



Caring for Our People

Manaakitia ā tātou tāngata

March 2018

Malo e lelei! Talofa lava! Bula! Greetings! Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou katoa!

I have just finished the majority of visiting people and places around the country so again... thank you to the people that have welcomed me into their places of worship, their meetings and their workplaces. Thank you to the people that have taken their time to listen to me and for all your efforts in Caring for Our People.

Trudy's tirade - what does health and safety mean to you?

I apologise. I just can't wrap my head around handing out practical tips and tricks this month to help us Care for Our People Manaakitia ā Tātou Tāngata.

After visiting some awesome people for the past fortnight I have started to think about attitudes to this thing called health and safety.

I have also been pondering the soundness of the phrase "Caring for Our People Manaakitia ā Tātou Tāngata".

Is health and safety an overcooked goose inflicted upon you by an anonymous, looming, government body?

Or do you feel like the force fed goose with health and safety being continuously forced down your throat whether you want it or not?

My personal view is that "health and safety" is an overused phrase, however the legislation is a necessary reminder that we need to care for ourselves and others, which I believe is something that we do as a matter of everyday activity.

I witnessed this at recent meetings, where an out-of-towner was especially escorted to a meeting so they didn't have to drive solo through Auckland traffic. Somebody else had supplied breakfast for the early-start-travellers. Newcomers to the building were shown the facilities, so there was no awkward crab-stepping up the corridors to find the necessary.

These are prime examples of Caring for Our People Manaakitia ā Tātou Tāngata and why I prefer that phrase rather than health and safety.

To me, health and safety can be seen as a mechanical, tick-the-box exercise that limits our natural habits whereas Caring for Our People Manaakitia ā Tātou Tāngata encourages us to do what we would normally do but more so!

Don't discount mechanical exercises just yet! People focussed processes that have been researched and carried out under "health and safety" can only enhance our efforts to Care for Our People Manaakitia ā Tātou Tāngata. Using health and safety processes while Caring for Our People Manaakitia ā Tātou Tāngata provides the means of consistency and evidence to our efforts.

Looking for little opportunities to Care for Our People Manaakitia ā Tātou Tāngata, builds the behaviour to look for the bigger opportunities to Care for Our People Manaakitia ā Tātou Tāngata. Ideally this approach would colour all of our decision making and behaviours.

Would you prefer to be asked to Care for Our People Manaakitia ā Tātou Tāngata or to "undertake health and safety"?

How would you incorporate Caring for Our People Manaakitia ā Tātou Tāngata into everything you do and every decision you make?

He aroha whakatō, he aroha puta mai.. *If kindness is sown, then kindness you shall receive.*

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