

# Applying the Treaty — Some te Tiriti/Treaty relationship framework experience

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Tony Spelman is involved in tribal management for his Iwi Ngati Hikairo in Kawhia as Secretary of Te Runanganui. He currently serves as the Tangata Whenua Co-Chair of the Community Sector Taskforce. Since 1984 Tony has worked in the field of Human Resources and Organisation Development within the Public Sector and since 1990 has worked with the Treaty of Waitangi in the life and work of Public Sector organisations, in both central and local government.

Community Task Force began as a Tangata Tiriti sector initiative, in the late 90s — established by Tariana Turia and initially not including Māori. In 2004 Te Wero (Taskforce and Action Group Māori), was established. It put forward a change process which was rejected. The Community Task Force and Te Wero then established a bicameral two-house model. The discussion between

representatives of both sides is to be around understanding each other and noting differences. Both sides work together - with Tangata Whenua not left to react to a Tangata Tiriti or Crown position. Each side identifies the key driving values of their side. Both sides work out how both sets of values should be applied in practical terms.

Key points from discussion:

- Within Tangata Tiriti there is huge diversity and values may be similar to Tangata Whenua
- Tangata Whenua usually talk in terms of the big picture and the long-term view while Tangata Tiriti talk detail.
- So when they caucus and then report back hear Tangata Whenua first and Tangata Tiriti will find ways to fit into that model.

Notes by Glenys Daley

For more information:

[http://www.cst.org.nz/about/relationship\\_framework/](http://www.cst.org.nz/about/relationship_framework/)  
<http://www.community.net.nz/>

