

Hon Andrew Little

Minister of Health
Minister Responsible for the GCSB
Minister Responsible for the NZSIS
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations
Minister Responsible for Pike River Re-entry



Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into the Terrorist Attack on the Christchurch Mosques

Arihia Bennett
Chair
Kāpuia
By email: kapuia@dpmc.govt.nz

Ref: AL MIN 21-034

23 August 2021

Kia ora Arihia

Thank you for your letter of 30 July 2021, in which you formally raise Kāpuia's concerns regarding current community consultation processes. I appreciated the opportunity to hear those concerns first-hand from Kāpuia at its meeting in Wellington on 28 July 2021.

I have discussed these concerns with Hon Kris Faafoi, Minister of Justice and Immigration and Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan, Minister for Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities, and Associate Minister for Social Development and Employment. We have agreed that the Ministries of Justice and Social Development will respond to Kāpuia directly regarding the specific concerns it has raised about their recent public consultation on social cohesion and incitement.

I have also noted the more general concerns Kāpuia has raised about government consultation processes. As the Prime Minister stated when the Government accepted the Royal Commission of Inquiry's report, and as I reinforced when I met with Kāpuia, my colleagues and I are committed to ensuring that the needs and concerns of communities are reflected in the implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into the Terrorist Attack on the Christchurch Mosques (RCOI).

As you are aware, Recommendation 38 of the RCOI identifies the need for agencies to utilise the International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) spectrum for public participation in their engagement with communities. As part of the Government's response to Recommendation 38, and also reflecting on the community hui conducted earlier this year, the Policy Project (a unit of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet) has developed a draft Community Engagement Approach and Checklist (the Checklist) for government agencies responding to the RCOI report.

The Checklist supports agencies to plan and implement engagement in a way that is consistent with the Quality Assurance Standards of IAP2. It supports agencies to consider the nature and appropriate level of community participation and influence for each initiative, as well as guiding choices regarding engagement format to reduce barriers to participation, (including venues and timing), for hui. When used effectively it will go some way to addressing the concerns that Kāpuia has raised. The Checklist builds on early guidance for community engagement that was developed by DPMC prior to the release of the RCOI report (this is

available on the DPMC website at: <https://dPMC.govt.nz/our-programmes/policy-project/policy-methods-toolbox/community-engagement>.

Officials would like to seek input from Kāpuia on the Checklist before it is finalised for use. I hope that it can be considered by Kāpuia at its hui on 9 September 2021.

Thank you for identifying issues with the timing and location of community engagements that have been undertaken so far. I have asked that these points are passed on to agencies to inform planning for future engagements.

The concerns you have raised about coordination of agencies' engagement with communities have been raised with us previously, and we do want to improve engagement. While agencies have taken steps to align engagement undertaken so far, I have asked that agencies take note of the specific points you have raised and take a more coordinated approach. Agencies involved in the RCOI response are actively sharing the lessons they are learning to ensure that engagement supports the development of effective policy, which meets the needs of communities. I anticipate that the Checklist will further assist agencies to improve coordination of their engagements.

To ensure that Kāpuia has oversight of the work underway across agencies responding to the RCOI report, officials will be sharing a draft forward work programme with Kāpuia for review and input. Feedback from Kāpuia on the work programme will support agencies' planning, particularly with regards to community engagement.

I would like to thank you and the members of Kāpuia for raising their concerns with me. The group is already making a difference by providing me with its independent advice on these important matters and I look forward to continuing to work with you and all the group members.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Andrew Little". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hon Andrew Little

Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into the Terrorist Attack on the Christchurch Mosques