

# He aha te arataki ā hāpori hei pakari ai? What is Community-led development?

## Hītori Poto

### Brief history

People who live, work, play, care, invest or connect to a place tend to have a shared, vested interest in making things better. Focusing on place is what sets CLD apart from historic community development practice.

Here in Aotearoa, CLD's origins lie in a fresh wave of collaborative, place-based projects in places such as Lyttleton and Ranui in the early 2000s. The new wave was marked by a conscious shift to explore more collaborative approaches between sectors, agencies and local people, and recognised that a traditional 'services' approach to 'fix' people and problems was not delivering wellbeing metrics were either significant or sustainable enough.

## Ngā mātāpono e rima

### Five principles

At its essence, Community-led development is working together in a place to create and achieve locally-owned visions and goals. This is a planning and development approach, rather

than a model or service, and comprises five core principles:

- Share local visions will drive action and change
- Utilize existing strengths and assets
- Involve people, groups and sectors collaboratively
- Build diverse and collaborative local leadership
- Plan adaptively and act informed by outcomes

Implementing all these principles at the outset isn't always practical. What matters most is acknowledging reality on the ground, and applying a CLD framework to guide future developments.

## He kaupapa mā te papakāinga

### A framework for local action

Community-led development mobilises action, effort and potential.

For agencies, governments and communities, CLD is a tool to help to address deeply rooted issues such as family violence, indebt-

edness, and child vulnerability. Stakeholder composition will vary and evolve, but tends to include residents, businesses, iwi, marae, schools, community groups and clubs, local government, government agencies, philanthropic funders and academics.

A wider community may come together to define a vision and action-plan. Or stakeholders may collaborate to develop opportunities and problem-solve.

What does it look like? CLD may get residents connecting in a street or neighbourhood, building relationships and undertaking tasks or projects they decide will improve their place. Or a social service agency intentionally developing participation, leadership and community contribution.

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**At its essence, community-led development is working together in a place to create and achieve locally-owned visions and goals. Ko te ngako, mā te hāpori e arataki kia mahitahi ai hei hiki te whatumanawa o ngā whaingā.**

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Community-led development is not a silver bullet, nor stand-alone. The greatest gains are likely to be made when integrated with other strategies (such as local economic development, social development, service coordination, environmental restoration) and into core practice within different sectors. This holistic approach assists transformation, especially where there is local capacity, capability, and resources.

This is an emergent approach, and 'what works' will be different in different places.

Summarised from [inspiringcommunities.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/IC-Book-Chapter-on-CLD-for-ADCOSS-publication-2015.pdf](https://inspiringcommunities.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/IC-Book-Chapter-on-CLD-for-ADCOSS-publication-2015.pdf)

You can find out more about community-led development and the Department of Internal Affairs at [dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg\\_URL/Resource-material-Our-Policy-Advice-Areas-Community-led-Development?OpenDocument](http://dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/wpg_URL/Resource-material-Our-Policy-Advice-Areas-Community-led-Development?OpenDocument)

If you have stories to share or are looking for assistance and support for community-led development in Aotearoa please contact Inspiring Communities: [exchange@inspiringcommunities.org.nz](mailto:exchange@inspiringcommunities.org.nz)

