

Merging two Membership Entities

Dave Henderson
Coordinator,
ANGOA -
The Association of
NGOs of Aotearoa



ANGOA:

- Association, Incorporated Society, Registered Charity
- “Strengthening civil society in Aotearoa NZ”
- Coordinating Committee elected by the AGM
- Coordinator ex officio on Committee
- Early 1990’s, network, 5 – 110 members - diverse
- International
 - Commonwealth Foundation
 - CIVICUS World Alliance for Citizen Participation
 - Affinity Group of National Associations - AGNA

Social Development Partners: SDP

- Association, Incorporated Society, Registered Charity
- Founded as NZ Federation of Voluntary Welfare Organisations: “To assist the members of the Federation to further their objects and protect their interests” and “limited to within New Zealand”
- Trade as SDP: “..to help strengthen the capacity and influence of the community sector”
- 1969, 19 – 120 members at peak
- Executive Committee, Executive Director

A New Entity

- Process
- Issues in the process
- Implications for existing organisations
- Wider issues and context
 - Sector partnerships
 - Accounting Standards
 - Charities legislation
- Clarity of Direction

Process

- Consultation
 - Proposal widely distributed, not just “members”
 - “About time”, “Just get on with it”
- Tiriti Reference Group
 - Feedback from Maori members and interested others
- Joint Oversight Group – JOG
 - 4 from each governance group
 - Sector experience

Expectations and Assumptions

- 4 Themes in the feedback;
 - Mandate – an entity visibly connected to the sector
 - Accountability – to the people and organisations it represents
 - Democracy – participation as the basis for representation
 - Te Tiriti – a stronger relationship than is apparent in the existing organisations.

Tensions

- Incorporated Society or Trust?
- New and fresh – “Nimble”
- Balance – who controls?
- Kaupapa – empowering members
- Risk - loss of democratic nature
 - CIVICUS, World Alliance for Citizen Participation
 - AGNA Working Group, Enabling Legal Environment for civil society organisations (CSOs)
- How to visibly include Maori organisations?

A Trust Board

- **Proposal;** “The culture of the Trust Board will be one of listening, acting, communicating – always engaged in dialogue with the sector, able to move quickly in response to new issues, always with full transparency. “
- **Debate:** Up to 9 trustees, minimum 3 elected at annual meeting, appoint maximum up to 4 – flexible, democratic, or
- Set 7 trustees, 3 elected, 4 appointed; quick decisions, nimble, act on new ideas and opportunities.
- Names on the Trust Deed? Maori? Timelines a problem.
- How much Reo in the Trust Deed?

More Issues

- Interim Trust Board
 - 2 from each existing, co-opt 2-3 more?
 - Tiriti; at least 2 from members of existing organisations that demonstrate Treaty partnerships?
 - People from young contemporary organisations
- Annual General Meetings – Approval!!
 - SDP 18 September
 - ANGOA 9 October

Wider Issues

- After 2x AGMs,
 - Finalise Trust Deed for Registration
- Approved trust deed to DIA Charities for registration
 - Shaping language
 - Advocacy; Simplistic official interpretation of legislation, lack of balance
 - NCW \$10,000 in court costs – still not resolved
- New accounting standards

A Name

- Currently “Working Title Aotearoa”
- Working Together Aotearoa – Hui E!
- Forum Aotearoa? FA is the wrong message
- Suggestions welcome, to
dave.henderson@angoa.org.nz

Keep an eye on the Prize

- Whole of sector
- Build a strong sector voice
- Build our own mana as a sector
- Advocate for a society that values and respects community action – culture change
- Sector-led research – back our policy discussions with Government
- Keep the inspiration