

Applying the Treaty — A Treaty-based framework for practice: an innovative proposal

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Session Outline

- Introduction
- Why develop a framework
- Treaty Awareness Research
- Framework background and challenges
- Overview of key documents
- The framework
- Envisaged outcomes

Why develop a framework?

- Difficulties implementing the Treaty in a positive meaningful way
- Issues dogged by continued lack of understanding or appreciation, controversy and negative media treatment
- Treaty considered problematic
 - Discussion = non-neutral
 - Institutional activity = achieving compliance outcomes

To develop and implement a cohesive Treaty Based Practice Framework in response to the challenge of giving real meaning and effect to the Treaty of Waitangi within my organisation. It is difficult to make progress to implement the Treaty in a meaningful and positive way. Issues surrounding the Treaty are often dogged by a continued lack of understanding or appreciation, controversy and in recent years negative media treatment. This has resulted in the Treaty being seen as problematic as discussion surrounding it is often not neutral and a consequence is that any activity associated with the Treaty is consigned to achieving compliance outcomes.

Why develop a framework

- Response to challenge of giving real meaning and effect to the Treaty of Waitangi
- Empower staff and students to discuss unique nature of Aotearoa
 - New Zealand's bicultural identity
- What does this really mean?
 - Cultural vs Ethnic
 - Mono/Bi/Multi

Envisaged this document would provide an arena to empower students and staff to further discuss the unique nature of Aotearoa. New Zealand's bicultural identity and the Treaty of Waitangi with the Tertiary education context.

Treaty of Waitangi Awareness Research

- State Services Commission – 2004
- Key Objectives
 - * Level of Understanding
 - * Level of Interest
 - * Key Aspects for Learning
- 53% know a lot or a fair amount
 - * Actual knowledge not strong
 - * Comprehensive knowledge rare
 - * Teaching/health/Recent study

Our belief is this empowerment will be facilitated through knowledge development. In 2004 State Services Commission undertook research and their key objectives were to:

- Explore and measure the level of understanding of the Treaty of Waitangi among the general population
- Gauge the level of interest people have in finding out about the Treaty
- Identify key aspects of the Treaty that people are interested in learning more about

These were the same objectives that we were interested in within our own community.

What they found was 53% of respondents believed they knew a fair amount about the Treaty but actual knowledge was not as strong. More importantly comprehensive knowledge was rare – those who had greater knowledge were in professions that required Treaty knowledge (teaching/health) or had recently studied the Treaty.

Relevance to today

- Greater knowledge about the Treaty would help many New Zealanders have a better understanding of our country and history
- Increased awareness of the Treaty would help foster more constructive debate
- We hear the complaints, the grievances but I don't think we really understand what's going on

Background

- Relevance to contemporary organisations
- General lack of knowledge/understanding
- Colonial context in which the Treaty was fashioned
- Application of the Treaty in a practical relevant sense remains a challenge
- Moving toward action against achievable, practical and agreed goals
- Strengths = practicality, relevance, simplicity

The Treaty of Waitangi has been included in state funded organisations policy in a variety of ways for at least the last 20 years. One key reason for a perceived lack of progress in engaging with the Treaty over this time has been confusion around how the Treaty was relevant to contemporary organisations. This is sustained by a general lack of understanding and knowledge within New Zealand society about the Treaty and our colonial context in which the Treaty was fashioned. How to apply the Treaty in a practical and relevant sense has been an evolving process and while some individual's organisations have made positive progress, for most this still remains a challenge. It is envisaged that through this framework we are able to answer the challenge and bring a relevant, practical and beneficial solution to our organisation. This framework is being developed with the express intention of moving issues around the Treaty from workshop discussions to action against achievable, practical and most importantly agreed goals. The frameworks strengths will be its practicality, relevance and strength

The Challenge

- Promote the Treaty in a positive way and foster a greater understanding of the document
- Implementation across the whole organisation
- Practical, relevant and measurable
- Assist the organisation with its legal obligations surrounding the Treaty
- Provide a clearer direction and a co-ordinated strategy
- Help improve public perception of the organisations cutting-edge reputation by demonstrating the organisations commitment to giving real meaning to the Treaty within the tertiary education context
- Improvement of student performance

To develop a suitable Treaty Based Practice Framework that will meet each of these challenges

Underpinned by Key Documents

- CDAMS Indigenous health curriculum framework (Phillips, 2004)
- Treaty of Waitangi Awareness Research (State Services Commission, 2004)
- The Treaty of Waitangi and principles for social policy (Royal Commission on Social Policy, 1988)
- Guidelines for cultural safety, the Treaty of Waitangi and Māori health in nursing education and practice (NCNZ, 2004)

1. Providing a set of guidelines for success in developing and delivering indigenous health content in core medical education.
2. -
3. Developed 3 principles and more people becoming aware of these and they are utilised consistently in New Zealand today. It was a logical step that they would underpin the proposed framework (Slide 1)
4. As a nurse this was a model that I understood and this model of progression will also underpin the framework (Slides 2&3)

National focus: people see current focus as not having anything to do with them. So they see the document as irrelevant (Slide 4)

Individual Awareness: pull the focus back and start with self first. Then as they become empowered, gaining knowledge and understanding they are able to make the connections to the relevance of this document to wider issues (Slide 5 & 6).

Finally ... Envisaged Outcomes

- To provide a coordinated comprehensive 'hands on' Treaty initiative which contributes to the larger overall Māori Strategic Framework
- To foster a greater positive understanding and appreciation of the Treaty of Waitangi in the staff community
- To make a positive contribution to 'nation-building': constructing the unique identity of Aotearoa/New Zealand as a bi-cultural and multi-ethnic nation

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Resources

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