

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

Kāpuia Pānui 2022/03

11 March 2022

Tēnā koutou and welcome to the third edition of Kāpuia Pānui for 2022.

Agency updates on the RCOI Response Work Programme

1. Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE) Strategic Framework

DPMC's online korero with communities and civil society will begin at the end of March. Its Working Group is looking to host open korero sessions with anyone interested in contributing and some of you may have already been informed through your other organisations and networks.

2. Engagement on Search and Surveillance Act commencing

In mid-March, the Ministry of Justice will commence engagement on the review of the Search and Surveillance Act. Its engagement plan has been developed in accordance with the newly released Policy Community Engagement Tool - which Kāpuia provided input to.

The first phase of the engagement approach involves working with Māori Treaty partners and with ethnic, faith-based, youth, rainbow, and other interested communities in accordance with the 'involve' level of engagement on the IAP2 spectrum. The focus within these groups is those who have experience with the Search and Surveillance Act. This phase will predominantly engage at an organisational level, with engagement focused on individuals and the wider public to be delivered in subsequent phases.

In accordance with earlier advice from Kāpuia (including that there should be more time for engagement), the first phase of engagement will run over a three-month period and will utilise a range of online engagement methods. This approach respects competing priorities and the voluntary nature of some of the organisations the Ministry is seeking to engage with. The Ministry will also seek ideas from participating communities on how to engage with their communities and the wider public in subsequent phases. Insights from the first phase of engagement will inform subsequent phases to the review, particularly the analysis.

3. MSD update on social cohesion framework

The Ministry of Social Development has shared with Kāpuia the most recent material they have prepared on the social cohesion work programme.

They advised that that team is now wrapping up phase four of their engagement and testing their proposed work programme; this **phase ends 31 March**. They are also holding their fifth and final 2day wānanga (with its 60-person working group that includes officials and external stakeholders) soon, and together with the external engagement this will inform the policy proposals due to go to Cabinet in June.

Other information

4. Update on the Coroner's inquiry into the Christchurch masjid attacks

Coroner Windley has released a Minute on General Information Disclosure and an Interim Non-Publication Order. The purpose of the Minute is to provide interested parties with access to new documents including on the emergency response from Police, the Canterbury District Health Board, and St John. The Minute explains who can access the information and how to do so. The Interim Non-Publication Order prohibits the publication of the information and details those conditions. The Coroner has also published submissions received on the scope of the inquiry.

More information on both of these updates can be found on the inquiry page here: https://coronialservices.justice.govt.nz/masjid-attacks-coronial-process/

5. Clarifying suppression orders around the RCOI report

A question was raised at the March hui around the suppression order related to evidence presented to the RCOI and its report. RCOI Minute 4 lays out the reasons for the order and is available here for your reference: Minutes | Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Attack on Christchurch Mosques on 15 March 2019

The Minute states:

- *"71 As will be apparent, the practical effect of section 32 of the Inquiries Act and the orders made above is that the following information held by the Royal Commission cannot be published:*
 - 1. any documents that relate to the internal deliberations of the Royal Commission;
 - 2. material that was the subject of permanent section 15 orders in Amended Minute 3 and Further Amended Minute 2;
 - 3. all evidence and submissions received by the Royal Commission, but, in the case of independently existing documents, this does not apply to copies held by Public sector agencies;
 - 4. the name or any particulars likely to lead to the identification of Mr Breidahl's former partner, Mr Breidahl's friend, the individual's gaming friend, the gaming friend's parent, the former Dunedin District Arms Officer, the Dunedin Licensing Clerk and the Dunedin

and Waikato Vetting Officers who dealt with the individual's firearms licence application.

72 A very substantial amount of the material provided to the Royal Commission (including independently existing documents) will be subject to the Official Information Act and can be requested from Public sector agencies in accordance with the procedures under that Act. For the reasons explained above, the key question will be whether the information requested was brought into existence independently, and not for the purposes, of the Royal Commission."

In the community

7. Dates of significance

Islamic Awareness Week is currently on in the lead up to the third anniversary of the Christchurch masjid attacks on March 15. The anniversary will also be followed by a new 'Unity Week' which aims to show Kiwis 'great things happen when we are together and united.'

Race Relations Day is on 21 March.

Noho ora mai

The Kāpuia Secretariat