



Kāpuia Pānui 2023/01

17 February 2023

Tēnā koutou and welcome to the 1st edition of Kāpuia Pānui for 2023. We hope you are all safe and well, as it has certainly been a sad and dramatic beginning to 2023.

Agency updates on the RCOI Response Work Programme

1. The Human Rights (Incitement on Ground of Religious Belief) Amendment Bill withdrawn

Prime Minister Chris Hipkins announced on 8 February 2023 that the Human Rights (Incitement on Ground of Religious Belief) Amendment Bill will be withdrawn, and the matter referred to the Law Commission, to give the Law Commission an opportunity to consider this area of law in totality. The referral of provisions in relation to incitement on the ground of religious belief will be reviewed by the Law Commission alongside the review of the protections in the Human Rights Act 1993 for transgender people, non-binary people and people with diverse sex characteristics and the consideration of how the law should respond to hate crime and hate speech.

2. Proactive release of Kāpuia Appointments Papers

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has proactively released documents relating to Kāpuia appointments on behalf of the Lead Coordination Minister, Hon Andrew Little. The full set of documents (but with personal information redacted) that have been included in the release relate to the appointment of members that bring lived experience from Rainbow and Disability communities. The full proactively released documents can be found [here](#).

Other information

3. First edition of the Education Gazette released

The first edition of the Education Gazette | Tukutuku Kōrero for 2023 was released in early February. This edition focused on how models of wellbeing and learning are guided by a te ao Māori approach or with a focus on mātauranga Māori, the incorporation of local knowledge, histories and communities in local curriculums, exploring autism from a Māori world view and an announcement of a new census toolkit developed by Statistics New Zealand for rangatahi to develop their own censuses and identify what is important to them. The full copy of the Education Gazette can be found [here](#).

4. Call for young people ages 14-16 to join the Ministry of Education's Ministerial Youth Advisory Group

Applications are open for rangatahi aged 14-16 to join the current Ministerial Youth Advisory Group to share their perspectives on education to help inform work and improve the education system. The Ministry of Education noted the importance of having a diverse range of young people in the Advisory Group to reflect the different experiences of youth in Aotearoa. Young people can either apply themselves, or a young person's whānau or teacher can nominate them. Applications are open until 26 February 2023. More information can be found [here](#).

In the community

5. Welcoming new Prime Minister Chris Hipkins

Chris Hipkins was sworn in as Prime Minister on 25 January 2023, and has the portfolio of Minister for National Intelligence and Security. Minister Little retains the RCOI Response coordination portfolio.

6. Government apologises for the poll tax in the language of those impacted

Following a speech to open celebrations of the Chinese New Year at Parliament, the Government formally apologised for the poll tax imposed on Chinese immigrants entering New Zealand from 1881 to 1944. More than two decades after the Government had apologised for the tax in English and translated it into Mandarin in 2002, that apology has now also been delivered in Cantonese (a language for many affected by the poll tax).

7. Upcoming dates of significance

- 15 February is Parinirvana Day (Mahayana Buddhism) to commemorate the death of the Buddha when he attained complete nirvana or parinirvana
- 22 February is the anniversary of the 2011 Christchurch earthquakes
- 1 – 28 February is Black History Month
- 1 – 28 February is Pride Month

Noho ora mai

The Kāpuia Secretariat