

Appendix A:

The Constitution Conversation Te Kaupapa Ture

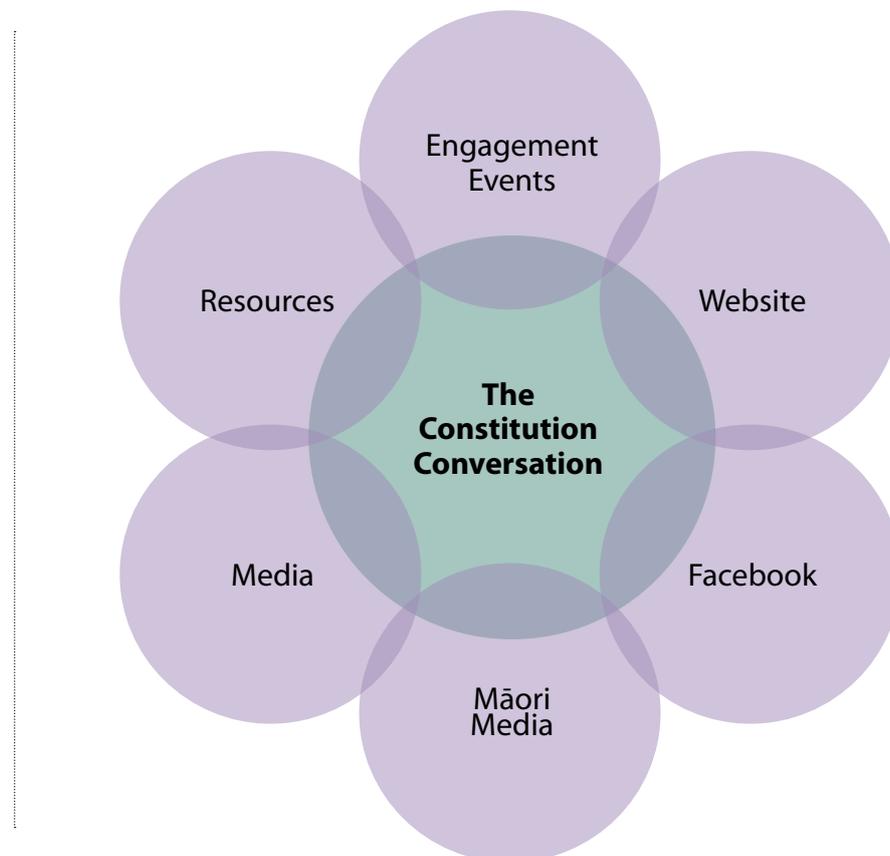
The Engagement Strategy

The Constitutional Advisory Panel was asked to inform and engage with New Zealanders on constitutional issues. In particular, the Panel was to stimulate public awareness of constitutional issues by providing information about New Zealand's constitutional arrangements.

In engaging with Māori on the constitution the Māori Co-chair was responsible for ensuring the Panel undertook an appropriate consultation process with Māori, who have long expressed a desire for consultation to take place *kanohi ki te kanohi* (face-to-face). The 13 regional hui were excellent examples of the well-established tradition of Māori political and legal engagement.

The Panel recognised that engaging the people of Aotearoa in a national conversation about the current constitutional arrangements would need a range of approaches. New Zealanders have different preferences for public engagement. The variety of consultation preferences and complexity of some of the subject matter meant the Conversation would be an enormous exercise.

The Panel itself is diverse, and has wide experience as the members come from many walks of life, different ethnicities and regions. The Panel drew upon this diversity to invite a wide range of New Zealanders to engage in the Constitution Conversation.



To address the size of the task, the Panel's main focus was to support people to hold their own conversations, in their own communities, in their own way. The Panel developed information resources, and created a website to host these and encourage people to make submissions. The Panel had conversations in communities, on the marae, online through social media, and in the traditional media. Māori media outlets were enthusiastic in promoting the Conversation.

Together these different forms of communication formed a Conversation which was more than the sum of its parts. Supporting New Zealanders to host their own conversations in the way they felt most comfortable created a positive environment in which to discuss our constitutional arrangements. The different forms of engagement all overlapped, generated interest, and helped to light the spark for ongoing conversations.

The Panel's approach to engaging with the people of Aotearoa New Zealand about our current constitutional arrangements was new and innovative. The Panel's citizen-driven engagement was divided into five stages:

- Stage One: Whakaoho i ngā tāngata – Preparing the Ground
- Stage Two: Whakamārama – Understanding
- Stage Three: Wānanga – Thinking Together
- Stage Four: Wānanga – Deliberation
- Stage Five: Pūrongo – Reporting.

Stage One: Whakaoho i ngā tāngata – Preparing the Ground

To build participation in the Conversation the Panel sought, facilitated and built relationships with those potentially affected by or interested in its outcomes. The Panel wanted to ensure that New Zealanders, including a wide range of Māori groups (iwi and hapū), had many opportunities to engage with and learn about constitutional issues.

The Panel also established an interim website in mid-2012 to house key documents including the engagement strategy, terms of reference, and minutes from Panel meetings. The information from the interim website formed the basis for the Panel's governance website: www.cap.govt.nz.

New Zealand's Constitution: The conversation so far

The Panel's focus was to ensure New Zealanders had access to information about the country's constitutional arrangements. The Panel drafted an information booklet *New Zealand's Constitution: The conversation so far*. The plain language summary of the current constitutional arrangements was designed to support people to have conversations about the Constitution among their whānau, communities, friends, hapū and iwi.

Eight expert academics were invited to review the draft booklet, checking for accuracy of information and providing general advice on the approach to the information in it.

Early conversations

The focus of the Panel's initial engagement was to raise awareness and prepare the ground for future engagement by hosting early conversations with a range of umbrella organisations which had networks within a diverse range of communities.

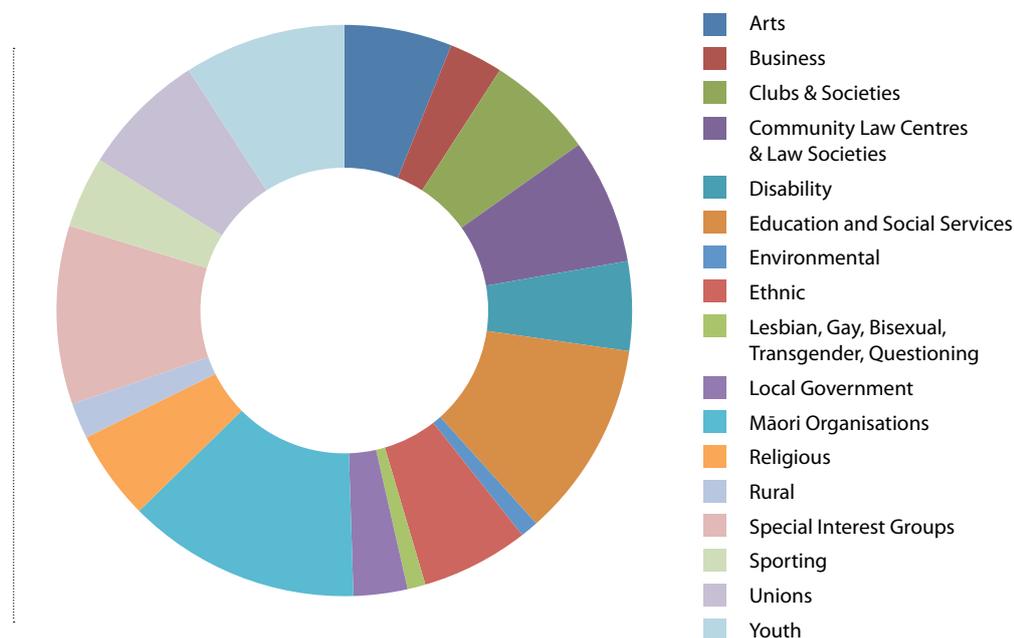
During the months of June to October 2012, the Panel identified 86 such organisations and it was committed to meeting as many of them as possible. In total the Panel met with 56 organisations from Wellington, Auckland, Hamilton and Christchurch, and together they potentially provided it with access to almost 1.5 million members and supporters.

Questions provided to the organisations in advance were designed to gauge both their members' likely interest in participating in a national conversation about our constitution, and sought their advice about the best ways of engaging with people from their communities. Organisations that were unable to attend a meeting were invited to provide their responses in writing.

The Panel received consistent messages about how to approach engagement:

- the supporting information needs to be clear, uncomplicated and digestible
- the topics being discussed need to be relevant to people's day-to-day lives
- people need to know that their involvement will make a difference, and their opinion and ideas are valued and necessary.

Figure 1: Participants in the early conversations – a break-down by organisation type



In addition to the early conversations, the Panel began planting the seeds of engagement with the academic community, iwi and hapū. The Co-chairs wrote to 139 academics, 82 heads of school from universities and Wānanga, and 143 iwi organisations to raise awareness and invite participation. During the first stages of engagement the Panel contacted 141 Rūnanga and Trust Boards, raising awareness about the Constitution Conversation and seeking to engage with iwi and hapū within their rohe (tribal area) and at a time that was suitable to them.

The Panel invited participation from umbrella organisations such as trade unions, educational institutions, youth groups, religious bodies and ethnic councils. The Panel also engaged with Māori organisations such as Te Kohanga Reo Trust Board, the National Urban Māori Authority, Te Mana Ākonga, the Federation of Māori Authorities, Te Hunga Roia Māori and the Māori Women's Welfare League.

The Panel was mindful of other government initiatives with constitutional implications and did not duplicate or undermine these. These early conversations therefore laid the foundation for the Panel's engagement with the people of Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Constitution Conversation

The creative concept for the engagement campaign 'The Constitution Conversation' was tested by three focus groups, with positive results.

The Panel developed questions on each topic listed in the terms of reference. The questions were designed as conversation starters, to guide people's conversations on each topic. Eight focus groups tested the constitutional questions to be asked during the Conversation, and they were held across the country and included a diverse cross-section of New Zealanders.

Stage Two: Whakamārama – Understanding

This stage of the strategy was comprised of *kōreromai*/promoting and communicating *whakamārama*/information to support participation and engagement in the Constitution Conversation. In effect Stages Two and Three overlapped.

Information to support participation

One of the primary aims of the resources kits was to empower New Zealanders to facilitate and participate in their own community and public conversations. Early in the Panel's work it became clear that New Zealanders did not feel that they had enough information to participate in a conversation on our constitutional arrangements. Creating accessible, understandable and educational resources was therefore a clear priority.

The majority of the resources were available in both English and te reo Māori. Ensuring access to resources in te reo Māori was important to the Panel. The resources were translated by a native speaker of te reo Māori, and fluent second language learner, resulting in accessible user-friendly resources. In translating the resources the Panel was conscious of the difference between translating word for word English to Māori, versus thinking about the content from a Māori perspective and translating the text from there.

Some of the resources were also available in a range of other languages and those chosen were recommended by experts – Korean, Chinese (Mandarin), Hindi, Samoan, Tongan, Cook Island Māori. Resources designed to support individuals and collectives included:

Fact sheets (bilingual): basic two-page documents with factual information on each topic in the terms of reference for accessible learning about constitutional issues

Quizzes (bilingual): questions and answers on each topic in the terms of reference to allow New Zealanders to test their knowledge

Submission guide (multilingual including sign language and easy read): information about how to make a submission, including the Guiding Questions and a submission form

Topic booklets: a more in-depth discussion of the topics in the Constitution Conversation, which include a variety of perspectives from commentators and a broader look at New Zealand's constitutional history and how it compares to overseas.

Resources to support people hosting conversations included:

Facilitator's guide: information on hosting a conversation, including ideas for a meeting agenda and ways to use the different resources

Conversation cards: small hand-held cards with different perspectives on topics in the Constitution Conversation designed to encourage discussion

Invitation flyer: basic information about the constitutional topics up for consideration, the role of the Constitutional Advisory Panel and how to make a submission

Poster: welcome poster with the invitation questions and some basic information about the Constitution Conversation

Postcards: an easy way for the public to complete, hand in or post to the Panel as a brief submission on the invitation questions

'Getting the Constitution Conversation Started' video: an introduction to the Constitution Conversation featuring Panel member Bernice Mene and entertainer Pio Terei

Storyboard of 'Getting the Constitution Conversation Started': a low-tech introduction to the Constitution Conversation for those without access to a computer or audio visual equipment.

All the resources were accessible as pdf or plain text word documents and could be printed directly from the engagement website (www.ourconstitution.org.nz). Hard copies of the resources in te reo Māori and English could be requested through a toll free 0508 phone number.

The Panel hopes that the resources will continue to be used by New Zealanders in their future constitutional conversations.

Promoting and communicating

The Panel promoted the Conversation through social media, Māori and English medium news media, and a bilingual website.

The Panel encouraged journalists and political commentators to write about the Constitution Conversation, hosting a media lunch in Wellington and Auckland and ensuring a regular information flow in the form of press releases. The Panel also advertised the Conversation on English medium television, Māori Television, regional and local newspapers, iwi radio and Facebook.

Websites

Establishing an online presence and ensuring access to the Panel's resources was fundamental to its engagement campaign. The Panel established two websites, one focused on the Panel itself as well as its early work (www.cap.govt.nz), and the second to promote engagement with the Conversation and allow people to submit (www.ourconstitution.org.nz).

Ourconstitution.org.nz was the main online driver of the Constitution Conversation, and was offered in both te reo Māori (www.kaupapature.org.nz) and English. The website also included material in New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) through a link to www.seeflow.co.nz, a website dedicated to providing NZSL resources.

Between 26 February and 1 August 2013 the engagement website had 166,887 page views. A total of 127,336 (76.3%) of these were unique, meaning that 23.7% of visits to the page were repeat visitors. On average, people spent one minute and 42 seconds on each page of the website. The amount of page views and the time spent reading the information on the page demonstrates that New Zealanders are willing to spend time thinking about constitutional matters when they are provided with the information to do so.

The website was a central repository for the Panel's resources and allowed people to make submissions. People were able to upload submissions as word, video or sound files. Many people took the opportunity to submit through the website, some on multiple occasions.

Facebook

New Zealanders increasingly expect social media engagement when consulting with the Government. Facebook also commonly engages a different demographic to other forms of public engagement such as face-to-face meetings. The page also provided another medium to encourage submissions.

The Constitution Conversation Facebook page had 6,414 'likes' by the end of the engagement period on 31 July. The number of likes exceeded initial expectations of about 2,000, given the complexity and breadth of the issues. The high number of likes is a promising sign for future Constitution Conversations. There is now an established network to engage New Zealanders with the ongoing conversation.

Likes are only one facet of engagement with the Facebook page and they do not translate directly to active engagement. Approximately 13,700 individual users were actively involved with the page over the course of the campaign, generating a total of around 25,600 stories.

The main users of the page were young and urban. Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch were the top three centres of engagement followed by Hamilton, Dunedin, Rotorua, Tauranga and Palmerston North. People under the age of 45 formed 82.5% of those liking the page. The single largest age group were those aged between 18 and 24 years old, with 30% of the total likes.

Creating a space where people feel able to put their point of view forward is one of the critical factors in fostering meaningful online discussions. The goal was to gradually build interest in the Constitution Conversation by sharing information on New Zealand's constitutional arrangements. For example, a video post of Panel Co-chair Professor John Burrows discussing the role of the Panel, and quizzes on basic constitutional questions, were used to promote the Conversation and spark interest.

Once the overview had been provided, each week looked to focus on a different topic from the terms of reference. The cycle of topics was repeated after all topics had been covered. Discussing and revisiting each issue in the terms of reference on its own allowed for a focused conversation and for people to develop their views over time.

Conversations between New Zealanders evolved throughout the campaign as new topics were shared and new people joined the page. Posts requesting feedback regarding New Zealanders' aspirations for society initially met with criticism, but over time people began to open up and become less guarded about sharing their dreams and aspirations. An evolution of views is uncommon in online forums because most people tend to stick to spaces which reinforce their own beliefs and values. By creating a neutral space people with very different perspectives were able to engage and share their views.

Media summary

The Panel generated media coverage across the country in a range of media. This was not an easy task, with many big issues garnering substantial media attention and the potential lack of information and interest in constitutional issues before the Conversation.

A total of 842 media reports mentioned the Constitutional Advisory Panel between 14 January and 31 July 2013. Press publications produced the most coverage, with 326 reports (38.7% of total coverage). Internet followed next (244 reports, 29% of total coverage), with radio close behind (225, 26.7%) and television providing the least (47, 5.6%).

Material released by the Panel generated 100 items of coverage (12% of total coverage). Targeted regional releases in January and February 2013 prompted proactive discussion of the Conversation before the official launch on 26 February 2013.

Interest in the Panel itself generated a further 142 media reports (17% of total coverage). Direct Panel engagement with the media tended to consist of radio and television interviews. The Panel focused largely on explaining the terms of reference, with an emphasis on its role and purpose.

Several of the regions contributed passionately to the Conversation. Bay of Plenty (including Rotorua) produced the most press coverage (51 reports, 15.6% of press). The content in Bay of Plenty press coverage was largely public-driven, with over half coming from letters to the editor and other user-generated content. Manawatu and Whanganui produced a significant amount (37, 11.3% of press) which was only just less than Auckland (38, 11.7% of press). Auckland did, however, have a significant proportion of broadcast content due to its combination of commercial media and Māori and Pacific Island community radio.

The Panel also approved a paid media campaign using television, radio, print and online advertising to reach a broad demographic of New Zealanders. The campaign took place in two stages near the beginning and end of the submissions period.

The first stage began on 7 April 2013 with television advertising going to air and press advertisements appearing in a range of newspapers. The aim of this stage of the national media campaign was to raise awareness of the Constitution Conversation and encourage people to participate.

The national television campaign reached an estimated 71% of New Zealanders with an average of over four views per person, mainly at peak times. Print media achieved similar results, with an estimated reach of 69.13% of New Zealanders and providing multiple opportunities to view the advertisement. The second stage of the national paid media campaign ran between 27 and 31 July 2013. The goal of this stage was to remind and encourage New Zealanders to make submissions. Online advertisements and press coverage were targeted at community publications in keeping with the Panel's focus on community conversations. The Panel also featured in interviews on TV33 Chinese Television.

Māori medium media

The Conversation has had comprehensive coverage on Māori Television and through the iwi radio stations. 'He Kaupapa Nui, He Kaupapa Ture - The Constitution Conversation' was advertised on 22 Māori radio stations from Kaitaia to Invercargill.

Prior to each regional hui the radio station ran an awareness-raising campaign including scripted ad lib mentions by radio announcers and interviews with either Panel members or well-known locals.

The advertisements on Māori Television were shown during programmes with high viewership including Code and Te Kaea. The Panel also participated in a debate on Native Affairs and promoted Te Kaupapa Ture on Te Tepu.

The focus for both the television and radio campaigns was the Panel's key messages about New Zealand's constitution, the Panel's role, the questions the Panel was asking, and information about how to be part of the Conversation.

At the completion of Stage Two a good level of awareness of the Constitution Conversation was achieved through community networks, media activities, the Panel websites, monthly updates to the Secretariat's contact database, and Panel members' own networks.

Stage Three: Wānanga – Thinking Together

The focus of this stage of engagement was for all people of Aotearoa New Zealand to have deeper conversations about constitutional matters with their existing networks, whānau, organisations, hapū and iwi.

General approach

The Panel undertook an inclusive and multi-faceted approach to engaging the people of Aotearoa New Zealand. Advice received through the early conversations was that 'town hall' style meetings do not encourage conversation, but are instead captured by loud voices and can be polarising. The Panel obtained support from a diverse range of communities, organisations, Rūnanga and institutions to host conversations within their own communities.

It was important to the Panel that people felt free to express their ideas in a safe environment. The citizen-driven engagement allowed communities to have a conversation in their own place and in a manner that supported their needs.

Hosting a conversation

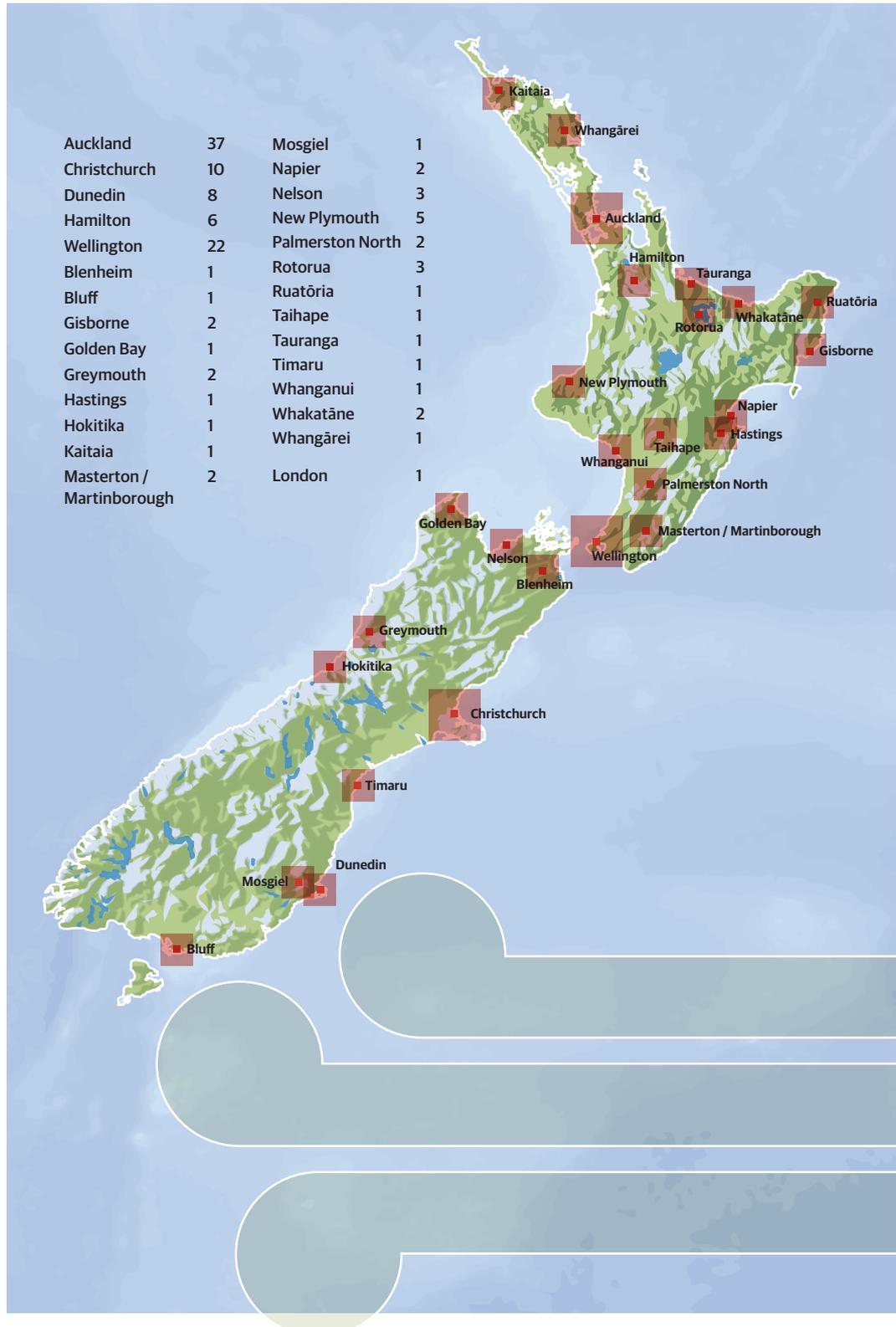
Individuals and collectives were encouraged to be part of the Conversation. The Panel started with the list of people who participated in the early conversations. Its approach was to provide multiple avenues for participation, encouraging communities and a cross-section of society to get involved in it. The Panel acknowledged however that this approach would not, in the time available, connect with every New Zealander.

The Panel invited people to host their own hui and if appropriate invite the Panel to attend. It also supported as many hui and community meetings as possible, either by providing resources, facilitators or assisting with venue hire. This offer of support was provided not only to Māori hui, but all groups who sought the Panel's support to host a Constitution Conversation within their community.

Geographic and sector spread

The Panel attended 104 engagement events, meeting with 107 organisations and communities who were representative of the diversity of Aotearoa New Zealand. Particular communities, including Tauranga and Gisborne, were actively interested in promoting and hosting conversations.

GEOGRAPHIC SPREAD OF ENGAGEMENT EVENTS:



The Conversation participants included:

Action Stations	Hato Petera College
Amnesty International Youth Group	Hawkes Bay Regional Council
Amnesty Skill Share Day	Institute for Governance and Policy Studies
Association of Non-Governmental Organisations of Aotearoa	Institute of Public Administration New Zealand
Auckland City Community Planning Committee	Kaitiaia Community Meeting
Auckland Disability Law	Lincoln University Students' Association
Auckland Regional Hui	Local Government NZ Māori Sub-Committee
Avondale College	Lower Hutt Regional Hui
Baywide Community Law Centre - Tauranga and Whakatane	McGuinness Institute
Bilingual Samoan School	Māori Law Review Symposium
Binding Referenda	Māori Women's Welfare League
Birkenhead College	Marlborough Law Society
Blenheim Community Meeting	Maxim Institute
Bluff Regional Hui	Mosgiel Rotary
Canterbury Law Society	National Council of Women - Nelson Branch
Canterbury University College House	Nelson Regional Hui
Christchurch Regional Hui	Network Waitangi Otautahi
Civics Education Action Group & Nelson Community Law Centre	New Plymouth District Council
Community Patrols Conference	Ngā Tapuwae School
Diocesan School for Girls	Ngāti Porou Hui ā-Iwi
Environment Canterbury	NZ ACT Party Auckland
Ephesus Group	NZ Chinese Association
Ethnic Leaders Forum (Christchurch)	NZ Council of Civil Liberties
Gisborne Community Meeting	NZ Expats in London
Gisborne District Council	NZ Federation of Multicultural Councils
Gisborne Regional Hui	NZ Human Rights Symposium
Hamilton Chartwell Parish Public Meeting	NZ Māori Council
Hamilton Regional Hui	NZ University Students' Association - Auckland, Christchurch, Dunedin, Rotorua, Wellington
Hamilton West National Party	Ormiston Senior College
Hastings Regional Hui	Otago Law Society
	Otago University Politics Department
	Pasifika Community Meeting - Dunedin

Pasifika Consultation Central Auckland,
Manukau, Mt Roskill

Public Service Association

Pukekura Rotary

Red Cross

Remuera Community Law Centre

Remuera Rotary

Rotorua Regional Hui

Rural Women Annual Conference

Russell McVeagh

Safer Aotearoa Family Violence
Prevention Network

Start Youth Services

Taradale Rotary

Taranaki Law Society

Taranaki Regional Hui

Te Arawa FM

Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Hoani Waititi

Te Mana Ākonga

Te Rūnanga Nui o ngā Kura Kaupapa
Māori o Aotearoa

Te Rūnanga o Ōtākou

U3A - Auckland, Golden Bay, Timaru

University of Canterbury Law Faculty

University of Otago

UN Youth New Zealand

Waikato Bay of Plenty Law Society

Waikato University

Wairarapa Community Law Centre

Wellington and Lower Hutt Community
Law Centre

Wellington Law Society

West REAP

Whakatāne Regional Hui

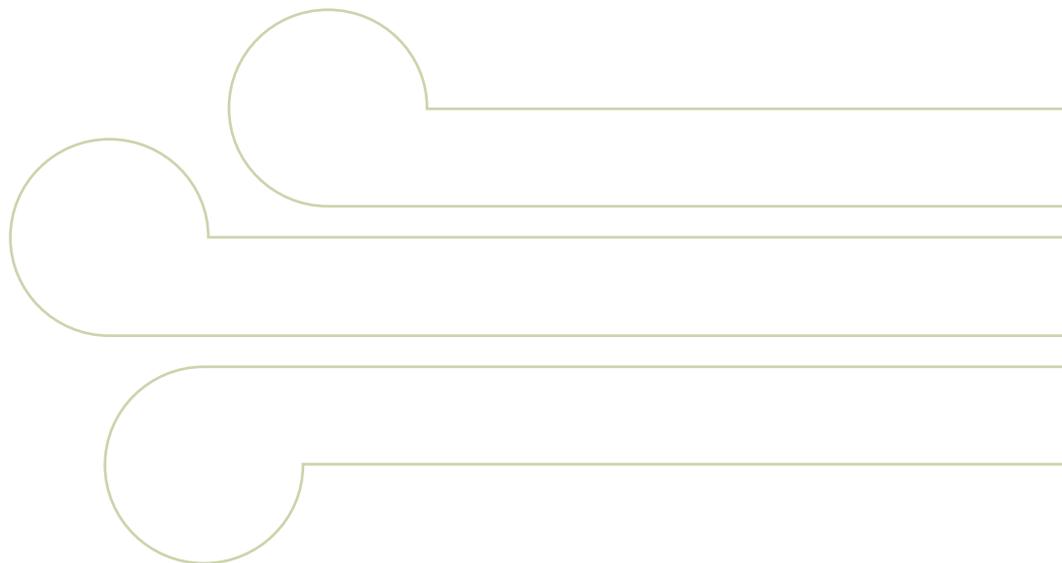
Whanganui Greypower

Whanganui Law Society

Whanganui Museum

Whanganui Regional Hui

Whangārei Regional Hui



Māori engagement – by Sir Tipene O’Regan (Māori Co-chair)

The Panel was collectively committed to engaging with iwi and hapū. As Māori Co-chair I was responsible for ensuring the Panel undertook appropriate consultation with Māori, but the responsibility for encouraging iwi and Ngāi Māori participation in Te Kaupapa Ture, The Constitution Conversation, was jointly held.

A number of different avenues for engaging iwi and hapū in the Conversation were explored including:

- direct correspondence with iwi Trust Boards, and Rūnanga chairpersons and chief executives
- hosting regional hui
- organising accessible resources and a website in te reo Māori
- promoting the Conversation through Māori Television and iwi radio
- actively encouraging people who were unable to attend hui to conversations through the Panel’s monitored facebook page
- engaging directly with rangatahi through kura kaupapa and wharekura.

In addition, the Panel met with the Iwi Chairs’ Forum and Aotearoa Matike Mai, and sought to engage with representatives from Rātana and the Kingitanga.

Regional hui

One of the key principles of successful engagement between the Crown and Māori is expressed as a key principle in the Panel’s engagement strategy that engagement be *kanohi ki te kanohi*.

The Panel supported Māori community hui throughout the country. The hui were located broadly within the regions identified by Te Puni Kōkiri. The Panel received advice from Te Puni Kōkiri noting the importance of hosting hui in Taranaki and Whanganui enabling iwi in these regions to be consulted within their tribal rohe. It was also considered advisable to host more than one hui in the South Island, not only because of the geographic size, but to ensure Te Tau Ihu and Ngāi Tahu iwi were consulted. We were also advised to hold hui in Kaitia and Whangārei.

In total the Panel held 13 regional hui in: Whangārei, Auckland, Hamilton, Whakatāne, Rotorua, Taranaki, Gisborne, Hastings, Whanganui, Wellington, Nelson, Christchurch and Bluff. It also supported additional hui hosted in Kaitia and Rotorua. Over 130 separate organisations, agencies, rūnanga, iwi and hapū were represented at the regional hui. The number of people attending them ranged from 15 in Whakatāne to 110 in Gisborne.

The numbers attending the hui are less important, however, as the Panel were reminded in Taranaki. One participant noted that although the numbers attending ā-tinana (in person) were few, in ā-wairua (in spirit) there were many. Each person present was part of a wider community network representing various organisations, whānau and tūpuna.

Broadly speaking, Māori are prepared to have conversations about our constitutional arrangements. Iwi and Māori have also been engaging with the Crown in a meaningful way for decades. For many the Conversation is not new, but iwi and hapū need time to consider the topics as a collective. The regional hui provided an opportunity for people to wānanga all the topics and provide oral submissions to the Panel.

Participants at the regional hui were clear that they expected their views to be recorded at the hui. Providing for oral submissions was an important aspect of engaging with Māori in accordance with their engagement preferences. A summary of the conversations recorded the thoughts, values and ideas shared at the hui, and it has been treated as formal submissions as requested.

The Panel recognises the conversations with iwi were limited by the timeframes. Ideally, the Panel would have hosted more hui throughout the country, ensuring all iwi had an opportunity to participate in the Conversation within their rohe.

Pasifika engagement

The Pasifika community is a growing demographic in New Zealand's population, and is increasingly seeking to be actively involved in discussions about this country's future. During the early conversations representatives of the Pasifika community identified that they were keenly interested in participating in conversations about the constitution. The Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs also provided the Panel with advice on how best to engage with Pasifika communities.

The Constitution Conversation demonstrated the Pasifika community's commitment to active participation, which the Panel supported. Community groups hosted three conversations in Auckland, one seeking the views of the academic community. Other events were designed to encourage input from community leaders in hosting Constitution Conversations in Auckland, Dunedin and Christchurch.

Pasifika conversations highlighted New Zealand's place as a Pacific nation, geographically and culturally. The Pasifika community consistently emphasised that New Zealand's relationships with its Pacific neighbours and its growing population within this country require more attention and care going forward.

Pasifika people's relationship with the Treaty of Waitangi was also a common topic of conversation. The community was often supportive of an ongoing constitutional role for the Treaty in New Zealand, but were concerned that the dialogue about the Treaty did not embrace new migrants. Other specific themes arising from the conversations relating to New Zealand as a Pacific nation included:

- **Citizenship:** particularly the desire for recognition of the unique status of Niueans, Cook Islanders and Tokelauans as part of the Realm of New Zealand. For members of the Realm complex questions about the difference between 'citizen' and 'migrant' were posed, with members of the Pasifika community often feeling automatically cast as the latter despite New Zealand citizenship at birth. For citizenship purposes New Zealand includes the Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau – people from the Realm nations are its citizens by birth
- **Security:** the strong desire for employment, health and economic security including full superannuation portability afforded to all New Zealand citizens residing in the Realm countries
- **Representation:** appropriate recognition and representation of people from Pasifika nations, including the Realm countries, within New Zealand's constitution and more consultation going forward with Pacific communities and the island nations
- **Electoral reform:** there was a preference to establish one elected Pacific ward seat in Auckland Council and one Pacific parliamentary seat in Auckland
- **Recognition:** of Pacific peoples in the New Zealand Human Rights Act 1993 by including Pacific peoples in the preamble to ensure they have a rightful place in New Zealand statute.
- **Education:** Pasifika communities identified a knowledge gap which can be harmful to meaningful participation in government. For instance, New Zealand's constitutional arrangements can be confusing for new migrants from Pacific countries and not enough effort is made to assist them in understanding the current situation.

Pasifika communities will want to be part of ongoing conversations about New Zealand's constitutional arrangements and Pasifika youth wanted more information, education and to be involved in further consultation.

Ethnic engagement

New Zealand's demographics are changing rapidly, and the Panel saw engaging with growing ethnic communities as a priority.

The NZ Federation of Multicultural Councils was an enthusiastic participant in the Conversation. The Federation was one of the first groups to host a conversation with the Panel. The Panel also attended an event with ethnic leaders organised by the Department of Internal Affairs and the Chinese Association Conference in Wellington. The Federation emphasised their aspiration 'to feel included and accepted as equal and legitimate citizens' as being of central constitutional importance. They felt merging ethnic communities would need access and acceptance into New Zealand society.

The Federation was also concerned that a largely bicultural institutional dialogue was excluding other ethnic groups who formed a significant part of New Zealand's changing demographics. The Treaty of Waitangi offered strong multicultural potential and, along with robust ethnic community engagement and development, would be critical to achieving access and acceptability in New Zealand.

Youth engagement

Although youth are traditionally considered hard to reach, the Panel's efforts to support conversations with young New Zealanders about the constitution were received enthusiastically. The Panel viewed the Constitution Conversation as part of a longer conversation about our constitution, one that would continue into the future. With the future in mind, engaging with young people was a priority for the Panel.

Young people often identified strongly with the Panel's high-level question about their aspirations for Aotearoa and tended to shy away from the specific technical legal questions. Young people do, however, expect that their dreams and expectations will be listened to. Engagement with young people demonstrated that many of them have a clear vision for the future and they want to see concrete action undertaken to achieve their high-level aspirations.

Auckland schools and young people's initiatives

The Panel supported three complementary initiatives to engage with youth in Auckland. The initiatives sought engagement with young people through three different avenues.

YouthLaw workshops

The first initiative was driven by YouthLaw in partnership with the Panel. YouthLaw participated in the early conversations and were active in promoting the Conversation, and their work has helped to spark an interest in ongoing Constitutional Conversations.

The initiative involved engaging directly with young people through local school holiday programmes, peer support groups, marae and church networks, and Youthline youth councils. There were 10 workshops held between April and June and 170 young people participated in them. Of the participants, 31 were under 18 years old and the remaining young people were aged between 19 and 24.

During these workshops the young people produced 156 individual written items including postcards, mind maps on A3 paper, and 28 video submissions. With the written submissions, participants were given the option to include their names and many chose not to. The video submissions often demonstrated a highly creative approach to the Conversation, including several different types of performance.

The main themes raised in the workshops included:

- **Employment:** as it improves pathways to employment
- **Education:** improved access to secondary and tertiary schools and more public education about politics, law and government
- **Representation:** more young people in government and lowering of the voting age to 16
- **Poverty:** equal access to healthcare and legal services
- **Identity and discrimination:** address the problem of racism against migrants and ethnic minorities and more pride in Māori culture and New Zealand identity.

Online survey

The Collaborative Trust facilitated and developed the second initiative: an online survey of young people aged 12–25. Over 1,000 young people from diverse backgrounds participated in the survey. The 20 survey questions were divided into six topics: Electoral Matters, New Zealand's Constitution, the Bill of Rights Act, the Treaty of Waitangi, Māori Representation and Other Representation.

Popular themes arising from the Conversation included:

- fairness and equality
- democratic representation
- transparency and accountability
- empowerment through opportunity.

School workshops

The third initiative saw young people engaged in the Conversation through their schools during school hours. Two hundred and eleven students from Avondale College, Birkenhead College, Diocesan School for Girls, Hato Petara College, Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Hoani Waititi, Te Kura Māori o Ngā Tapuwāe, and Ormiston Senior College participated in workshops. Themes arising from these workshops included:

- te Tiriti o Waitangi
- te reo Māori
- civics education
- equity and fairness
- access to education, housing and food
- environmental sustainability
- participation in decision-making
- minority representation
- the importance of healthy lifestyles and sport.

UN Youth New Zealand

The Panel attended workshops at this year's UN Youth Declaration in Auckland. Approximately 144 young people participated. Twelve focus groups facilitated discussions about the Panel's aspirational questions.

The final 2013 Declaration was presented to the Panel as a submission on behalf of the participants. The Declaration covered most of the Panel's terms of reference as well as a range of other issues. Particular emphasis was given to stronger methods for upholding human rights, protection of the environment, respect for the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, increasing transparency and accountability in government, and the promotion of civics education in schools.

Start Youth Services

The Panel attended a full day workshop run by Start Youth Services in Palmerston North. The engagement was focused primarily on young people in alternative education programmes, although the facilitators had extended a broader invitation to other schools in the region.

Participants at the workshop were not generally familiar with constitutional issues. Early activities and discussions during the day focused on building confidence to participate and communicating the basics of what a constitution does. Later in the day the facilitators ran innovative activities in smaller groups, with young people participating in creating artistic, musical and interview based conversations about New Zealand's constitution. This event was followed by an art and film exhibition at Te Manawa Museum of Art, Science and History in Palmerston North.

Themes arising from the Start Youth Services workshop included:

- participation – the importance of rangatahi having a voice in initiatives like the Constitution Conversation, and for older New Zealanders to create opportunities for young people to have their say
- representation – youth representation within Parliament and government was seen as necessary to ensure young people were appropriately consulted
- healthy communities – participants were particularly concerned with the lack of focus on local communities and not enough emphasis on promoting human well-being
- the need to accommodate diverse learning styles and needs in the education system, limited job opportunities and the high cost of living
- the harmful effects of synthetic drugs on youth and the community, discrimination and negative police experiences were also key issues for young people.

New Zealand University Students' Association

NZUSA ran a series of workshops across university and polytechnic campuses in Invercargill, Dunedin, Lincoln, Wellington, Rotorua and Auckland. The Panel were invited to present to the students at the workshops.

The Panel also targeted youth through the social media, in particular through Facebook pages managed by groups such as the Youthline youth council.

Disability communities

The Panel held early conversations with a range of other organisations working with the disabled community including:

- Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand
- Deaf Aotearoa
- Royal Foundation of the Blind.

The Panel supported a workshop with the disabled community in Auckland. The meeting was facilitated and arranged by Auckland Disability Law (ADL), which provided the Panel with the notes from the workshop with a clear expectation that they would be treated as a submission on behalf of the 40 participants.

Feedback from the engagement events

Participants in the Conversation were invited to complete a survey rating the engagement events. Overall, participants were satisfied with these events and resources produced by the Panel to support the Conversation. People reacted positively to the Conversation and wanted extra time to have more detailed conversations. Some people commented the events could be better advertised and there should have been more of them.

Stage Four: Wānanga – Deliberation

The Panel made the difficult decision not to hold deliberative forums. It was led to the decision to extend the submission period by the sheer number of people who wanted more time to have the Conversation and extra time to write their submission.

Stage Five: Pūrongo – Reporting and feedback

Throughout the engagement period the Panel provided the public, Responsible Ministers, and the Cross-party Reference Group of MPs with regular updates.

The Panel has also recommended to the Government that all the submissions be publically released at the same time as the report.