

January 2025



EMBRACING BICULTURALISM

Treaty of Waitangi Workshops for New Kiwis





Overview: The "Embracing Biculturalism" project successfully delivered a series of Treaty of Waitangi workshops to 120 kiwis including, new Kiwis in Auckland, focusing on fostering a deeper understanding of Maori culture and promoting bi cultural awareness.

The workshops were held over several months, with participants from diverse backgrounds, including former refugees, asylum seekers, and migrants.

The project aimed to bridge cultural gaps, enhance social inclusion, and empower participants with the knowledge necessary to integrate smoothly into New Zealand society.









Key Achievements:

Increased Cultural Awareness: Participants gained a comprehensive understanding of the Treaty of Waitangi and its significance in New Zealand's history and contemporary society. This was reflected in the high level of engagement and positive feedback received during and after the workshops.

Enhanced Social Inclusion:

The workshops provided a platform for new Kiwis to connect with Maori culture and other ethnic communities, fostering a sense of belonging and reducing social isolation. Participants reported feeling more confident in engaging with the broader community and understanding their role within New Zealand's bicultural framework.

Promotion of Te Reo Maori:

The integration of te reo Maori into the workshops was well-received, with participants showing increased interest in learning the language. This initiative contributed to the broader goal of preserving and promoting te reo Maori as a living language within New Zealand.

Strengthened Community Ties:

The project facilitated the building of meaningful relationships between participants and Maori community members, fostering mutual respect and collaboration. This has laid the foundation for ongoing engagement and support between the communities involved.





Challenges and Lessons Learned

Language Barriers:

While translation services were provided, some participants faced challenges due to language differences. Future projects may benefit from additional multilingual resources and more extensive language support.

Logistics:

Organizing transportation for participants without access to travel means was a logistical challenge that required significant coordination. Ensuring easy access to future workshops will be crucial for broader participation.

Impact and Future Directions:

The project has made a significant impact on the participants, enhancing their understanding of Maori culture and the Treaty of Waitangi, which is vital for their successful integration into New Zealand society. The success of this project has highlighted the importance of cultural education for new immigrants and has set a precedent for similar initiatives in the future.

Moving forward, the project team plans to expand the reach of these workshops, incorporating more in-depth cultural exchanges and continued support for new Kiwis as they settle into their new communities.

Overall, the "Embracing Biculturalism" project has not only educated and empowered its participants but has also strengthened the fabric of New Zealand's multicultural society by fostering mutual respect, understanding, and collaboration among its diverse communities.