

## Taking the next steps Te Ahu Whakamua

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New Zealand

### This step

- Overarching comments
- Findings specifically related to the questions
- Findings from each sector for the association
- Summing up
- Personal actions

## Overarching messages

This conference has focussed on the 'we' – taking back responsibility ourselves

Our job is to influence the change

We need to take on responsibility to ensure quality education is being developed, conducted and evaluated

Ongoing professional development is an issue for all of us

So much to be done...each sector will need to prioritise against what will make a difference

## We said better means:

- Working together more: building and maintaining relationships/partnerships
- More sharing, promoting and profiling of good work
- More with less
- Improving planning and evaluation
- Better inclusiveness of cultural perspectives
- Deeper engagement with issues
- Improved professional skills
- Targeting programmes appropriately to the issue, audience, purpose

## We need to

- Take on leadership
- Focus on quality
- Do it ourselves
- Develop partnerships with others
- Infuse our programmes with better thinking
- Improve strategic planning and evaluation

## Messages from across the conference

- EE is not defined by action; it is defined by action and purpose
- We need to address the big underlying issues better
- Rational argument takes you only so far
- We are in a time of particular political neglect
- We need to be resilient – preserve our gains, hold our ground
- Be ready for when the political will to support EE returns

## More conference messages

- There are some big issues that affect everything we are trying to do
- There is a sense of urgency
- We need to work on the causes of the problems not just the symptoms
- Our biggest challenge – ever increasing social inequity
- A huge challenge to shift people back from consumers to citizens

## We are going to:

- Network and share
- Improve access to resources
- Continue to include young people in meaningful strategic ways
- Strengthen the education and sustainability aspects of our strategies and policies
- Improve our strategic planning – build in evaluation
- Take time to reflect, evaluate, improve
- Communicate and work together better
- Develop and enhance relationships

## and...

- Strengthen community development
- Form national special interest groups
- Upskill through personal development
- Value children, parents and the community as teachers
- Increase public profile
  - “schmooze the media”
  - “up the EE profile”
  - “stand in the radar”
  - “capture people emotionally”
- Document our work and provide evidence
- Make EE sustainable
- Spread and strengthen leadership

## *Messages to ourselves - youth*

- Hold a pre-conference youth stream
- Have youth representation on NZAEE executive
- Be formal and informal mentors
- Publicise opportunities
- Be accessible

### *Messages to ourselves - community & business*

- Assist in strategic planning for business
- Upgrade website
- Increase membership
- Raise profile of NZAEE
- Broaden focus

### *Messages to ourselves - early childhood*

- Support EC better
- Provide an EC forum
- Inform about EE resources
- Help with EE funding

### *Messages to ourselves - primary*

- Raise awareness of NZAEE
- Provide more networking opportunities
- Engage politically
- Have an evidence-based viewpoint
- Provide more personal contact with schools

### *Messages to ourselves - secondary*

- Support schools
- Provide an open forum for sharing
- Share success stories
- Provide professional development
- Assist youth transition to tertiary
- Improve website – active – resources

### *Messages to ourselves - tertiary*

- Presence on website
- Representation on exec
- More research students at conference
- More active in getting research funds
- Database of sustainability research

### *Messages to ourselves – local and central government*

- Up NZAEE political presence
- Lobby Ministry for the Environment for support
- Provide professional development in regions
- Look after membership
- Make better use of website
- Support evaluation and research

## *Messages to ourselves as NZAEE members*

- Prioritise what we can do within our resources
- Encourage all members to contribute to improving profile and effectiveness of the Association
- Facilitate professional development
- Improve website
- Facilitate partnerships
- Communicate what NZAEE does

## Summing up

- We are diverse yet we have a common direction
- What we want to do and need to do is big
- We need to focus on our resources and prioritise what is going to be the most effective
- We don't have to do it by ourselves

Ask ourselves:

- How can I make the things happen that I want to see?
- Who can I work with?

Stretch yourself

Be brave



“If it’s worth hoping for, it’s worth working for.”

Phil Smith



## The next step - my goals for the year or 2

- What can I do at a day-to-day level to improve and deepen the quality of my practice?
- What actions can I take to help support and grow what is happening regionally, in my sector or with my peers and colleagues?
- How can I ensure the actions I take also help support or have impact in my wider spheres of influence? (e.g. NZAEE, politically, other groups or organisations, AAEE...)
- Do I need a partner?