



Kāpuia

Ministerial Advisory Group on the Government Response to the
Royal Commission of Inquiry on the terrorist attack on Christchurch mosques

Kāpuia Advice: 2021/04

19 October 2021

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

E Te Minita, Tēnā Koe,

At our hui on 9 September and 13 October we had the opportunity to review and reflect on the *Government response to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the terrorist attack on Christchurch masjidain – Responsible Ministers meeting 3 August 2021: Work Programme* document sent to Kāpuia for our advice. We understand you propose recommending the draft work plan to Cabinet later this year.

Reviewing the Government's proposed response to the RCOI report is a significant duty of Kāpuia, as set out in our terms of reference. Accordingly, we waited for all our members to be appointed to form our view and provide a response to you. To assist in our consideration, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and agencies also provided supplementary information with more detailed explanations of these proposals and intended timings.

From our meetings with you, we understand that initiatives which have already commenced were largely ones where there was already a programme of work underway or that they were ready to start or easily commenced. We also understand that timings for initiatives have been influenced by sequencing issues and available resourcing. The progress of some initiatives will also be influenced by some decisions around Budget 2022. Due to these factors, and because Kāpuia has yet to be fully briefed by the relevant lead agencies on all the initiatives, Kāpuia has not specifically commented on the planned timing of initiatives at this stage. We also understand that the plan will be a living document, and that there will be further opportunities to advise you if Kāpuia considers changes are required to the timing or sequencing of initiatives, as more information becomes available. Taking these factors into consideration, Kāpuia considers the draft Government response should be submitted for Cabinet consideration.

However, there are a number of matters that Kāpuia would like to raise regarding the Government's planned response to the RCOI report to enhance the Government's overall response.



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We can see a range of opportunities to transform this plan into a stronger and more integrated response work programme. There are several related factors which we consider would deliver this:

- The draft work plan should be nested within a strong theory of change that identifies the outcomes that the Government expects to deliver through the response and linkages to other Government priorities and work programmes. Together these should also create confidence they will deliver wellbeing (including environmental, social, cultural and economic wellbeing) for all New Zealanders, as well as making New Zealand safer and more inclusive.
- The plan should be accompanied by a robust evaluation and monitoring framework, as this will help all government agencies and communities drive the work programme and assess its success over time. Kāpuia will also draw on this framework as part of its oversight and monitoring role. We note in your letter to Kāpuia of 12 October, that your officials are commencing work on this, but consider the response work plan should be reviewed when that framework has been developed.
- It would be beneficial to have fewer and more integrated themes for the work plan. For example, some matters such as community engagement should be integrated into all work streams, rather than being carved out as a separate theme. Many of the response initiatives will also influence several of the proposed themes, for example work by the Ministry of Education around Recommendation 36 will influence inclusion but also potentially public engagement and social licence around national security and countering terrorism.
- While the work plan identifies lead government agencies for initiatives, the current framework does not create confidence it is supported by a cohesive interagency approach. Kāpuia considers that interagency collaboration, as well as community engagement, are central to the successful delivery of the Government's vision for the RCOI response. In this regard, Kāpuia is also committed to building relationships with the relevant agencies to support the successful delivery of the response.

We also identified some matters which we believe should be added to or more clearly identified in the work plan:

- To properly focus on diversity and inclusion, the roopu considers ministerial and agency leadership of the RCOI response should include the population portfolios (including Te Puni Kokiri, the Ministry for Ethnic Communities, the Ministry for Pacific Peoples, the Health and Disability Commissioner and the Ministry for Women).
- It should be clearer that combating racism is a priority for the response, and peace-building should be integrated into the response programme.
- Response initiatives to support national security, countering terrorism, violent extremism and hate crime must be well-resourced, and cyber security and cyber safety should be more prominent in the work plan.
- Education will be an influential driver of change and should come through more clearly in the plan, and work on diversity and inclusion must continue beyond mid-2022.



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We look forward to continuing opportunities to work with you and your colleagues on this important mahi, and we believe that the draft work plan can deliver positive change for Aotearoa New Zealand if the matters we have identified are addressed.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Bennett'.

Arihia Bennett MNZM

Chair

Kāpuia