

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

Kāpuia Pānui 2022/04

25 March 2022

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

Agency updates on the RCOI Response Work Programme

1. Expression of Interest open for Governance Board for Centre of Excellence

DPMC has opened Expressions of Interest for members of the Governance Board for the National Centre of Research Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (provisionally called He Whenua Taurikura).

Establishing a Centre responds to Recommendation 14 of the RCOI report. The Centre is being established to bring together research organisations and institutes, civil society organisations and government to research preventing and countering violent extremism, with a focus on understanding diversity and promoting social cohesion.

The Governance Board will provide strategic direction for and oversee the work of the Centre and will be responsible for ensuring the Centre delivers its vision, outcomes and commitments. The Board will also be responsible for ensuring the Centre's activities are compatible with its charitable aims, and that the Centre complies with relevant legislative and regulatory requirements.

The Board will comprise between six and eight members, with strong Māori representation reflecting a Te Tiriti partnership approach between Māori and the Crown. Board membership will also include at least one from each of academia/research community, civil society and government agencies across a range of skill sets. DPMC is also seeking diversity in age, ethnicity, gender, faith, religious background, geographic location, educational achievements and lived experiences of Board members.

More information on the intended composition of the Board, the skills and attributes required, the expression of interest form, and draft Terms of Reference can be found <u>here</u>. **Applications close at 5pm on 22 April 2022.**

2. Consultation opens on proposals for new regulations for shooting clubs and ranges

New Zealand Police are encouraging public submissions on proposals for new regulations for shooting clubs and ranges to help support community safety from firearms harm. This relates to the response to Recommendations 19-23 of the RCOI report.

On 24 June 2022, a new part of the Arms Act 1983 comes into force to strengthen the oversight of shooting clubs and ranges. The new laws create requirements for all shooting clubs to be approved, and all shooting ranges to be certified by the Police Commissioner.

Proposals for the new regulations are being shared with the public so those affected can submit views on the practical details and help shape the final form of the regulations. **Public consultation closes on 4 May 2022.**

These changes are the latest in ongoing enhancements to the firearms regulatory regime, in response to the 15 March 2019 terrorist attack on the Christchurch masjidain and the subsequent RCOI report.

The consultation document and further information can be found on the Police website by clicking this <u>link</u>.

3. NZSIS appears before Parliamentary Select Committee and publishes threatscape

The NZSIS held an open session on protecting New Zealand from national security threats to Parliament's Intelligence and Security Committee on 15 March. During the session, the NZSIS addressed New Zealand's current threatscape and outlined some of the work they have completed in the past year. This relates to RCOI Recommendations 7, 8, 17.

Following this, the NZSIS and CTAG released reports relating to New Zealand's counterterrorism threatscape which addressed the country's current threat level and acknowledged the impacts of the March 15 attacks. The open session and relevant reports can be found by clicking this <u>link</u>.

4. Final content released for teaching Aotearoa New Zealand's history

The final curriculum content for Aotearoa New Zealand's histories and Te Takanga o Te Wā has been released and is now available to all New Zealand schools and kura to begin teaching from next year. The curriculum is designed to help young people understand key aspects of Aotearoa New Zealand's histories and how they have influenced and shaped the nation. The curriculum was designed by the Ministry of Education alongside history and curriculum experts, iwi and mana whenua, Pacific communities, students and ākonga, parents and whānau, and other groups. It was also tested in schools and kura and through a public survey and general submission process.

While some parts of the curriculum will be taught nationwide, schools and kura can decide on what histories to include from their local area, in partnership with whānau, iwi, mana whenua and local communities. This will ensure their local curriculum or marau ā-kura is reflective of the people, places and events that are important within their communities. This is associated with the response to RCOI Recommendation 36.

Other information

5. Broadcasting Standards Authority study finds audiences less tolerant of racial and cultural slurs

Research released on 17 March from the Broadcasting Standards Authority has found that TV and radio audiences have a decreasing tolerance for racial and cultural insults, but attitudes towards blasphemy and terms using the F-word are softening.

The findings form part of the latest BSA research tracking evolving public views on offensive language in broadcasting. The results are used by the BSA and broadcasters to help ensure programmes and BSA decisions reflect current community attitudes. More information on the research can be found by clicking this <u>link</u>.

In the community

7. Dates of significance

There are a number of dates of significance to New Zealand's diverse communities in April including Ramadhan, Passover, Easter, and Anzac Day.

Noho ora mai

The Kāpuia Secretariat