

SHAPING THE FUTURE



Enabling Community-led Change.

Kia whakamana i te whakawhanake ā-hapori.

How our team of 5 million responded to Covid provides a reference point for what can be achieved when we all work together - in our communities and as a nation. Local people, business, hapū, iwi and organisations taking initiative at local levels is transformational - especially when power and resources are shared and local autonomy and co-investment is enabled.

Inspiring Communities has championed New Zealand's community-led development (CLD) movement since 2008, currently engaging a network of 4000 people, groups and organisations.

Our vision is for all communities to flourish via enabling effective community-led change.

We have a once in a lifetime opportunity to 'build back better' in many different spheres. The recovery period is a critical time to embed key system shifts brought to light in Inspiring Communities Shaping the Future Report released in July 2020¹

Building local resilience means talking honestly about power: who's got it, who hasn't and how to share it.

Alongside power, the shifts noted here summarise the key interconnected change needed within local and central systems to build community resilience, grow a sustainable economy and enhance wellbeing.

SYSTEM SHIFTS NEEDED

- ④ Decentralise
- ④ Recognise and respect difference
- ④ Value people and relationships
- ④ Embed collaboration
- ④ Build local economic resilience and redefine shovel ready
- ④ Tolerate more risk.

1. Shaping the Future documents the insights, implications, and recommendations drawn from the nearly 70 individuals and organisations Inspiring Communities spoke to about their experience and learning from the COVID-19 rāhui.
www.inspiringcommunities.org.nz/shaping-the-future

Inspiring Communities can support the Government to effect this change. Our network and expertise spans sectors, and different levels of government and positions us to support effective design and implementation.

This action plan states three starting initiatives to trigger these shifts. They are in no means comprehensive but are sound starting points.

1. Establish a Prime Minister's Community Recovery Council

Aligned with the Prime Minister's Business Advisory Council; individuals spanning hapū, iwi, small business, local government, faith based organisations and NGOs from across New Zealand would make up the Council. The Council would not be a government working group, but a funded, transformation focused, independent collaborative. They will share their experience, expertise and resources to inform an effective recovery and approaches that transform communities by fostering authentic community engagement, community resilience, social cohesion and community innovation.

2. Invest in bottom up local economic resilience planning and action

Revise mechanisms to better leverage collaborative partnerships and contributions from local government, philanthropic funders, iwi, local businesses and local communities. Work with a range of organisations to co-design a regional development approach that also encompasses social and community-led enterprise, co-operative economics and inclusive growth. This broader approach will maximise social and economic impacts of the Government's new Strategic Partnership Fund and ensure integrated cultural, social, economic and environmental outcomes are built into all recovery-focused initiatives and investment.

3. Create a cross-agency CLD training and support programme

Develop and fund a cross-agency and multi-sector CLD training and support programme for central and local government agencies to give full effect to the intent of the new Public Service Act. Mandate innovation and learning. Encourage experiments. Fund or enable new social and economic weaving roles at local levels.

All three initiatives above will move Aotearoa towards a Te Tiriti o Waitangi informed future and thus it's essential that Māori input is woven through all of them. These actions complement Māori driven initiatives that strengthen Māori whānau, communities and economy.

It's essential these shifts and action points are built into the implementation of the new Public Service Act, Covid recovery initiatives and ongoing government policy and programme delivery.

All of these initiatives are based on a Te Tiriti o Waitangi informed future and thus it's essential that Māori input is woven through all of them.



Let the community conversations begin!

🌀 **Contact Rachel Roberts** | CLD Comms and Strategy Lead
rachel.roberts@inspiringcommunities.org.nz
027 415 1896

 **Inspiring
Communities**
Local wisdom²