



Community Governance

Supporting community governance in Aotearoa

He Mātāpono Kawanatanga

Governance Principles from Te Ao Māori

The following are mātāpono principles from Te Ao Māori that provide more background to the Good Governance Code.

Rangatiratanga – Authentic Ethical Leadership

Community governance serve their community/iwi/hapū and whānau, collectives (who trust and believe in their governing leadership) for the collective good of those they represent and give service. Leadership that is empowering the potential that communities have and providing leadership and resources to enable possibilities for the collective good.

Whanaungatanga – Relationships & Connection

Community governance needs knowledge and understanding the importance of relationships and connections with those that are giving service and those served. Enhancing the mana, ihi and wehi of individuals that make up the collective of the governed and the governance. Through collaborative sharing of the collective diverse experiences, knowledge and understandings, the obligation towards inclusiveness is possible. Continually building networks with, by, and alongside the collective developing vital positive communication and relationship links in the communities.

Tuakiritanga – Identity

Community governance needs to enable and enact the sense of identity of who their community is even with the growing multicultural population and the diversity of cultures within that population the collective are all part of the identity of Aotearoa NZ. A sense of belonging, a tūrangawaewae where the community collective have their diverse voices and through implementing a banner of Tuakiritanga to stand for identity, to unite as one entity in their community.

Manaakitanga – Care & Nurture

Community governance awareness of the caring and nurturing of a person and community's mana, ihi and wehi are vital in reinforcing the principles of rangatiratanga, whanaungatanga and tuakiritanga. Manaakitanga values of integrity, trust and sincerity; this encompasses acknowledgement of community people no matter who they are in their roles in the community. There is a constitution of hospitality, kindness, generosity and support of responsibility, respect, service and duty. The implementing of tikanga processes by community governance demonstrates hospitality, kindness, generosity, and support and care for those they interact within and outside their communities.



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Kaitiakitanga – Guardianship, Stewardship & Trusteeship

Community governance own and implement their obligation of service to their community. In doing so they enact their kaitiakitanga to inspire their communities to aspire to possibilities, to unite their people no matter how diverse they may be. Community governance should know and understand their kaupapa - their purpose in their total service to those they serve. This service to the collective gives their community voice and strives to attain benefits for the community.

Pono – Validity & Truth

Community governance represent all those that are their community and must act with integrity creating threads of fortitude, and substance to enable authentic leadership deeply embedded in truth, honesty, sincerity, fairness, ethical and just behaviour. This high moral principal actions rangatiratanga, whanaungatanga, tuakiritanga, manaakitanga, kaitiakitanga and kotahitanga, nurturing the integrity of those served and those giving service is paramount.

Kotahitanga – Unity & Togetherness

Community governance must strive for unity and togetherness, where the collaboration of the collective, their tūrangawaewae belonging is evident so they know there is something to stand unified for enabling thinking beyond the self. This is a statement of intent to implement the power of unification through acknowledging the diversity of the collective. Community governance ensures everyone in the community needs to know they can be involved, their voices and thoughts heard and actioned. This practise of unification creates a space of collective action and solidarity where respect tolerance, trust, understanding, forgiveness, diligence, integrity, resilience and unifying purpose is present.

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