that we all think the same, that we all need to be the same. We know one size does not fit all.

We're a diverse bunch of people in the community and volunteer sector, each with our own passion, purpose and sometimes agendas. Our diversity and unity of spirit is our strength and under threat. **It's being compromised by social systems, government contracts and philanthropic processes that require us to compete with each other for resource and**

funding. We fight to be seen, to be valued, for our fair share. We've been drawn into arguing our worth through data and numbers – how many people we help, how many volunteers we have, our equal contribution to the Gross Domestic Product.

How can you put a price on something that's priceless? This is at the core of our current, shared dilemma. We've jointly – government and non-government – provided invaluable support to our communities through COVID 19. **We've collectively supported our communities to remain connected, to get well, to stay well, and to answer the call to unite and be kind.** You (government) couldn't have done this without us – and we couldn't have done it without you!

It's time now for the community and volunteer sector, to work together and find our spirit of unity. To Government: involve us, use our connections, harvest all that we know. Embrace our diverse views! **Unite with us through generosity of spirit and ngākau nui, big heartedness.** For it is through generosity of spirit and ngākau nui that we strengthen our communities to meet challenges.

Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini

Our strength is together working as one

With that in mind, and before we bring in our political party representatives, in the spirit of acknowledging generosity and unity, again I want to acknowledge the support of the Todd Foundation in bringing you this webinar, and also the partnership between Hui E! Aotearoa, ComVoices, Sue Barker Charities Law and Trust Democracy.

Hui E! Community Aotearoa is a peak body that champions the community sector for a fair and just Aotearoa. We do this through promoting, strengthening and connecting the community sector.

ComVoices gives community and volunteer organisations a more powerful voice at Government level and in the community.

Sue Barker Charities Law is a boutique law firm providing specialist legal advice in charities law and public tax law.

Trust Democracy promotes national and local discussion, analysis and research on the quality and functioning of New Zealand's democracy.

To the politicians, Mā te ngākau aroha e ārahi. (Let a loving heart guide your decisions).

Nō reira e ngā iwi, ngā tangata, nō ngā hau e wha, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa

I'll now hand you over to our facilitator, Rawdon Christie.