

PROJECT WAITANGI NATIONWIDE

TREATY EDUCATION PROPOSAL

AUGUST 1988

1988

PROJECT

PLANNING

NATIONWIDE TREATY EDUCATION PROGRAMME

Project Waitangi proposes to conduct a nationwide Treaty of Waitangi education programme for Pakeha New Zealanders, on a much wider scale than we are currently able to provide because of our limited resources.

We see this Project covering four major topics:

1. Public forums/education: public meetings, speakers, lectures, road shows, etc. Providing a public forum where debate can be aired and constructive discussion take place.
2. Training offering training courses on the Treaty of Waitangi, racism, biculturalism and related issues to all sectors, including training for trainers in formal and non-formal education.
3. Resources Extensive resource material on the Treaty and related areas. Produce sector based resource material, e.g. schools, polytechnics, business sector, land, Waitangi Tribunal, etc.
4. Public Relations and Advertising Campaign Employ a professional group to run a publicity campaign on all media networks to educate New Zealanders on current trends, history and Treaty of Waitangi.

We propose that Project Waitangi continue as a community based organisation but with an increase in size, regional offices and therefore impact.

We propose:

1. A National office with three full-time paid personnel and clerical support (up to 30 hours per week).

National Coordinator

Resource Coordinator

Projects and Training officer

plus clerical support

2. Four regional offices with two full-time paid personnel in each office and clerical support (up to 20 hours per week).

We suggest the following centres:

Northland

Hamilton

Christchurch

Dunedin

RATIONALE

1. Over the last few years, the Waitangi Tribunal has become of increasing significance, now that claims can be heard back to 1840. The changes are happening very fast in New Zealand society as a result of claims being taken before the Tribunal, recommendations being made and subsequent government action. Most New Zealanders are unable to keep up with the implications for them, are unable to get concise and accurate information, in lay terms, and have no forum to express their view on these matters. With the Waitangi Tribunal and other changes in the public sector regarding the Treaty of Waitangi, it is necessary to inform, educate and involve the whole community. This is currently not being done.
2. Political commentators say racial and Treaty-related matters will be critical issues of the 1990 elections. The recent NBR poll on the Treaty of Waitangi and the fisheries showed up the amount of interest the whole race relations areas is generating in New Zealand at present. We believe, because of the significance of the 1990 year, that this country has a unique opportunity over the next two years to sort out our backlog of racial problems with understanding and depth.
3. Many Maori leaders, e.g. Sir Graham Latimer, Chief Judge Eddie Durie and others, have recently called for widespread Treaty education programmes for Pakeha New Zealanders.
4. What is lacking in the current debate is a positive Pakeha response and perspective. Project Waitangi has consistently promoted the positive benefits for all New Zealanders in honouring the Treaty of Waitangi.

WHAT PROJECT WAITANGI IS DOING

Project Waitangi has run an educational programme for Pakeha New Zealanders over the last two years. We have produced resource kits on large range of topics, e.g. Treaty of Waitangi, racism, biculturalism, legislation, history of New Zealand, posters, submissions, etc. We have just released a resource kit on the Waitangi Tribunal giving questions and answers. We have organised public forum, study groups, intensive training courses from our national office and with our twenty regional groups throughout New Zealand. We have just recently employed a resource worker for the next six months to bring our national staff to two full time paid positions.

OVERLOAD!

The Project is currently inundated with phone calls, letters and requests for information, training and assistance in the areas related to the Treaty of Waitangi. We have had to limit our number of training courses from the National office. Waitangi Consultancy Group, established in mid 1987 offering bicultural consultancy services to government departments, local bodies and the business sector, has generated a large number of contracts without advertising or publicity. Double Take, an independent bicultural training group, is also working to capacity. Race training, cultural awareness and Treaty education is a growth industry in New Zealand at present.

WHO FOR?

As well as our current clientele receiving an increased service, there are huge untapped areas that will benefit from our proposed project.

Before Christmas 1987, the Project produced a proposal for a Youth Project which would target secondary schools, access programmes and youth organisations. However, because of limited resources, we have been unable to follow through with this project.

Schools are largely untouched by the Project's work apart from some of our resource material being used in class work. Teachers tell us how difficult it is for them to get accurate and comprehensive information on the Treaty and NZ history. Also, very few teachers are taught how to present the topic and how to adequately address the needs of cultural groups within their schools. There is a huge amount of goodwill among educators in all areas, but a lack of knowledge and skills on how to go about implementing and promoting Treaty education and Treaty values in their institutions. We see a lot of work with polytechnics, teachers colleges universities, teachers associations and schools with our proposed programme.

Other sectors that we would like to target are: rural communities, the business sector, local bodies and unions.

With increased resources, we will be able to work more effectively with existing information services, e.g. Citizens Advice Bureau, libraries, government departments and others, to ensure an overall covering of possible markets.

WHY PROJECT WAITANGI?

1. Project Waitangi has proved itself to be very effective with the so called 'backlash'. We have found that most New Zealanders have long waited to talk about Treaty issues and Maori/Pakeha relations. We have provided the opportunity for them to do this in a safe, educational environment. Our concentration on the history of New Zealand since 1840 has been very successful. Pakeha see present developments, government actions and Maori claims in the light of the last 148 years, instead of some sudden outburst of radicalism. This in itself serves to allay the confusion and fears and moves the changes into a positive framework rather than the often heard negativity expressed from some quarters.
2. Project Waitangi clearly has the confidence of the Maori and Pakeha community. At a recent meeting organised by us to discuss plans for 1990, thirty seven National organisations attended and gave Project Waitangi the mandate to set up a coalition of groups to ensure 1990 is a year where the Treaty of Waitangi is honoured.
3. We are a community based organisation with networks right throughout the country. These networks are currently snowballing and new groups have started in number of rural areas.
4. We have proved that we are able to successfully educate middle New Zealand. Given that we have had one full-time worker, supported by a National core group and twenty regional groups, our achievements have been outstanding.
5. We have a national profile, and are often called upon to comment on race issues by the media.
6. In the Royal Commission on Social Policy's reports, Project Waitangi's work was commended and more work of this kind

was felt to be crucial to the future of New Zealand.

7. Project Waitangi has brought together around the country, the people with all the skills and expertise in this area. We run effective training for trainers courses so that our skills can be passed on and spread throughout communities.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The effectiveness and expansion of Project Waitangi is currently limited by financial constraints.

Project Waitangi requires both administrative and salary funds without which the success of Project Waitangi's work is jeopardised.

Project Waitangi requires funding to facilitate and expand its educational, training, resource and publicity programme. Government funding is the most appropriate for the administration of Project Waitangi's work.

Private funding and one off grants can be and are sort for our projects. As this funding is uncertain and usually project orientated, to rely on it for Project Waitangi administration funds would mitigate against effective planning and good management practices.

Project Waitangi cannot function without adequate funds. Lack of funding requires Project Waitangi to spend energy seeking and lobbying for essential income when that energy would be better spend in the furtherance of our objectives.

We are, therefore, seeking full funding from the Government for our proposal. We see the proposal as a three year venture from 1988 - 1991.

We can provide you with a full budget and costings, if you would like to go further with this proposal.