

An update from the Social Sector Commissioning Hub

Kia ora koutou

As 2023 is well underway, the Social Sector Commissioning Hub (housed at MSD) thought it was an important time to re-connect with you about the Social Sector Commissioning work underway right across government and the social sector. Our aim is to keep you updated about the work each quarter and make sure that you're aware and make the most of the upcoming opportunities. You can reach out if you have further questions at social_sector_enquiries@msd.govt.nz or visit our [webpage](#) to read more!

TEKOTEKO *(our purpose)*

The purpose of our work is to transform the way social supports and services are commissioned so they best support people, families, and whānau to live the lives they value. As the Social Sector Commissioning Hub, we provide active support, connection, and guidance to achieve this transformation.

POUTOKOMANAWA *(heartline)*

The government has listened and understands that strong, trust-based relationships between government agencies, funders, NGO providers, and community representatives must be at the forefront of commissioning social supports and services. That is why it is committed to adopting a relational approach to commissioning.

MAIHI - *(arms of our work)*

The [Social Sector Commissioning Action Plan](#) was launched in October 2022 and requires that a 'relational approach' to social sector commissioning becomes standard practice across government by 2028.

Standardising the relational approach needs government departments, Crown entities, iwi, NGO providers, and communities to work together differently to effectively make these changes sector wide.

By working together to adopt a relational approach to commissioning, we allow people's aspirations, experiences, lived realities, and goals to shape the supports and services they receive.

AMO *(Action plan, holding our work up, moving forward)*

Transforming commissioning across the entire social sector will take time and will affect the support delivered by NGOs in welfare, housing, health, education, child wellbeing, justice, and disability support.

The Social Sector Commissioning Hub is implementing a six-year Action Plan to make deep and sustainable changes. The Hub is in the first phase of that work, 'growing and extending', before moving to the 'scale up' phase in mid-2024. We're currently focusing on:

- Continuing to listen to and share the voices of people who are being supported, the communities to which they belong and those providing the support.
- Connecting with colleagues who are already working in a relational way to learn what is working for them and why and build on their successes.

- Developing tools, guidance, and training to support the sector's uptake of a relational approach to commissioning.
- Supporting government agencies and Crown entities to prepare to scale-up their planning around relational commissioning, so government commissioning is productive.
- Working with government agencies, Crown entities, NGOs, and communities to address system barriers, so we move forward in implementing a relational approach to commissioning.

We believe relational commissioning is the path forward to a community-driven, people-focused, sustainable, and **mutually beneficial** social sector that invests in intergenerational well-being for the people of Aotearoa New Zealand. By working together to adopt a relational approach to commissioning, we hope that we're able to allow people's aspirations, experiences, lived realities, and goals to shape the supports and services they receive.

We in the Hub look forward to hearing from you and connecting with you throughout 2023. You can reach out if you have questions to social_sector_enquiries@msd.govt.nz or visit our [webpage](#) to read more!

Ngā mihi

Maria-Laura



Maria-Laura Crespo

Co-Director, Strategic Issues and Investment
Ministry of Social Development