

Community Sector Taskforce



Panui 005

15 April 2005

“He totara wahi rua he kai na te toki”

“Unity is strength”

The Community Sector Taskforce has been overwhelmed with messages of support following the unfortunate announcement from the Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector last week.

We acknowledge with huge thanks the efforts people and organisations have taken to express their concern. Last week it seemed that government might go back on its commitment to support and allocate resources to the development of a national entity by the Sector.

The impact of these messages has encouraged the Taskforce to continue with the work carried out to date and over the past six years. It was heartening for the Taskforce that at an ANGOA community roundtable meeting on Wednesday there was absolute commitment to continuing with the work already mandated by the Sector through local, regional and national processes.

We also note that Minister Barker has reiterated the government’s commitment to building good strong relationships with the sector. He has confirmed that “funding and resources remain available for this” and that he looks forward to a good outcome.

Following is the progress from meetings held this week.

Taskforce Co-Chairs met with Ministers Steve Maharey and Rick Barker on Monday 11th April. We were able to express in person our shock at what had happened. The Ministers reiterated their desire to progress the work of the Taskforce, in a way that continues the years of hard work already undertaken. As a result of that meeting, on 13th April the Taskforce met with the Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector, and with Tim Barnett, (Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Minister) to plan how the work of the Taskforce and the aspirations for a new entity could be re-presented to Government. We want to understand and address the concerns that led some in government to question whether a sector-wide entity was worthy of support. Those discussions are continuing with a view to making progress and enabling the work to continue, taking into account the interests of the Sector and the outcomes Government would like to achieve.

All parties have acknowledged the importance of the Sector having the freedom to organise itself in the way that best suits its work in and on behalf of communities. We are still confident that the development of the Taskforce’s aspirations can be worked through to a positive conclusion.

Feedback from the Sector has also supported the genuine attempt to engage with Tangata Whenua in the Sector in a way that respects the Maori worldview. For the Taskforce, we continue to work according to the model which has been mandated by the last two years of dialogue with the Sector.

We are still committed to the moemoea (vision) that has guided development so far, which was confirmed at the May 2004 Hui, and which is the mandate for this work

“...a Sector which is sustainable, informed, connected and able to do its work for the benefit of communities”

The objectives, which are intended to support the working of the entity at a local, regional and national level, are summarised below:

- Modelling how Aotearoa/New Zealand organisations can work within a Tiriti/Treaty Framework for the benefit of all communities.
- Conducting Regional and Sector forums to gather information on the needs and views of organisations in the Sector and to promote dialogue.
- Providing informed advice to government on issues, concerns and initiatives that are of importance to the Sector
- Building Capacity within the Sector through developing greater use of resources, research and models of good practice
- Working with the Sector to identify and carry out special projects which will bring value to the Sector community

Further meetings are being organised with the Minister to secure firm decisions regarding the next steps to ensure continuity and support for the Taskforce work programme.

Background information on the Community Sector Taskforce and its development to date can be found on <http://www.nzfvwo.org.nz/?/cst>.