

Treaty Application Case Study: Council for International Development

I am Ngāti Ranginui through my mother and grandmother so this is all very personal to me. Marion Wood from Project Waitangi, chair of the Board at that stage, had run a series of Treaty workshops in early 2000 — just pure Treaty education then, and that’s all they had done. During handover when I took this job my predecessor told me that they were worried that they didn’t have enough contact with Māori and that they had intended commissioning or contracting someone to go out and make contact. I replied that it was not appropriate for us to contract someone to go and talk to Māori — that’s not the way to do it. I want to do it in my own way, and it won’t be fast. It’s a journey. You can choose to go on a journey or you can be taken on a journey. But people who are taken on a journey are not necessarily as willing or receptive. So that was really how it happened, and I was very fortunate because Kim Chamberlain was the training manager at that stage and she really understood these issues and she was just there and willing to be supportive. We talked about what our approach should be.

We felt that the first thing was to have another round of Treaty workshops, but make it clear that it was only step one of the journey, that this was not an end in itself. So for the first one, we told our members that this is the way we plan to go. I started work there at the end of 2001, so that was when we really embarked on the first round of Treaty workshops in Christchurch. Then the next place was Wellington and once again it wasn’t difficult. We ran a second one in Wellington because there was still plenty of interest there and brought the few Auckland people down. So the next step was stage two.

Also, for myself, I wanted to explore contact with Māori whom I knew. I thought that surely there must be some Māori organisations out there that are doing international development, and wondered how I would find them. Instead, they found me. Josie Karanga from Te Korowai Aroha Aotearoa said they were interested in international development, because they’d been working a bit with ANGOA (Association of Non-Governmental Organisations of Aotearoa). Then again another approach came from another organisation, Te Ora Hou. We then had two Māori members, and that was the stage at which I felt that there was enough of us to reach out a bit more widely to the Māori community. So I went to Moana Jackson, Pauline Tangiora, Carolyn Bull, Apryll Parata, and Annette Sykes and some others, as well as the two Māori member organisations. We invited them to a hui in Wellington, Māori only, just to talk about issues of

working internationally. And amazingly they all came. So we had about 30 people there and we talked about the obstacles and the problems, which were that most of them were working on the *Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples*. They expressed their frustration, not just at the slow progress, but mainly at what happened when they went to meetings and they had to stand back for the officials who were all Pākehā.

We undertook to take these issues to both MFAT (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade) and NZAID (New Zealand’s International Aid and Development Agency), and we did. Though nothing much changed. We are supposed to be working with NZAID on a joint working group “to determine the implications of the Treaty of Waitangi in the international development area at both government and NGO levels” for a new section of the NZAID/NGO Strategic Policy Framework which would include “a set of guidelines to assist with implementation of the Treaty obligations by both parties” but little progress was made. So the working group went into recess. From the connection with Te Ora Hou, based in Gisborne, Manu Caddie agreed to join our Board.

After the stage one workshops the question was, what should we be doing within our organisation since we say we are trying to become Treaty-based — so we had the first stage two workshop. It was two years down the track and nothing had happened since. One of the things we were thinking about, and talking about, is doing something to monitor compliance. We have a

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code of ethics and this could include compliance with the Treaty. It seems like a great way to do it.

I know we should have a relationship with tangata whenua in our area, but it doesn’t come naturally. One

of the things that I did try to do, through a Māori staff member while she and I were both there, was to try to build a relationship with Te Ati Awa, where she was from. But she left and I didn’t follow it up because I felt uncomfortable about it.

The memorandum of understanding with NZAID is called the *Strategic Framework for Relationships between NZ Aid and NZ NGOs*. It spells out the terms in our relationship, the terms of consultation and agrees to consult; it talks about funding, and the understandings about funding. It’s supposed to talk about understandings of the Treaty, and that’s the section that’s waiting for further development.

Rae Julian (CEO, CID)

NOTE: The views expressed here are the participant’s own, at the time of the interview.

