

Te Whakawhanake ā-Hapori ki Aotearoa Community-led Development in Aotearoa

What is it?

Community-led development (CLD) in Aotearoa is an approach to improving hauora (wellbeing) of the local community by embedding Te Tiriti, working with diverse local leadership, and implementing solutions that build on the strengths of that place.

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

In Aotearoa, CLD is guided by Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Te Tiriti is a framework of belonging that acknowledges the Indigenous rights of tāngata whenua and affirms tino rangatiratanga and equity for all.

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

Community-led Development



Te Whakawhanake ā-Hapori
Weaving our connections and contributions

A principles-based approach

Community-led development is underpinned by five guiding principles. Inspiring Communities has crafted these principles from working with communities and from observing what works. They continue to evolve alongside our learning and practice.

Ngā Mātāpono – CLD Principles

1. Grow from shared local visions

- Learn about tāngata whenua, their history, aspirations and relationships with Te Tiriti.
- 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, invest in or whakapapa to a place.
- Through right relationships, invite mana whenua to help shape the community vision.
- 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

2. 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.
- Recognise the strengths of hapū and mana whenua and how they may support community-led change.
- 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

3. 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.
- Build respectful relationships with local whānau, hapū and iwi, affirm and resource tino rangatiratanga.
- 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

4. Grow collaborative local leadership

- Seek leadership from across the community – everyone is a potential leader.
- Value different cultural approaches to leadership including Te Ao Māori-led models.
- 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

5. 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.
- Consider data sovereignty and decolonised methodologies. Remember to measure the quality of relationships and how you are working, not just what is being done.
- 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