




Getting the most out of a mentor

When you are embarking on something new, there is a lot to navigate and learn. It's easy to feel isolated or overwhelmed. It is great to have someone that can walk alongside you, and act as a sounding board, guide, advisor, cheerleader and connector.


Current Mentors

-  List any mentors you have or have had in the past and what you find/found useful from them

Think about what people you have in your life and how they have supported you – then think about what you might need for the next phase of your entrepreneurial journey and who might be able to help.



Potential Mentors

-  List any people you would like to have as a mentor and what you'd hope to gain/learn from them

Mentoring is a mutually beneficial relationship over time where as an emerging entrepreneur, you get the benefit of someone else's knowledge or experience, and they in turn to give back through the opportunity to share what they know and support someone else's journey. It can be an informal arrangement with someone you know, or it could be a more structured arrangement with a business mentor. Either way, it's win win!

Here are some tips to help you get the most out of mentoring:

What a mentor can help you with:


- Exploring your idea further
- Discussing market realities
- Considering viability
- Encouragement and motivation
- Writing a business plan
- Strategic planning
- Forecasting
- Networking
- Linking you with other resources and support.


How to get the most out of mentoring:

- Be prepared, every time
- Be organised
- Be punctual
- Be reliable, and follow through on what you agree to do
- Know what you need from your mentor
- Prepare questions you want to ask
- Be purposeful and succinct
- Remember this mentor is a volunteer.

A mentor is not someone who walks ahead of you to show you how they did it. A mentor walks alongside you to show you what you can do.

Think about these things before seeking a mentor:

-  What I will bring to the mentoring relationship: (Think about the strengths you know you have)

-  Anything else you might need or do?

**Mā mua ka kite a muri, mā muri ka ora a mua.
Those who lead give sight to those who follow,
those who follow give life to those who lead.**