

# Future Search Facilitation

A unique training opportunity



Future Search is a principles-based action planning approach that enables the ‘whole system’ into the room. It is a globally renowned process that brings together people who share an interest in a particular issue or challenge to collaborate to find solutions and act on them together. For the first time, training in Future Search facilitation is available in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The Centre for Social Impact (CSI), in partnership with the global Future Search Network (FSN), is offering a unique opportunity for facilitators doing impact work for social, environmental and cultural outcomes to;

- › learn the fundamentals of Future Search
- › become certified Future Search facilitators
- › join the worldwide community of Future Search practitioners to collaborate, share knowledge and grow together.

## The Future Search Training experience

The Future Search training experience is a three-day journey of curiosity, discovery and growth. With your fellow participants, you will choose a challenge to work on to model the Future Search process. Through this, you will learn the fundamentals of Future Search facilitation, gain hands-on experience, learn from mistakes, celebrate successes and share insights with peers.

You will acquire the tools you need to plan, design and facilitate a Future Search to:

- › create a shared vision and action plans for an organisation, network or community
- › enable diverse voices to find and act on common ground and take responsibility for their own action plans
- › help people implement an existing vision that they have yet not acted on together

## The participants

Up to thirty places are available. Participants will have:

- › previous facilitation experience
- › an interest in systems change
- › experience in contributing to impact work for social, environmental and cultural outcomes
- › a high tolerance for uncertainty, human variability, unpredictability and stretches of anxiety and confusion.... that can turn to energy and collective commitment
- › a wish to support people to discover one another, grow, create and achieve action

Does this sound like you? [Please click here to register now.](#)

## The trainer

The training process will be guided by CSI associate, Miranda Cassidy-O’Connell.

Miranda has extensive experience in creating conditions that enable diverse voices to reach common ground. She did her Future Search facilitation training in the USA in 1999 and is actively engaged in the global Future Search Network.

With tangata whenua, Miranda has co-facilitated Future Search events across Aotearoa since 2013. Case studies of these events are found on the [Future Search - Centre for Social Impact](#) website. Miranda is currently supporting two active Future Search wānanga, one with a national focus and one on post-Treaty settlement aspirations. She is also working with other sectors exploring Future Search as a pathway for their collective action-planning.

This year (2025) Miranda has been certified by Future Search Network’s directors, Sandra Janoff and Michael Donnelly, to run Future Search facilitator training in Aotearoa New Zealand.



Miranda Cassidy-O’Connell (Photo credit: Dave Olsen)

## Future Search participant feedback

*“This Future Search wānanga restored my faith in humanity that we can solve our problems.”* Dr James Williams, (Scientist participant at Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe Future Search, 2023)

*“It is enlightening and comforting to know there is so much in common. It makes me optimistic.”* Taputukura Raea, (Youth participant, FISHinFuture Search, 2013)

*“The marvel of the Future Search hui to me was the amount of common ground it allowed us all to establish, and the amount of listening to other people’s perspectives that it allowed, in such a short period of time.”* Mark Russell (Conservation participant at Waiheke Marine Project Future Search, 2020)

*“We already have good planning skills amongst many agencies- but we are disconnected or working alone on our projects. The style of hui and the facilitation team helped connect a few dots- that allowed a few long overdue kōrero and understanding of different perspectives as well as drafting strategies or amicable strategic relationships going forward.”* Hilda Halkyard-Harawira, Te Rarawa (Mana Whenua participant at Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe Future Search, 2023)

## The details

- › The training will be held at **Te Manawa, Westgate, West Auckland August 15-17, 2025**
- › The course cost: \$1,522 (GST exclusive) \$1,750 (GST inclusive)
- › The course is three days of experiential learning. Participants are expected to be there for the full duration of the course, from 9.30am on Day One through to 5.00pm on Day Three.
- › You will receive a workbook, and a copy of the textbook Future Search, Getting the whole system in the room for vision, commitment and action
- › On completion of the course, you will receive
  - › certification as a Future Search facilitator from partners Centre for Social Impact and the Future Search Network
  - › one-year membership to the global Future Search Network



Te Manawa, Westgate (Photo credit: Auckland Council)

## Want to know more about Future Search?

Co-founder Marvin Weisbord strove for *wholeness in a fragmented world*. This is what the Future Search process helps us work towards.

*“Future Searches enable organizations and communities to learn more together than any one person can discover alone. Bringing the ‘whole system into the room’ makes feasible a shared encounter with complexity and uncertainty leading to clarity, hope and action. The key word is shared. When we explore common ground with others, we release creative energy, leading to action and projects that all value and none can do alone.*

*“Future Search is time efficient. People need not master abstract concepts to do good planning. They need only show up and use the skills, experience, and motivation they already have. We are seeking what people already want to do and never dreamed they could. Rarely do people encounter these key conditions for action all at once.”*

- Sandra Janoff & Marvin Weisbord



Te Oneroa-a-Tōhe Future Search 2023 (Photo credit: Jos Wheeler)

## The Future Search process is formed around key principles:

1. Get the “whole system” in the room. Invite a significant cross-section of all parties with a stake in the outcome – those with authority, resources, expertise, information and need.
2. Explore the “whole elephant” before seeking to fix any part. Get everyone talking about the same world.
3. Put common ground and future focus front and centre while treating problems and conflicts as information, not action items.
4. Encourage self-management and responsibility for action by participants before, during and after the Future Search.

When utilised in Aotearoa New Zealand, a fifth principle of Treaty Partnership guides the Future Search process:

5. From co-leadership throughout the project planning to co-facilitation at the wānanga, running a Future Search in Aotearoa New Zealand embraces Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

## Useful links

[Future Search - website of global Future Search Network](#)

[Future search - Centre for Social Impact website](#)

If you have any queries, please email [contact@csinz.org](mailto:contact@csinz.org)