

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 MNZM
Chair, Kāpuia
By email: kāpuia@dpmc.govt.nz

Tēnā Koe Arahia

The Government is committed to progressing initiatives to address the Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCOI) recommendations, building on last year's efforts which focused on putting some of the necessary response foundations in place.

In December last year, and after I received valuable feedback from Kāpuia, I was pleased to take to Cabinet a longer-term work programme for the Government's response to the RCOI's report. The added value of Kāpuia's feedback to agencies and its advice to me was also acknowledged by my colleagues, especially that advice already received from the roopu on some of the complex initiatives and changes proposed to legislative and operating environments in the areas of social cohesion, community safety and countering terrorism. I have attached a copy of the agreed work programme to this letter. It shows how the various themes in the programme align to the RCOI's recommendations, and the broader matters it reported on, the various initiatives under each theme, and the timings for these.

The timeframes proposed were all agreed to, and Cabinet was concerned Ministers and their officials ensure there is real forward momentum on the work programme. Furthermore, the continued advice from Kāpuia on particular strengths, opportunities, weaknesses and gaps of the work programme and its priorities; the design of the Government's implementation plan and its roll-out; the planned initiatives; and the ongoing progress of the roll out and the initiatives to be delivered (as set out in your Terms of Reference) will all be valuable inputs to the Government's considerations.

Now the work programme is in place, it is important we continue to collaborate on our vision of a diverse, inclusive and safe Aotearoa New Zealand. With that in mind, there are some areas of the 2022 work programme where Kāpuia's timely advice will be especially important, to enable the programme to continue to roll out as expected. I particularly look forward to receiving the roopu's timely and independent advice and feedback during 2022 on the following areas:

- the development of a Response Impact Framework to support monitoring of the impact of the response and help determine if changes are needed at any point;
- work on RCOI recommendation 12 to develop and promote a public reporting system for concerning behaviours and incidents that enables members of the public to easily and safely report concerning behaviours or incidents to a single contact point in government.;
- the continuation of work by the Ministry of Justice on hate-motivated and incitement offences in response to recommendations 39 and 40;
- the Ministry of Justice-led review of the Intelligence and Security Act 2017 which will address several recommendations from the RCOI;
- the review of national security policy settings and development of the national security strategy (led by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet). This work will

enable the delivery of advice on the RCOI machinery of government recommendations and the reform of the national security system;

- work by the Department of Internal Affairs on objectionable material as part of its ongoing Content Regulatory Review that will address recommendation 41 and wider content considerations; and
- the ongoing development of social cohesion framework and a monitoring and evaluation regime, including appropriate measures and indicators, and the creation of opportunities for regular public conversations for all New Zealanders to share knowledge and improve their understanding of social cohesion and the value that ethnic and religious diversity can contribute to a well-functioning society (led by the Ministry of Social Development). This work will address to recommendations 29, 29, 31 and 37.

While the roopu does not have powers to direct agencies, it can expect its advice on draft proposals will be given appropriate consideration, and I will be asking the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to remind all response agencies of this.

I look forward to working with you on these issues and the wider response work programme.



Nāku noa, nā
Hon Andrew Little

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Attachment: Government agreed longer-term work programme to respond to *Ko tō tātou kāinga tēnei: the report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the terrorist attack on Christchurch masjidain on 15 March 2019*