

# Community Sector Taskforce



Panui 014

21 July 2006

*Kanohi ki te Kanohi*  
*“Let us connect – face to face”*

Tena Koutou Katoa and warm greetings to all Tangata Whenua, community and voluntary organisations.

## **Work Programme**

The next few issues of the Panui will dedicate a portion of its content to the details of each of the work programmes and update on the progress of each.

## **A Sector that is connected:**

This is a major focus of the Taskforce for the 2006-2007 year. It is expected that the Development Managers will visit 28 local communities over the next 12 months. Iris & Rees visited groups in Gisborne, Auckland, Palmerston North, King Country & Waikato during the months of May & June. The purpose of the visits is to create awareness within these communities of the work of the Taskforce and in some regions to continue work already underway.

## **In touch with local communities:**

The engagement in Waikato is about encouraging community groups to actively participate in the Waikato Pilot – to set up a regional collective of groups which connects the whole sector, to support one another and work on common issues. If you are from the Waikato region and want to participate in the working group or be part of the Waikato Pilot, please contact Iris and she can connect you up.

Engagement in Gisborne included talking with key people within the community to encourage them to participate in future activities of the Taskforce. We also presented the Taskforce work programme to the Community Development Committee of the Gisborne District Council. Local government has an important role and responsibility in facilitating wellbeing within local communities and are key stakeholders in a connected and informed Sector.

In Auckland we met with people who have been involved in the work of the Taskforce since its inception. Future work is being planned to engage with existing networks across the Greater Auckland area. Come and connect with us at the ASB Community Day at Telstra Clear Stadium on the 31<sup>st</sup> July.

Iris & Rees were invited to the Manawatu as guest speakers at the May meeting of the Palmerston North Community Services Council. This is a well established collective who meet regularly to ensure the local social services community is connected and informed.

Personal contact with local groups is an essential element of the Development Managers' work. Visits to a local community allows grass roots organisations to meet face to face / kanohi ki te kanohi with Taskforce staff and strengthens the connection of local communities and regions to the sector wide activities of the Taskforce. The positive feedback from these hosted meetings and continual invitations to meet with different communities authenticates the Taskforce's engagement model which combines localised contact with wider regional networking.

Local engagement is always focused on people and groups from the different sub-sectors and diverse population groups within a community. The engagement process explores ways that make it possible for Tangata Whenua to engage Tangata Tiriti and work from a combined position on common concerns.

The Community Sector Taskforce work programme seeks to empower local groups and organisations to connect for the purpose of working together for mutual support. This leads to greater effectiveness and benefits for local communities.

## **Reaching the regions:**

At a regional level, there are greater numbers of groups and organisations and resources to work with. The kaupapa is the same however – support that leads to increased effectiveness and benefits for local communities.

There is also greater potential at the regional level for groups and organisations to form into more structured collectives. Regional collectives are intended to exercise a level of autonomy that makes sense to the members of that collective as they make decisions about the needs and priorities of the communities that they relate to and work with.

## **Connecting the country:**

The challenge facing the Taskforce is to help build a connected Sector across the whole country. We are working to make connections with you. A connected Sector will have multiple connections, not just between you and us but also with each other. Let us know what connections you already have, or are building, and how we can support that. Contact us if you would like us to attend one of your network meetings and assist in connecting you with other network groups.