

31 August 2021

Arihia Bennett MNZM
Chair
Kāpuia

Tēna koe Arihia

Thank you for raising Kāpuia's concerns regarding current community consultation processes on the incitement of hatred and discrimination engagement the Ministry of Justice recently ran.

Hon Andrew Little passed your letter of 30 July 2021 to the Ministry so that we could respond to your concerns.

We appreciate you raising these issues and always welcome feedback on how we can improve engagement processes.

Kathy Brightwell, General Manager Civil & Constitutional, will attend Kāpuia's meeting on 9 September to hear your concerns in person and discuss our engagement with you.

To provide some background to the engagement, the Ministry was seeking to get extensive reach across groups that experience incitement to hatred speech. This included Māori, Pasifika, migrants and former refugees, ethnic communities, faith-based groups, rainbow communities, youth, and disability communities.

The primary means to seek public views on the incitement of hatred and discrimination proposals was through the discussion document and summary document. Comment could be provided through the online portal, via email, or posting a hard copy. To get the broadest reach possible, the discussion document was made available in 17 languages and the summary document in 25 languages with audio, easy read, sign language and large print versions.

This was supplemented with hui and focus groups held in Auckland, Hamilton, Christchurch and on-line. The purpose of the focus groups was to reach communities and individuals within communities who do not usually participate in large public engagement forums, because of barriers to engagement or a preference to discuss issues with their own communities present.

We are, however, conscious that there are people who would have preferred to attend the hui or participate in the focus groups, rather than provide feedback on the discussion document online, or via email or post. We look forward to discussing these issues, and suggestions that Kāpuia may have for improvement, on 9 September.

Nāku noa, nā



Rajesh Chhana
Deputy Secretary, Policy