

Face to Face Reporting: An Opportunity to Share and Learn



The J R McKenzie Trust instigated kanohi ki te kanohi (face-to-face) roundtable reporting in 2016 as a way to engage with grantees as they shared their experiences around the mahi they had undertaken during the funding period. This approach replaced the more traditional written reports, and offered benefits to all involved that weren't previously available.

Meeting face to face with other groups that undertake either similar or different work provided grantees with an opportunity to share, learn and network. The J R McKenzie Trust team hoped that removing the requirement to write lengthy reports would help ensure that the grantees had more time to devote to their valuable mahi by spending less time on compliance. Face-to-face reporting also gave each grantee an opportunity to practice communicating their organisation's fantastic work to others, including potential funders/donors.

In 2017, the roundtable meetings took place in Auckland, Wellington and, for the first time, Invercargill. Almost 25 grantees gathered together over the three locations to share their achievements and successes, talk about the challenges they faced and how they overcame these, and discuss learnings and how these will influence future change.

The atmosphere in each room was upbeat and positive – everyone was keen to listen, learn and communicate. People were buoyed hearing other's experiences, knowing that they too were facing challenges and finding solutions. Advice was offered and received with gratitude. Successes were recognised and celebrated. One participant comment seemed to sum up the process perfectly: "I love it – it's all about relationships."

From the J R McKenzie Trust's perspective, this approach works really well. It presents an opportunity to connect with our grantees and better understand the important mahi that's taking place throughout Aotearoa New Zealand. The team came away from each gathering feeling inspired and humbled by the everyday heroes making real differences in their communities. We're looking forward to telling these stories and spreading the word.

