TE TIRITI CONVERSATIONS

HOW TO TALK WITH FRIENDS, WHĀNAU AND WORKMATES

It is important to share why Te Tiriti matters to us, and to Aotearoa, with those we know. Many of these conversations are likely to be about guiding people to resources (like this one) or discussing questions they may have. However, if things get tricky, here are some helpful tips.

TIPS TO GUIDE TRICKY CONVERSATIONS

💗 Take a deep breath – start with listening and reflecting on feelings and experience.

"I can see/sense that's making you feel worried."

"I hear what you're saying."

👀 Approach the conversation with curiosity to compassionately clarify

"What makes you feel this way?"

"Where did you hear about this?"

💕 Let them know why you care

"I care about... all of us being valued for who we are. Where our unique and complementary strengths are what unite us."

"I value... learning from others and being open to different perspectives. Working in partnership with Māori ensures care for all people and the environment."

"I want a future... for our kids where we embrace Te Tiriti o Waitangi as a way to live together respectfully and peacefully."

TIPS TO GUIDE TRICKY CONVERSATIONS (CONT...)

🌱 Do the learning to plant the seeds – introduce alternative stories of hope and unity

"Have you considered..."

"Do you think it's possible that..."

"I heard about..."

👐 Keep the conversation open if you want to. We can come back to this another time!

"Just wanted to let you know why it is important to me. I'm here if you want to talk about it another time."

"What are you getting up to for the rest of the weekend?"

Stopping the spread of misinformation

Try to avoid repeating false information, even to disprove it, as this will only reinforce that information for other people. Instead, focus on the tips included and present alternatives.

Based on a comic by Tauiwi Tautoko

FOLLOW THE GUIDANCE AND PRESENT ALTERNATIVES, SUCH AS:

"I didn't really understand what the treaty was about. Now I know more about it, I feel that whānau, hapū, and iwi, having the power and resources to determine their own futures as was promised in Te Tiriti is an exciting possibility for all of us. I think about how Māori are taking actions, like restoring the health of waterways and opposing mining, to protect the environment for future generations. And how during times of crisis, like floods and earthquakes, marae often lead the way in providing care and shelter for everyone."

I saw a recent poll that said that over 80 percent of New Zealanders think that positive relationships between Māori and Government are important and 78 percent of New Zealand adults believe that respectful discussion of Te Tiriti is also important. To me that shows the values of respect and fairness that I care about and that are important to us as a country."

"From learning about New Zealand history, I see why we need to heal the harms of colonisation. I think that much like in our personal relationships, when there's a tension or conflict that hasn't been properly addressed and healed, it stops us being able to work effectively together."

Te Tiriti is a powerful unifying document for Aotearoa which is central to a healthy democracy. We are surrounded by examples of communities working together to heal our past and to restore balance and wellbeing for people and the planet through respectful relationships.

If there is particular learning or examples that have been impactful for you, you might want to share them with others. We also encourage you to share this conversation guide and other Te Tiriti resources with those who might find it useful.

SCAN FOR RESOURCES