

HRL Community Founding Principles

Introduction

HRL Community exists for the advancement of community development in New Zealand. HRL Community is motivated by the desire to support community development professionals to create caring, healthy, inclusive, sustainable and enterprising communities and local economies. HRL Community New Zealand specialises in the capability building of community development professionals, and initiatives to strengthen community building and local economic development.



Our mission is:

Every community empowered; every people respected; every person connected.

HRL Community Five Principles

HRL Community New Zealand believes in the following principles which guide its approach:

Aotearoa focussed: We agree that community development approaches around the world apply in New Zealand also. However we believe that community development in Aotearoa starts with an appreciation and partnership with our cultures and history. HRL Community adopts the Treaty of Waitangi as the basis for partnership in our mahi in New Zealand communities.

Asset-based: Communities have never been built by dwelling on their deficiencies and problems. Communities respond creatively when the focus is on resources, capacities, strengths and

aspirations. In every community something works. Instead of asking, “what’s wrong and how do we fix it?” we ask, “what’s strong, what has worked, and how do we get more of it?” It generates hope, energy and creativity.

Community driven: Meaningful and lasting change always originates within and local residents in that community are the best experts on how to activate that change. We work to raise capabilities of local people through our projects and processes.

Partnership: Our whakatoki is, ‘Naku te raurau, nau to raurau; ka ora ai te Iwi,’ meaning, ‘With your basket and ours we will build the wellbeing of our peoples’. HRL Community works in a partnership approach recognising that community and leading organisations have their own roles and are also inter-dependent on one another. Our principle of bottom-up change leadership is met by our sustainability principle which recognises the role of community leadership in ongoing sustainability of change.

Sustainability: HRL Community recognises that work we do in the community must have an ongoing sustainability commitment. If real change is to be bedded-in to that community then an ongoing mentoring of the people we work with is important. We will support and build the capabilities of a network of community development practitioners to aid and support communities in their efforts.

Signed:



David Hammond: Director HRL Community

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