

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

Kāpuia Pānui 2022/07

1 July 2022

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

Agency updates on the RCOI Response Work Programme

1. DPMC consultation on RCOI Outcomes Framework

DPMC is commencing public consultations on a framework to the measure success of the RCOI Response. While this will involve focused conversations with key communities, there will be a number of public workshops online and in person between 20th - 30th July. Information on the public workshops can be found by clicking this <u>link</u>.

Other information

2. Coroner confirms dates for first phase of Inquest hearing into Masjidain Attack

Coroner Windley has confirmed that the first phase of the Inquest hearing into the Masjidain Attack will take place from Monday 15 May to Friday 9 June 2023 at the Christchurch Law Courts. The first phase will hear evidence in relation to the issues about the attack itself and the emergency response, including the initial investigative response, along with the issue of survivability. The Coroner has yet to decide whether the inquiry into the other issues within scope will necessitate a further inquest hearing. You can read the Coroner's press release which also details why a 2023 date was chosen by clicking this <u>link</u>.

3. Kāpuia's concerns about delays to hate speech/hate crime referenced in media articles

Kapuia's concerns about delays to hate speech/hate crime work has been referenced in recent media articles. This includes this <u>Newsroom article</u> about delays to hate crime laws and in this <u>Stuff opinion</u> <u>piece</u> by Morgan Godfery.

4. New research by the Classifications Office reveals New Zealanders are seeing and are concerned about harmful content

On 29 June new <u>research</u> by Te Mana Whakaatu – The Classification Office was released into what New Zealanders see on screen and online. The research, which was based on a nationally representative survey conducted by Kantar, sought views on the classification system and about potential harms in movies, games, and online content.

Key findings from the research are:

- New Zealanders are concerned about children and young people seeing harmful content.
- Most people think it's hard to protect our kids online.
- It's common for people of all ages to see harmful content.
- New Zealanders support regulation of harmful online content.

The research will inform the Government's review of media and online content regulation which relates to recommendation 41 of the RCOI.

The research report can be found by clicking this <u>link</u>.

5. Acting Chief Censor bans video featuring March 15 attack footage

On 28 June, the Acting Chief Censor banned a pseudo-documentary using footage from the March 15 Mosque attacks. This follows the banning of part one of 'The Three Faced Terrorist' in February. Both videos claim the attacks were fabricated. The Chief Censor's decision to ban the publication as objectionable means viewing, sharing and downloading it is an offence. You can read the Acting Chief Censor's media release by clicking this <u>link</u>.

6. Government designates two United States far-right organisations as terrorist organisations

On 20 June the Government designated far-right organisations The American Proud Boys and The Base as terrorist organisations under section 22 of the Terrorism Suppression Act 2002.

This means any person who deals with the property of, or makes property or financial or related services available to the organisations liable to prosecution for an offence under sections 9 and 10 of the Act. In addition, any institution or person who suspects that property is owned by either entity is required to report the existence of that property to the Commissioner of Police.

You can read the Gazette notice by clicking this <u>link</u>.

7. New Zealand becomes an observer to the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance

On 24 June, Aotearoa New Zealand's application to become an Observer of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) was accepted by the Alliance's membership.

The IHRA is an intergovernmental organisation that promotes "international political coordination to combat growing Holocaust denial and antisemitism".

Through becoming an Observer, New Zealand joins 44 other member or Observer countries to strengthen, advance and promote Holocaust education, research and remembrance.

In its press release, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade said – "Aotearoa New Zealand is committed to safeguarding human rights, including the right to freedom of religion and belief and to realising the rights of minority populations worldwide. In becoming an Observer of the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance, we reiterate our commitment to promoting education, remembrance and research on the Holocaust to counter the influence of denial and distortion, hate speech and incitement to violence and hatred."

You can read the Ministry's full press release by clicking this link.

In the community

8. Dates of significance

- 9-13 July: Eid-al Adha (Islam) marks the culmination of the hajj and is distinguished by communal prayer (salāt) at daybreak on its first day.
- 13 July Asalha Puja (Buddhism) celebrates the very first teachings from Buddha.

Noho ora mai

The Kāpuia Secretariat

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