



# A SCHOOL FOR CHANGEMAKERS.

Successful communities have, at their heart, effective social entrepreneurs: people who see needs and build new initiatives to address them, often out of very little. Their efforts create not just social benefits, but also new employment opportunities and business models.

In Auckland, whilst many of our people and communities are under pressure, social entrepreneurs see opportunities for positive change. Young people, Maori and Pacific Island people, Asian people, new migrants, socially-aware business people – many see the potential to innovate new ways of meeting needs in their own communities and beyond.

Right now, we are providing very little focused support to these social entrepreneurs by way of training, development, mentoring, networking, or access to capital. Whilst programmes such as the NZ Social Entrepreneur Fellowship, supported by the Tindall Foundation, Auckland City's ART venture, and the University of Auckland's Spark Entrepreneurship Challenge have blazed a trail, there is at present no ongoing, widely accessible source of training and support for many social entrepreneurs in this country.

As one Pacific community leader said recently: *"We've looked around and there's nothing available. I've got nowhere I can send my young community leaders to help them get the skills they need to grow their organisations."*

Internationally, a stand-out model for supporting social entrepreneurs is the School for Social Entrepreneurs. Founded in London in 1997, it is now franchised in 11 regional schools across the UK, Ireland and Australia, with other international schools in development.

The School for Social Entrepreneurs is unique in its focus on deep support for both individuals and their organisations. It brings together cohorts of around 20 social entrepreneurs for a year-long programme, with each student working to develop their own project throughout the year.

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In the UK, there are over 400 SSE Fellows, with over 85% of all organisations established whilst at the SSE still in existence. For every 10 fellows, 30 jobs and 69 volunteering positions are created.

The Centre for Social Innovation is bringing together a small group of potential funders together to explore the opportunity for a School for Social Entrepreneurs, with an initial school in Auckland. A scoping project will commence in early 2010.

[www.nzcsi.org](http://www.nzcsi.org) | [www.sse.org.uk](http://www.sse.org.uk)



## What is a social entrepreneur?

A social entrepreneur is someone who works in an entrepreneurial manner, but for social benefit. Social entrepreneurs work in the community sector, ethical businesses, as well as local and central government bodies.

While business entrepreneurs identify untapped commercial markets, social entrepreneurs see people and communities in need who have not yet been reached by other initiatives. What they have in common are their creativity, their willingness to take risks, their ambition, and their ability to marshal resources – sometimes from the most unlikely places – to meet their needs.

Social entrepreneurs walk very different paths to achieve their mission. Some focus on local communities; some tap markets across NZ; some respond to national issues; and some focus internationally. They focus on people including children, old people, people with untapped potential, as well as the environment.

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