



Kāpuia

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

Kāpuia Advice: 2021/02

16 September 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

Thank you for joining Kāpuia on 9 September, for our third hui this year.

This hui was held in the shadow of the New Lynn terror attack and as a roopu we send our aroha to the victims and families affected. We echo the words of others in saying that this attack was carried out by an individual, not a faith, culture or ethnicity, but a person filled with hate. Moreover, we stand with all New Zealanders in condemning this senseless act of violence against innocent people. With this in mind, we especially appreciated your update on the attack and the opportunity to raise community concerns about the event.

As you will be all too familiar, many of the issues arising from the attack are matters already highlighted in the Royal Commission's report and associated recommendations into the 2019 terrorist attack on Christchurch mosques. We consider the recent terrorist attack in Auckland reinforces the importance of Kāpuia's kaupapa and we can assure you we will continue to work hard to enhance government decision-making with community input, to help make Aotearoa New Zealand a safer and more inclusive place for everyone.

Following Kāpuia's July letter of advice on the government's community consultation processes, and particularly its engagement on hate speech and social cohesion, we were pleased to receive your response. We also appreciate the opportunity you provided to comment on the draft community engagement checklist prepared by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, to support government agencies to better engage with communities on the response to the Royal Commission report. Our discussions on that draft checklist reflected the importance of government agencies building relationships with communities to lay the foundations before consulting on specific issues and introducing feedback loops to help build trust and confidence. We look forward to seeing how this feedback is incorporated into the revised checklist and into future Government consultations.

There are two further points we would like to raise around the Government's consultation processes. At our July and September hui, Kāpuia has valued the opportunities for the open discussions we have had with officials working on the response to the Royal Commission's report and their willingness to listen to the roopu's concerns around recent and proposed community consultation and engagement processes. However, the roopu considers that community engagement and consultation capabilities across government agencies broadly need to be built up and upskilled. At the same time those conducting these engagements should also better reflect the population diversity of those they are engaging with. As diversity, inclusion and community engagement are pillars of the Royal Commission's report, we look forward to seeing progress in these areas.

The 9 September hui was also the first opportunity the roopu had to engage with the Government's draft work programme to implement the Royal Commission of Inquiry's recommendations. You asked the roopu to provide advice on the draft work programme and priorities across it.

Kāpuia spent some time discussing the draft work programme. However we determined that if we are to provide meaningful feedback on the strengths, opportunities, weaknesses and gaps of this draft work programme, we first need clarity from you on whether or not the Government has adopted the Royal Commission of Inquiry's recommended priorities for implementation (as identified on p. 765 of the Royal Commission's report). Further, we would like to know which of the Royal Commission's implementation priorities have been implemented as per their advice and what ones have not been, and an explanation as to why.

The group was also strongly of the opinion that both Kāpuia and the public need clear information about the budget allocations that have been made to implement all the Royal Commission's recommendations. We appreciate that when the Government accepted the Royal Commission report 'in principle' in December 2020 the recommendations had not been fully costed, but we note too that the cost of implementing the recommendations was not fully funded in Budget 2021.

We consider that agencies responsible for preparing advice on and implementing decisions to address the forty-four recommendations have now had time to cost that implementation. We are seeking an assurance that Budget 2022 will provide that the Royal Commission's recommendations are fully funded in Budget 2022 and in outyears, if the Government is to be successful in supporting Aotearoa New Zealand becoming a safer and more inclusive place for everyone.

In order too for us to better understand the big picture and the expectations the Government has for the implementation programme (and therefore how Kāpuia can best contribute to and consider the Government's progress across that overall programme), the roopu would also like to know:

- What does the Government consider a successful reform programme to the response to the Royal Commissions report will look like and what are the Government's priorities for implementation?
- What are the impacts the Government is seeking in communities as a consequence of investing in this reform programme?
- What are the indicators of success the Government is looking to measure itself and its progress against, and over what time period, for those impacts to be achieved?
- What is the process the Government has in place to achieve bi-partisan support for the work programme?

We look forward to your response.

Ngā mihi



Arihia Bennett MNZM

Chair

Kāpuia