

Key insights for Te Tiriti responsiveness in community practice

A resource generated from the kōrero and collective wisdom shared in the Community Building Block session: Acting Responsively to Te Tiriti o Waitangi with Anna Parker, Moko Morris and Gwyn John.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi is lived daily. Local grounding first

- Ground work in understanding the land you are on, learn the aspirations of local mana whenua and support those goals and aspirations
- Do your own research using reliable sources, such as iwi websites, to inform your mahi; know whose land you're on and the local history.

Avoid over-burdening mana whenua, use resources available

- Iwi are busy and under-resourced; leverage existing information and ask well-considered questions.

Localise, don't universalise

- Tailor approaches to each rohe, and the people of that place.
- Resist one-size-fits-all mentalities.

Te Tiriti learning is an ongoing journey

- Create a culture for continuous learning and reflection within your group or organisation, and celebrate milestones and wins along the way.
- Encourage two-way learning. Ask: What are you bringing to the relationship? Avoid assuming a default path.

Elevate mana whenua leadership and relationships

- Centre mana whenua voices in governance and decision-making; ask what a meaningful relationship looks like and what you bring to it.

Move from talk to action

- Work at being clear about what you're offering, what you're learning, and what you're delivering.
- Translate understanding into concrete actions, roles, timelines

Embrace discomfort and dialogue

- Tauīwi may feel discomfort; create spaces that encourage curiosity and robust conversations.

Build supportive networks and spaces

- Foster peer and group support within and across groups and organisations, give each other space and encouragement for courageous conversations.

Acknowledge power dynamics

- Be vigilant about biases and structures; pursue engaged, principled relationships.

Move, lead, or step aside when needed

- Be prepared to take leadership, share the load, or gracefully step back to allow mana whenua leadership to lead.

Community learning and accountability

- Share learnings across your community to strengthen capacity and resilience, collective progress supports broader change.

Culture of resilience

- “This too shall pass”—recognise Te Tiriti work as enduring beyond any single government or moment. Keep on going when it gets hard! Kia kaha!