

The Kai Ora Fund: A collaborative effort to improve the local food supply in Northland

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The Kai Ora project is a story of collaboration starting with a chance conversation at the Northland Local Food Network and then a plan hatched between Te Tai Tokerau Primary Health Organisation and The Far North District Council, which eventually grew to include Te Puni Kōkiri, Manaia Health Primary Health Organisation, Northland Inc, Northland District Health Board and the Whangarei District Council.

The learning has been our organisations all have different purposes, and reasons for wanting Northlanders to eat more local food. The benefits of a stronger local food supply span health, economics, culture, community, resilience and emergency preparedness. We are not all interested in health, it's about seeing the big picture and the range of outcomes and results that bounce on and build on each other.

Partnership Learnings:

- **Partnership of organisations contributing funding, expertise and skills to the project.**
 - Linked purposes - Being clear that we want it for different reasons, but increasing consumption of locally grown food will benefit all our organisations
 - Everyone's purpose is equally important
 - Share and compromise – some projects perhaps health wouldn't fund if it were only up to them, some things the Council wouldn't fund. Agree to compromise and learn from the outcomes of our decisions
 - Take into account everyone's questions and concerns are answered
 - Keep up regular communication – updates on projects, changes moving forward
 - Give everyone a key role or task
 - With report writing and partnership agreements – tailor these to each organisations needs
 - Get positive media coverage for all organisations and ensure all partners are acknowledged.

For the Projects Funded

- A key aim of the Kai Ora Fund is to increase connection and collaboration in the sector and between the projects
- Offer to assist with the application process – and within this encourage applicants to contact and work with key people already in the field/sector
- All projects to attend a workshop to hear about and meet people from other projects and support organisations

- Regularly connect with projects and encourage links and synergies
- Provide updates on projects to the network
- The project team to be open, friendly, contactable and provide support to the projects when they hit bumps
- We increase connectivity by retaining relationships with projects funded in previous years and connecting them with new projects
- We increase connectivity by encouraging applicants to connect with and work with others in the community around their project and prioritise funding projects that show connection, collaboration and reaching those most vulnerable in communities.
- We connect and encourage other organisations to be involved, by keeping relevant organisations informed or upcoming timelines and what we are trying to achieve, keeping communication channels open, informing them of projects they might be interested in or who may need their skills, support or expertise
- Be clear we want to hear about the successes and failures, it's about trying new things and learning from them. Not everything will work and within communities things change, things get in the way – but the main thing is we share our learnings and experiences.