

Community Sector Taskforce



Panui 009

8 August 2005

*'Abakoa he iti he pounamu
Small steps – real progress nevertheless'*

Tena koutou katoa and warm Pacific greetings.

Mark your Diary!

The 2005 National Forum will be held on Friday 11th and Saturday 12th November in Wellington.

Mark your Diary now!

Exciting Community Sector Projects Underway

COmVOiceS

A coalition of Tangata Whenua and leading community and voluntary organisations (the Sector), was launched last week to promote the voluntary sector and the contribution it makes to New Zealand society. Seven national organisations, including the Community Sector Taskforce, have founded the initiative.

Drivers for the establishment of COmVOiceS include:

- The enormous, positive and often unreported contribution that community and voluntary organisations and Tangata Whenua make to all sections of society including arts, culture and heritage; sport and recreation; environment and conservation; education and employment; faith communities; social services and housing; law, advocacy and human rights; philanthropy; international development; health, disability; professional associations; Pacific and other ethnic communities.
- The lack of coordinated advocacy or communication on issues of relevance across the entire Sector which can lead to fragmented messages
- The risk to individual organisations/groups speaking out, because of the need to protect their funding sources
- The need to highlight common issues and purposes.

COmVOiceS strongly respects and supports the need for individual organisations to continue to communicate views and issues specific to them.

Be on the lookout for further information – press releases, a media watch function for the Sector, and training in working with the media are some of the strategies under planning.

Plans for a Sector Research Centre

The Community Sector Taskforce is supporting the development of a collaborative Research Centre and programme which is guided by the community and voluntary sector and Tangata Whenua. The collaborative approach includes practitioners and researchers from the Sector, representatives from a number of Universities and tertiary institutions, and interested academics and researchers.

Two important drivers are:

- that research undertaken about the Sector is designed and implemented with the Sector, and
- that research resources available are focused on areas of usefulness to the Sector itself

New Community Sector Taskforce Members

A huge welcome to Hori Awa (Huntly), Bev Gatenby (Hamilton) and Sharon Torstonsen (Christchurch).

They have joined the Taskforce, replacing retiring members Sue Driver (Wellington), Pat Seymour (Tokoroa) and Gill Genet (Christchurch).

Background information on the Community Sector Taskforce and its development to date can be found on the website below:

<http://www.nzfvwo.org.nz/?/cst>