



Table Talks: Community Research for Not-for- Profit Governors

August 2025

He Karakia Tīmatanga

Tuia ki runga,
Tuia ki raro
Tuia ki roto,
Tuia ki waho
Ka rongo te ao,
Ka rongo te pō
Haumi ē, Hui ē
Taiki ē.

*Unite above
Unite below
Unite without
Unite within
Listen to the night
Listen to the world
Now we come together
As one.*



COMMUNITY RESEARCH KEY RESOURCES

Our www.communityresearch.org.nz website hosts a broad range of free research and resources to inform decision making, embed community voice and grow your understanding of systemic issues.

Visit our **Learning Hub** to browse our [He Kōrero Podcasts](#) and our [Webinar collection](#)

[Join our community](#) to subscribe to our Ngā Kete newsletter to stay up to date with the latest in community research.

If your community organisation is considering a research project the Community Research [Researchers Directory](#) lists profiles of researchers who may be available to work with your community.

The [Community Research Code of Practice](#) explores five whanonga pono (core values) that supports communities to take a lead role, so research is done with and for them, and not to them.

If you have a free or low cost community event, activity or resource you would like us to share with our community [contact us here.](#)

EXTERNAL RESOURCES

For Ethics approval for research being conducting outside of a university the NZ Ethics review website provide free ethics review services to community researchers.
<https://aotearoaresearchethics.org/>

EVALUATION RESOURCES

Our sister website WhatWorks holds a range of free resources and tools to help gather robust data and information to tell the real story about what your organisation is doing and the difference it makes.
www.whatworks.org.nz

PURPOSE

To provide insights and prompt discussion about how Te Tiriti-based practices can be reflected and how research and evaluation can support decision-making and demonstration of impact.

We will use Community Research as a case study and the resources available through our website.

OUTLINE

1. Origins of Community Research
2. Our kaupapa
3. Our Governance model
4. What we do and our resources

*Break out rooms
discussion and reflections*

5. Evidence-based governance - tools and considerations

*Break out rooms
discussion and reflections*

6. Closing Q&A and reflections

Abbreviated timeline of Community Research

2000 – 2001 – First Community–Government Relations Working Party – **Highlights lack of robust research body for the sector in Aotearoa New Zealand**

2002 – 2003 – He Waka Kotuia – **Foundation document launched.**

2003 – 2004 – Community Sector Taskforce – **Affirmed the vision for a third-sector research centre.**

2005 – Confirmed **Purpose and Focus** – Strengthening the capacity of the Tangata Whenua, Community, and Voluntary Sector through research. Committed to **operating within a Tiriti relationships framework.** Focus on **collaborative, inclusive, and high-standard research.**

2006 – Interim Governance Group formed – Oversee the establishment and create a **sustainable structure and a strategic direction** by mid-2007..

2008 – Tangata Whenua Community and Voluntary Sector Research Centre Incorporated (Community Research) is **formally established as a national te Tiriti-based NGO to support research in the sector.**



Our whakatauki

*Ko te hōkai nuku
Ko te hōkai rangi
Ko te hōkai a tō tupuna a Tānenuiarangi*

The whakataukī tells how Tāne ascended to Te Toi-o-ngā-rangi, the highest heaven, to obtain ngā kete o wānanga – the three kete (baskets) of mātauranga (knowledge) – and bring down to earth for all to share. Human life and knowledge were said to originate in the realm of Ranginui (the sky father). Knowledge of these kete is important to sustain tuarite, or balance.

This whakataukī has been represented in the image, created for Community Research, by Izzy Joy.



Governance in Community Research

Arpita

OUR VISION

Ko ta mātou whakakitenga he Aotearoa e tōkeke ana, e whai kiko ana, e whakamohio mai ana e te matauranga hāpori.

Our vision is a more equitable, engaged and inclusive Aotearoa informed by community knowledge.

OUR MISSION

He maha ngā mātauranga o ngā hāpori o Aotearoa.

Ko ta mātou mahi he whakakaha ake i te rangahau hāpori me te tohatoha ki ētahi atu kia puta ai he huringa pai.

Communities in Aotearoa are rich in diverse knowledge.

Our role is to amplify community research and share it with others to bring about positive change.

STRATEGY 2024-2027

Ngā Honongo

Promoting and strengthening connections and good practice between researchers and the sector, nationally and internationally

Ngā Mahi Rangahau Rautaki

Advocating for voices of our community - meaningful research which promotes positive change

Ngā Kitenga me Ngā Putanga

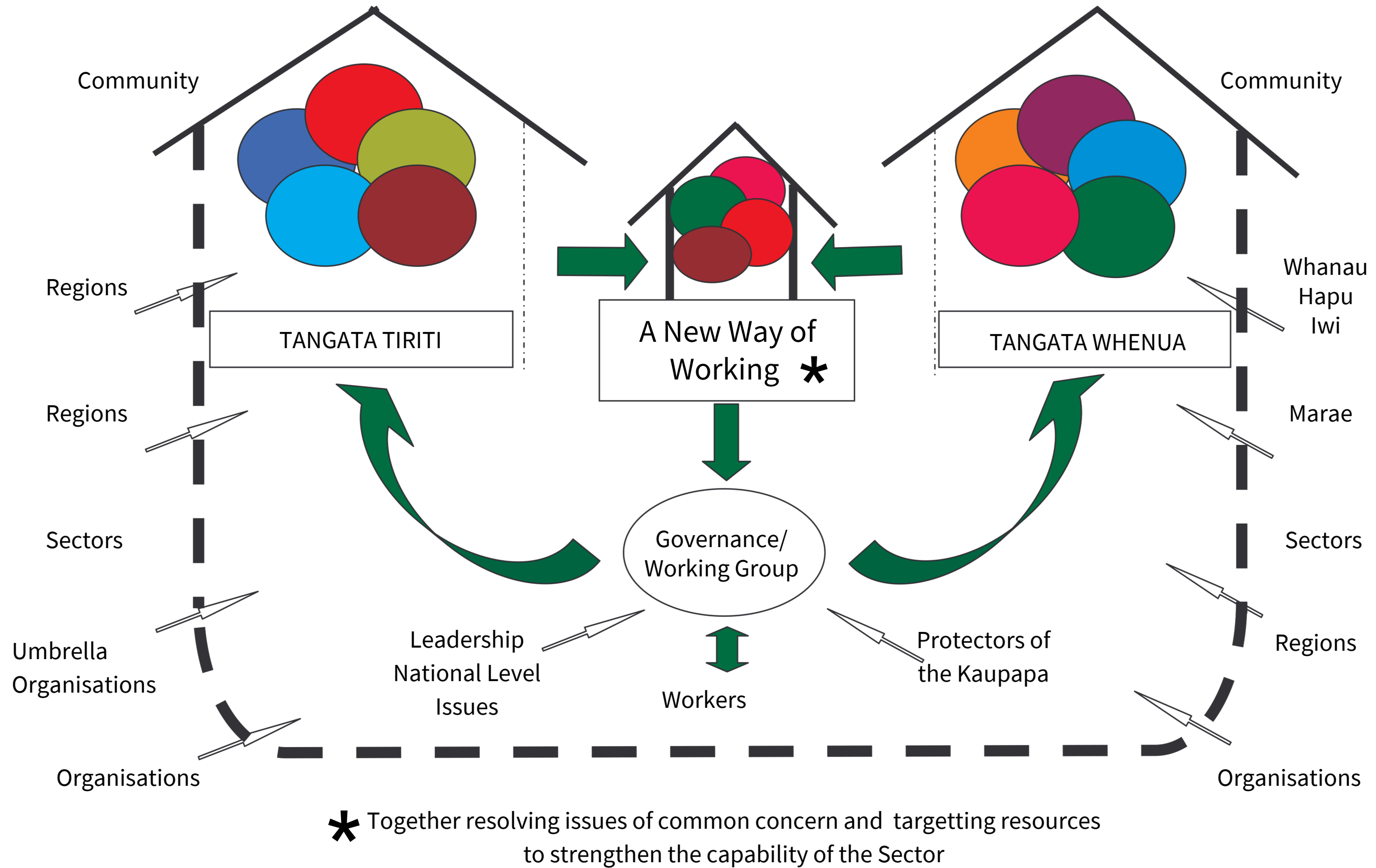
Increased visibility and equitable access to community research in Aotearoa

Kia Tū Tonu te Whare

The on-going sustainable operation of our Te Tiriti-led organisation



OUR GOVERNANCE MODEL





About Community Research

Lorna



OUR KAUPAPA

We exist to make community research more visible and accessible.

Our online platform is a hub where community and tangata whenua organisations, researchers, and knowledge holders can share, learn, and connect.

Our kaupapa is grounded in:

- Uplifting diverse community knowledges
- Supporting research by and for communities
- Challenging inequities in how research is produced, accessed and valued

We work with and for Māori, Pacific peoples, former refugees, migrants, LGBTQIA+ communities, disabled people, and other groups whose voices are often excluded from mainstream research.



Community Research *Sector Insights Report*

This Community Research commissioned project presents a synthesis of nine substantive research reports relevant to the community and voluntary sector in Aotearoa New Zealand, published between 2020–2024.

This research focuses on the 'Tangata Whenua, Community, and Voluntary Sector' which includes iwi and hapū, voluntary organisations, faith-based groups, NGOs, advocacy groups, charities, sports groups, and community-led organisations.

Much of what we have identified across the sector is already 'known'. The challenges and strengths have been consistent for several years – however the pressures on funding, addressing need, and capacity have increased.

We provide insights about the key strengths of the sector, challenges facing the sector, emerging opportunities and potential actions for the future.

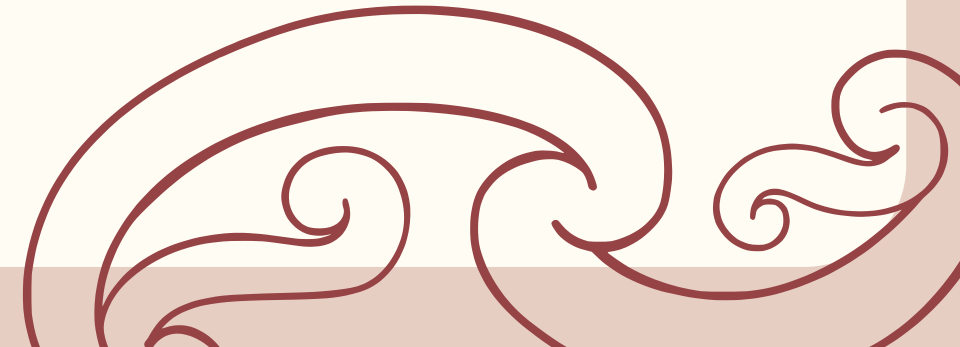
[Read the report here.](#)





Break out room discussion and reflections

Prompter questions:

1. How does your organisation reference Te Tiriti? What resources have been helpful and what's missing?
 2. Do the sector analysis findings resonate with you? Would more of this type of meta-analysis be helpful to your organisation?
 3. Do you have suggestions for topics and resources from Community Research that will be useful to your organisation? For example, webinar topics, special collections, te Tiriti resources.
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Evidence-based governance - tools and considerations

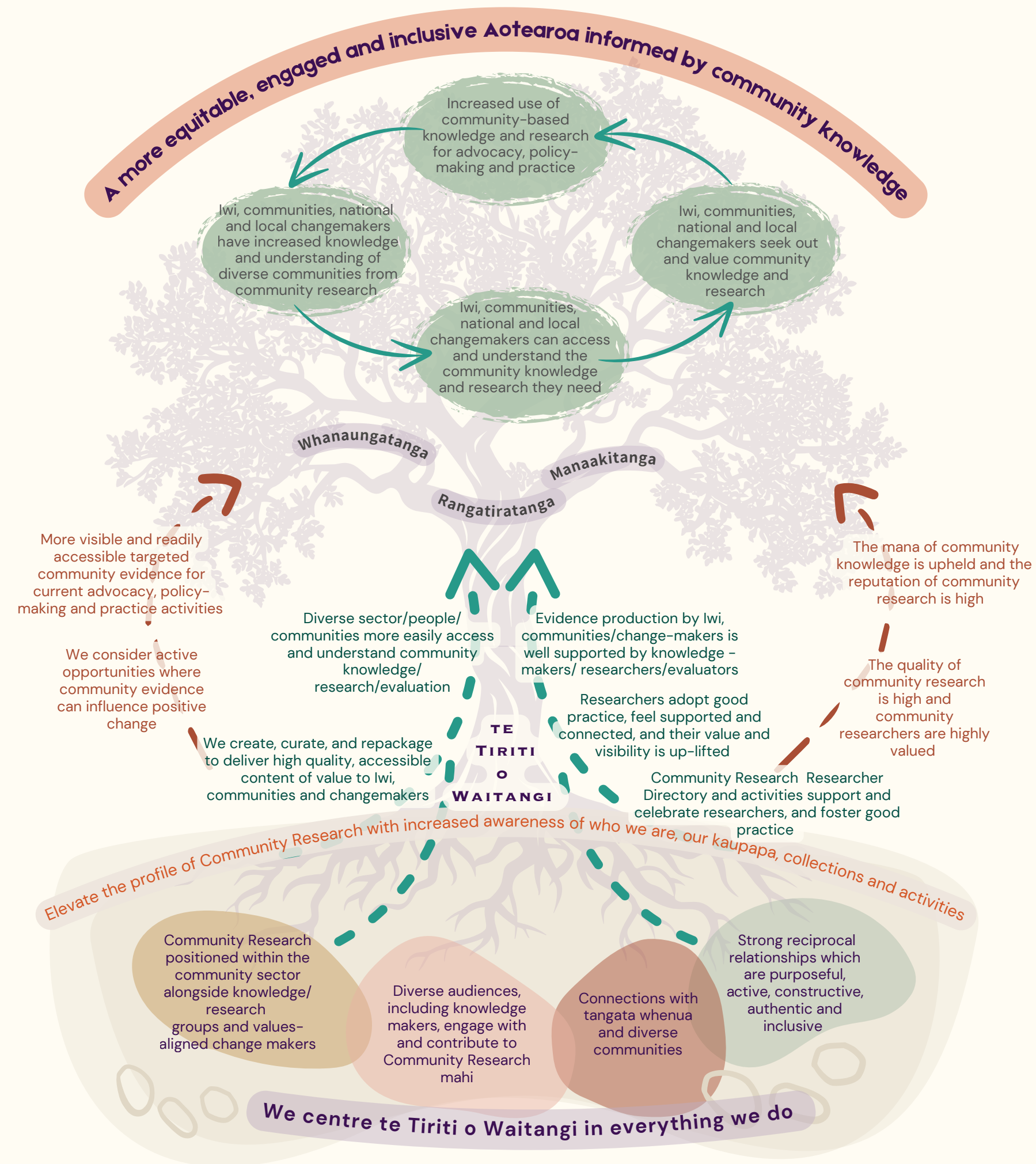
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Communities driving positive change

**Know and show the
difference you make**

What Works - A Community Research hosted [website](#)

OUR THEORY OF CHANGE



PURPOSE

Know why you need evidence

A Theory of Change and investment narrative presents a common collective kaupapa and instils confidence.

It also provides the backbone for research and evaluation as it supports building a cumulative understanding of context, actions and outcomes (intended and unintended).

Research and evaluation can provide most value when you know why and how you will use the results. Without this - you may end up with results which are of little use.

Envisage that you have completed the research or evaluation project - what are the “must have” findings that you need to comment upon?

The Code describes “optimum” practices in community research:

- as a set of **benchmark principles and standards**
- **aspects important to consider** when conducting or participating in research / knowledge-making.
- to help researchers ensure there is **minimal risk and maximum benefit** to the people, groups, communities and organisations that are participants in research.

In the context of governance and evidence-based decision making – the Code helps us to understand different features of community research and aspects to look out for, and ask about when conducting, or approached about participating in, community research.

Community Research Code of Practice

Whanaungatanga

- Establish, maintain relationships
- Free, prior, informed consent
- Rights, roles, responsibilities

Rangatiratanga

- Governance/Decision-making
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Collective research ownership

Manaakitanga

- Values
- Accountability, koha
- Active learning

Kaitiakitanga

- Sustainability
- Shared research benefits
- Collectively sharing the research and findings

Embedded

- Research design
- Implementation, reporting
- Equity and social justice outcomes and impact

Whanaungatanga

- Establish, maintain relationships
- Free, prior, informed consent
- Rights, roles, responsibilities

- Building/maintaining good relationships for everyone involved is central to ethical practice.
- Researchers need to be culturally self-aware and operate in culturally safe ways.
- Research should be developed to ensure there is an agreed understanding of the rights, roles and responsibilities for all parties.
- Relationships potentially span beyond the life of individual projects.

Rangatiratanga

- Governance/Decision-making
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Collective research ownership

- Where governance and kaitiakitanga (or guardianship) for research is determined by the community rather than the researcher. (e.g., community-oriented steering group).
- Research design, implementation, and reporting is led/co-led by the community who have a right to determine how, who and why their knowledge is collected and how it will be used.

Features include:

- grounded knowledge
- power dynamics and transparency
- community-centred focus
- acknowledging Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Manaakitanga

- Values
- Accountability, koha
- Active learning

Embraces and privileges community values.

Reciprocity is integral to the research:

- participants and communities benefit from the research
- may include gifts, koha, payment, time and service
- openness to community expertise and knowledge
- consistent with accepted standards and codes of practice.

Kotahitanga

- Sustainability
- Shared research benefits
- Collectively sharing the research and findings

Kotahitanga is embodied when research helps to build sustainability and the futures of the community.

- good ideas, useful knowledge, and ways to generate growth or positive progress.
- enables people to enhance their skills and fulfil their goals and considers potential impacts on diverse communities
- involves community-led sharing of results with a focus on accessibility
- is strength-based.

Embedded

- Research design
- Implementation, reporting
- Equity and social justice outcomes and impact

Quality community research considers ethics and values across the entire research process from pre-planning to post-project.

It aims to ensure:

- nothing and no-one is exploited or taken for granted
- the values of the community are understood and nurtured
- the diverse values that exist within communities are recognised and acknowledged.

Board oversight:

- helps ensure ethical, legal, and culturally appropriate research governance and practices
- promotes capacity-building and ongoing learning for the board and staff.

Key questions to think about:

- How are community voices and decision-making power distributed?
- What principles and processes guide the research relationship?
- Does the research project benefit participating communities?
- How do we support ethical practice, privacy, and cultural safety in research involving our organisation?

Break out room discussion and reflections

Prompter questions:

1. How well is your organisation's investment narrative captured? Are there assumptions that underpin it? How credible are those assumptions?
2. Did the Code of Practice components resonate with you? Would being more informed about the Code be useful for governance purposes?
3. Do you have suggestions for topics and resources from Community Research that will be useful to your organisation? For example, governance-related evidence needs, theory of change/ investment narratives, monitoring & evaluation.

Karakia whakamutunga

Kua mutu ā mātou mahi
Mō tenei wā
Manaakitia mai mātou katoa
Ō mātou hoa,
Ō mātou whānau
Āio ki ta Aorangi

*Our work has finished
for the time being
protect us all
our friends,
our family
Peace to the universe.*



