

# Te Whakawhanake ā-Hapori ki Aotearoa

## Community-led Development in Aotearoa

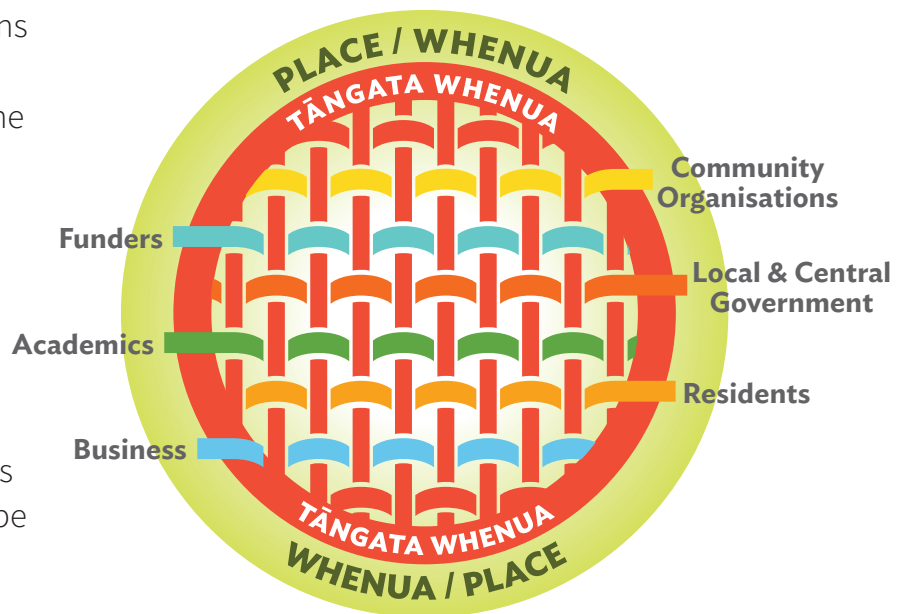
### What is it?

Community-led development strengthens the vitality of communities by activating and weaving the contribution of everyone connected to a place/whenua.

*Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou,  
ka ora ai te iwi*  
*With your contribution and mine  
the community will flourish*

In Aotearoa, Te Tiriti ensures the histories and world views of tāngata whenua shape relationships, actions and outcomes in local communities.

*Whatungarongaro te tangata  
toitū te whenua*  
*People disappear from sight,  
the land remains*



### Te Whakawhanake ā-Hapori

Weaving our connections and contributions

### A principles-based approach

Rather than a service or model, community-led development (CLD) is a way of thinking and working that's underpinned by five principles.

Inspiring Communities has crafted these principles from working with communities. They continue to evolve.

## Grow from shared local visions

- Learn about tāngata whenua, their history and aspirations.
- Understand who was in this place, who is in this place and who will be in this place.
- Build plans with those who live, work, care, play, and invest in a place – the principle of te ahi kaa<sup>1</sup>.
- Tailor-make solutions that reflect local ambitions, goals and contexts.
- Grow a shared sense of optimism and collective ownership of the future.

***Mā mua ka kite a muri, mā muri  
ka ora a mua***

*– those who lead give sight to those  
who follow; those who follow give life to  
those who lead*

## Build from strengths

- Everyone has a contribution to make.
- Value residents as ‘experts’ in their place.
- Proactively involve people who are frequently ignored.
- Recognise the strengths tāngata whenua bring and build respectful relationships.
- Value community assets. Use what you’ve got to help get what you want.

***He kai kei aku ringa***

*– there is food at the end of  
my hands*

## Work with diverse people and sectors

- Foster connections between groups who don’t usually work together.
- Support the aspirations of local whānau, hapū and iwi.
- Ensure residents are actively involved in all aspects.
- Build relationships between neighbours.
- Encourage networking between community-led initiatives locally, regionally and nationally.

***Mā whero, mā pango, ka  
oti te mahi***

*– by red and by black the  
work will be completed*

## Grow collaborative local leadership

- Seek leadership from across the community – everyone is a potential leader.
- Value different cultural approaches to leadership.
- Support local people who are doing things and connect them to others to grow their effectiveness.
- Invest in developing skills and capacity of local leaders.
- Celebrate local leaders and community achievements.

***Ehara taku toa he toa takitahi,  
engari taku toa he toa takitini***

*– success comes from the strength  
of the collective and not of the  
lone individual*

## Learn by doing

- Plan and work adaptively.
- Build in time for structured reflection to understand what’s working and what’s not.
- Use data and insights to measure impact. Document and share progress widely.
- Embrace small steps that contribute to transformational change.
- Use local practice-informed evidence to support system changes locally and nationally.

***I oreā te tuatara ka patu ki waho***

*– a problem is solved by continuing to  
find solutions*

<sup>1</sup> Te ahi kaa is a term used to describe the home people – the ones that live on their whenua, that keep the home fires burning, that keep their place, particularly the marae, alive.