

7.2 Getting Unstuck¹

There are some suggestions in Chapter 6 'Keeping Going/Sustainability' for approaches that help to avoid problems occurring. When the inevitable happens, though, remember:

- 1) problems don't necessarily have negative outcomes and even situations which appear to be problematic aren't necessarily so – it is how they are managed that makes the difference; such circumstances can be opportunities to develop greater understanding and move the work to the next level;
- 2) we do not have to keep moving in a straight line; there may be ways around, under, over the problem;
- 3) we do not have to address everything at once; usually a problem can be broken down into smaller pieces, and then we can begin with the ones we can do most easily;
- 4) we do not have to address it on our own; if our colleagues, within and/or outside the organisation, are not able to offer helpful suggestions we may need to consider a wider range of others with whom we can work, for example:
 - try to find another organisation with Treaty experience in the area with whom to talk
 - contact a Treaty organisation locally or the Treaty Resource Centre if there is not have one locally (coordinator@trc.org.nz)
 - consult written materials and the internet (see Bibliography).

Whatever you do, do not give up!

If we are facing in the right direction, all we have to do is keep on walking – Buddhist saying.

Reflecting on Experiences²

- **Start with little steps that are achievable**

The question was, 'How are we actually going to do all this? Even with very supportive people the whole drama and stress of the amount of work can make it all seem just too much. It's important to be able to chip away at the little things people can start and make a success of, and since most of them were already doing things anyway it was about enhancing what was already happening.

(participant from Development Resource Centre - DRC)

We started with the Treaty idea and the values and principles and committed to the Maori version of the Treaty. Then we started to think, 'What are we actually going to do in the next six months and how are we going to live this out?' We could only really live it out in terms of our own values and our own work. It was bringing it down to something that was practical and what we could actually do with it.

(participant from DRC)

- **It's an on-going process**

With our Treaty principles we wrote them one way and Denis stood to the side and assisted us. But eventually, after we had lived with them for a little while, we realised that they weren't very good so we had to rewrite them. So in that sense it's been a great process with good assistance.

(participant from DRC)

You've constantly got to say, 'What are we doing here? Why are we doing this? Is this the right thing to do? What does the Treaty ask of us here?' To keep asking the questions because you haven't got all the answers, because each new set of situations has to be re-evaluated.

(participant from Christian World Service - CWS)

¹ From: *Treaty Journeys: International Aid Agencies respond to the Treaty of Waitangi*. Council for International Development. 2007. Used by permission.

² NOTE: The views expressed here are the participants' own, at the time of the interview, and do not necessarily represent their current views or those of their agencies.