

11 June 2024

Andrew Cushen

Robyn Kamira

Tēnā korua Andrew and Robyn,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your efforts as the Multi-Stakeholder Group's Co-Chairs. The report is a methodical and careful examination of the nature, risks, and usage of disinformation in Aotearoa New Zealand. Its recommendations in response are principled and oriented towards strengthening New Zealand's democracy.

I have recently been appointed as Chief Executive of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, and can now provide you with the Department's response to the Multi-Stakeholder Group's recommendations on increasing resilience to disinformation.

The Department has considered the recommendations in the context of the long-term nature of the disinformation challenge and of the recommended responses, along with Government's priorities for delivery across the public sector, and DPMC's own priorities and resourcing in the current period of fiscal restraint across the public service.

Report recommendations	DPMC response
Recommendation 1: Guiding principles	<b>We agree with this recommendation.</b> These principles will inform future work by government on disinformation in interactions with New Zealand civil society and internationally.
Recommendation 2: Civil society should lead and coordinate responses to mis- and disinformation	<b>We agree with this recommendation.</b> However, DPMC does not envisage convening and resourcing such a role at present.
Recommendation 3: Undertake additional empirical work and evidence gathering specific to Aotearoa New Zealand	<b>We agree in principle with this recommendation.</b> DPMC encourages ongoing independent research, but beyond reports commissioned in 23/24, does not envisage providing further funding for this at present.
Recommendation 4: Determine whether and how to fund community-led mitigation and resilience building efforts	<b>Further assessment required.</b> To be deferred for the time being, noting that InternetNZ will report back on the community funding delivered as part of the timebound work programme.

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Recommendation 5: Continue to consider and develop New Zealand's approach to increasing resilience to mis- and disinformation

**We agree with this recommendation.** DPMC will continue to consider and engage on New Zealand's approach to disinformation.

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Beyond the recommendations themselves, we consider your report, and the perspectives and analysis that informed it, is in itself a valuable and enduring contribution to the wider national conversation on how we communicate and work together in a digital democratic society.

I look forward to the publication of the report, and the opportunity it presents for wider civil society engagement on these issues.

Ngā mihi nui,



Ben King

Chief Executive, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet