

Date of hui:	21 May 2018
Venue:	Palmerston North Function and Conference Centre, Palmerston North
Attendees:	Approx. 30 hui participants Minister for Crown/Māori Relations, Hon Kelvin Davis Officials from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the Crown/Māori Relations Roopū, Te Tāhū o te Ture /Ministry of Justice;• Te Puni Kōkiri.

*These notes provide a broad overview of the key points raised by participants and do not represent minutes of the hui. The headings used in this note correlate with the information contained in the pamphlet *Te Ara Whakamua ā tātou – Crown/Māori Relations* (which can be found at <https://www.justice.govt.nz/maori-land-treaty/crown-maori-relations/initial-proposals-from-government/>).*

Main issues and opportunities raised

- Acknowledged the current government for recognising the Crown/Māori relationship is an important issue and that it is important to accept when something is broken. The current relationship is broken.
- *Education* - mainstream is failing our people. If children aren't learning they end up falling through the cracks and in the correctional system. Prevention is key.
- Connecting people with their marae can also divert children falling through the cracks as it encourages Māori to engage in te ao Māori social services and learning environments.
- Education was a means of colonisation and assimilation, and it could potential be key to supporting whānau to address some of the significant social needs.
- *Te Tiriti o Waitangi* - there is a perception that once settlements are done the relationship ends. The relationship is permanent and doesn't conclude when settlements are finalised.
- There has been no preparation for the post-settlement relationship particularly in relation to Article 3. Understanding how the Government intends to provide for tino rangatiratanga is also important.
- The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples also provides a strong platform for the Crown/Māori relationship and should be incorporated.
- *Institutional Racism* – daily engagement with agencies demonstrates that agencies will often go to extreme lengths to ensure that they aren't accused of favouring Māori and in doing so they go so far, they bend the other way.
- *Language* - language is important. Government needs to be cautious and sincere when using Māori terms (Oranga Tamariki as an example). If Māori terms are being used, then the values that are associated with them need to be applied as well.

- *Equity* - innovative change requires the Government to be brave. Throwing money at broken systems that haven't worked in the past won't generate change. Equitable systems don't come from a system that wasn't designed to be equitable. Māori paid dearly for the price of citizenship but the aspiration for equal rights and access to opportunities for Māori has not been achieved.
- *Māori Land* – being able to utilise land with a Māori title is difficult and needs to be reviewed.
- *Wellbeing* – Māori have a higher number of kids living in deprivation which we know creates issues such as depression and other long-term issues. This also results in a higher risk of youth suicide. The Government is not making systemic change and there is ongoing generational trauma. There is a lack of support systems available for whānau.
- *Māori nurses* - Māori nurses only constitute 7% of the nurses in New Zealand are the best to engage with our whānau, yet they are not paid as much.
- *Whakapapa Connections* – urbanisation has resulted in many Māori losing a connection with their whānau, hapū and iwi. One speaker suggested that reconnecting whānau will create healthier communities and Government could contribute to supporting stronger connections via consultation registers, voting etc. Whakapapa connections will also encourage Māori to engage in te ao Māori social services and learning environments. Mainstream is failing our people. If children aren't learning they end up falling through the cracks and in the correctional system. Prevention is key.
- *Whānau Ora* – is Government's most innovative and responsive government policy yet it isn't adequately resourced. The wellbeing and Māori-led focus is positive and works.
- *Kaumātua* – need to be recognised as valuable and important, and supported in any way possible.

Possible Crown/Māori Relations Priorities

- *Fixing the Crown's House* – a focus for the portfolio should be breaking the silo mentality that currently exists within the Crown and across Government so the Crown's internal relationships are improved.
- *Constitutional Transformation* – was raised by a few speakers. Protection, partnership and participation are important principles for this portfolio given they are also provided for in the Treaty. Previous administrations have not extended these into legislation. This portfolio should address these principles and the Treaty being embedded in legislation so they are provided for in New Zealand's constitutional framework.
- *Local Government* – local government don't see themselves as a Crown agency or Treaty partner but they deliver on Crown outcomes and play a key role in delivering what falls out of legislation. It is important that the Crown and local government improve communications and talk to each other differently. Access to local government on issues of importance are difficult and there is nowhere left to go if local government don't cooperate. Many speakers voiced concern about Māori wards with one speaker noting it is incongruous that the only wards requiring a referendum are Māori wards when it is not applicable for other wards – this requires a change to the Local Government Act. It's an ongoing form of institutional racism.
- *Advocacy* – whānau need to be educated on their rights and interests and there needs to be more provisions for advocacy within Government. The current system is too difficult to manage as agencies have a strong focus on compliance rather than support.

- *Iwi Led Solutions* – poverty, deprivation and mental health are all significant issues in the region and there is no relief. These are issues that iwi understand and can support but they are not resourced to do so. Iwi are largely left to try and address issues without any resource or government support. The recent budget has not provided any relief from a Māori perspective. Iwi should be consulted about Government priorities and alignment of funding given their grassroots involvement. When agencies do work with Māori they tend to come with the problem and solution in a package which doesn't provide any opportunity to adapt it according to the local issues and viable solutions. The focus is on accountability rather than addressing the real needs.
- *Agencies* – there needs to be a focus on creating a better connect between regional and national offices. Regional offices have local intelligence to support policy development but are often hamstrung by the national policy voice which creates a disconnect for addressing local issues. "Te Puni Kōkiri has operated in isolation when developing policy for Māori so Māori haven't been at the table in the true sense". Experience dealing with agencies can vary across hapū due to favouritism or a preference to work with hapū who may have a different perspective on an issue. Some leadership is required to ensure that agencies amend their behaviour and focus on establishing relationships with mana whenua. One speaker indicated this is a good opportunity to start breaking down the silo mentality that current exists within the Crown and across government. Issues are not isolated and neither are the treatments/agencies responsible that respond to them. Taking a *te hononga* or whole of government approach will ensure better outcomes. Treaty training is required within agencies and organisations who deal with Māori.
- *Prisons* – incarceration rates are escalating and a large majority of inmates are mentally unwell or have serious addiction issues. The focus needs to be on addressing the underlying issues and not building prisons. Prisons are not culturally responsive.

Crown's intent

- *Resetting the Relationship* - if the Crown is genuine about resetting the relationship it needs to demonstrate courage. The Crown often is "sheltering behind Pākehā conservatism" and is not publicly clear about what it is trying to achieve. Innovative change requires the Government to be brave.
- *Crown – working and acting as 'one'* - the Crown needs to improve and remove internal silos to give effect to developing genuine relationships with iwi.
- *Crown/Māori or Crown/Iwi?* - the use of the term 'Māori' in Crown/Māori Relationships generalises Māori, ignores culture differences and dilutes the unique relationships that iwi have with the Crown providing sovereignty. Many speakers noted that the Crown needs to carefully consider if the relationship is with Māori or iwi. Some speakers also suggested that the relationship should be focused on mana whenua to address regional priorities and needs. The mana whenua relationship provides a community led and focused lens. Māori may have a collective view depending on the issue but Māori are not homogenous.
- *Monitoring* – the aspirations for the relationship need to be placed within a framework that can be monitored and measured.

- *Framework* – preference that there isn't a generic framework given each hapū/mana whenua have their own needs and priorities. It needs to be flexible and direct relationships with hapū/mana whenua.

Ngā uara: Values

- *Protection, partnership and participation* - are important principles for this portfolio given they are also provided for in the Treaty.
- *Partnership* – the Government lacks an understanding of what a partnership is. Many speakers noted that if we are going to embark on developing a partnership then let it be a real one. Currently the Crown and agencies hold the power. Iwi and hapū already assume responsibility for supporting their people. If iwi are to effectively support positive outcomes for their people, they need to be at the table developing policies alongside the Crown. A true partnership would also provide for equitable resourcing. Iwi are currently required to engage in conversations with the Crown who are funded to discuss these issues when iwi are not.
- *Determining what tino rangatiratanga means* - it is up to iwi to determine what tino rangatiratanga is in terms of the relationship.

What's the best way for the Crown and Māori to engage?

- *Iwi Chairs Forum* – supportive of the forum for greater representational issues and as a sounding board, but Government should not lose sight of the fact that iwi and hapū within regions need to be engaged in conversations as well.
- *How to engage* - there are many ways in which the Crown can engage. Engaging directly with iwi is a primary form of engagement, but open hui are also useful as it enables a range of perspectives and opportunities for all to participate.
- *Kanohi ki te kanohi* – Māori prefer engaging face-to-face. Need to think of innovative ways for Māori to be involved, e.g., Many Māori live in Australia and it's important that they also have an opportunity to participate in these conversations.

ACTIONS:

- No written submissions received and entered into the submissions database.