

Date of hui: 13 March 2018

Venue: Minister's Office, 7.2 Beehive

Attendees: Minister for Crown/Māori Relations, Hon Kelvin Davis
Senior Ministerial Advisor to Hon Kelvin Davis, Deborah Mahuta-Coyle
Private Secretary, Minister for Crown/Māori Relations, Tihema Baker
Private Secretary, Associate Minister for Crown/ Māori Relations, Nancy Watters

Māori Women's Welfare League (MWWL)

Prue Kapua (National President)

Amiria Reriti (National Vice President)

Ronda Pahau (Ikaroa Area Representative)

Mahinarangi Wehipeihana (General Manager)

Government officials:

Te Rau Kupenga, Crown Faciliator

Benesia Smith, Specialist Advisor, Crown/Māori Relations Unit, Ministry of Justice

Tia Warbrick, Specialist Advisor, Crown/Māori Relations Unit, Ministry of Justice

These notes represent a broad overview of the key points raised by participants at the hui.

Main issues and opportunities raised

- *Policy Priorities* – the MWWL has a robust process for discussing priorities for each year, and the issues arising during these discussions are most often socially focused.
- *Influencing Policy* – there is generally a lack of confidence in public policies being developed to address issues and very little opportunity to influence these policies. Policies need to be fit for purpose before they are rolled out. Given the MWWL's broad spectrum of knowledge, they want better engagement across the range of issues and would like to have an oversight or auditing role for Government development of Māori based-policies.
- *Adopting Policy* – MWWL supports the establishment of a Board or Authority to advise on general policy, approve specific policy and review and report on Māori specific policy, similar to the role of the NZ Conservation Authority under the Conservation Act. Membership should be from a wide number of groups, similar to the Māori Design Group established by the CE Oranga Tamariki.

Crown's intent

- *Visibility* – don't be afraid of creating Māori specific policies or promoting them as Māori specific. Māori are tangata whenua and not part of an ethnic community.

Ngā uara: Values

- *Consistency* – engagement needs to be consistent to ensure that the relationship is strengthened which in turn will have a positive impact on policy development. It tends to be reactive and ad-hoc.
- *Participation* – the lack of formal opportunities to contribute to the Government's programme of work makes it difficult for Māori organisations to engage which can result in claims to the Waitangi Tribunal. Active participation and ongoing engagement would assist to curb this. Also, rather than avoid managing competing interests or opposition, the Government should seek to take a broad approach to engaging with Māori so the breadth of advice received is greater.
- *Acknowledgement* – acknowledging issues and mistakes made, including acceptance of recommendations by the Waitangi Tribunal, would provide more credibility for the Crown. Early acknowledgment of the effects of Crown actions could reduce the time required for Waitangi Tribunal hearings and would focus on the necessary remedy processes, e.g. Mana Wahine claim
- *Alignment of Crown/Māori Relationship Portfolio* – concern at this portfolio sitting within the Ministry of Justice given the negative implications associated with the relationship of the Ministry to the Courts and ultimately the prison system. Moving it to a more 'relationship' based agency will make it a more positive initiative and may provide more success.

What's the best way for the Crown and Māori to engage?

- *By Māori for Māori and therefore for Everyone* – provides the best platform for engaging with Māori. For this to occur the Government will need to resource Māori as they often lack capacity and capability due to a lack of resourcing, or equip Crown agencies to work smarter by understanding what is required by Mana Whenua to fulfil their role to manaaki all. To move away from the Pākehā thinking of building relationships with individuals which has the effect of disengaging.

Crown/Māori Relations Priorities

- *Balancing Internal Crown Approaches* - within Government there needs to be processes for reconciling tensions and discord between Ministers and their portfolios. This can result in disjointed or non-fit for purpose policies which has a corresponding impact on Māori.
- *Treaty Framework* – development and implementation of a Treaty framework that clarifies simply the role of Mana Whenua under Article 2 of the Treaty and their partnership with the Crown under Article 1, together with their role as Mana Whenua to manaaki all peoples covered in Article 3, which includes Māori and non-Māori will assist in strengthening the Crown/Māori relationship. Providing a framework will provide everyone including the public service (as Crown agents under Article 1) with a benchmark and an understanding of their role in the bigger picture which will have a corresponding impact on the services being delivered at all levels. Sir Geoffrey Palmer coined the model

some years ago based on partnership, protection and participation. The efforts of this clarification by Crown agents and the capturing of the data that would be recorded in this area would then reveal how the Crown actually responds in practice through their activities to meet the needs of all Māori in their respective Agency endeavours, ie Education, Health, Justice, etc.

- *Devolution* – devolve services to those who are best placed to provide services – this is not always agencies. For real change to occur there needs to be a shift in the relationship and balance of power.
- *Te Reo Māori* - te reo Māori should be compulsory in schools and basic te reo Māori competencies should be required of all teachers.

AGREED ACTIONS:

- Distribute notes to Māori Women’s Welfare League for review prior to finalising and uploading to the Crown/Māori Relations website.