

5.3 Relationships with Other Groups¹

Obviously, any organisation has relationships with many other bodies. Sometimes these relationships promote and encourage Treaty application, other times they constrain it, and sometimes it is a bit of both.

The organisations we talked with identified several categories of relationships which created challenges:

- with parent bodies;
- with outside organisations with whom they have strong working relationships;
- with overseas partners, especially those who question what an organisation is doing 'at home' – with indigenous peoples in Aotearoa.

Church organisations, in particular, had distinctively different histories, structures and relationships from other types of organisations.

Reflecting on Experiences²

- **External bodies can provide motivation**

Part of our association with the alliance is that we are required to have a domestic programme. They have a very strong requirement of their members to also have advocacy in their country. So it was fulfilling that requirement.

(participant from Save the Children New Zealand - SCNZ)

- **but the organisations are also providing leadership themselves**

It seemed to us, being a predominately Pākehā organisation, that somehow or another we needed to take the lead in showing others how they might share their resources and let go of things in order that others might develop their own directions.

(participant from Christian World Service - CWS)

The real support, the strength of the organisation, is that it is 'visibly' white. As a result it has influence and acceptability at government level and the strength of the partnership is actually through supporting other organisations that do not have access at that level.

(participant from YWCA)

- **and supporting others**

We will go to see other organisations and link in with those organisations, particularly Māori. Because we can also offer things like training experiences and support as well, we would offer the chance to come and work in our clinic and learn more about the clinical work, and professional training too.

(participant from Family Planning Association of New Zealand - FPANZ)

If we were to go out into a region, we would have to find a Māori organisation that would be willing to work with us, and we would work with them to develop a programme. It's not like we would go out there and say 'this is the programme'. And having said that, that won't be easy. We're setting up a clinic in Wanganui: there are a couple of Māori PHOs and some other small organisations there, not the same as us, but they're doing some work that would be similar. We will be making it our business, as part of starting that service, to go and spend time and work out how we can work together.

(participant from FPANZ)

We've made a commitment to resource sharing with external groups, for example, Māori Woman's Welfare League. We acknowledged that our resources include our knowledge, our networks and our access to power and decision-making.

(participant from YWCA)

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.