



March 15 Government Initiatives

The report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCOI) into the terrorist attack on Christchurch masjidain was released on Tuesday 8 December 2020. The report, *Ko tō tātou kāinga tēnei*, made 44 recommendations covering both national security, and wider social and community matters.

The aim of the Royal Commission of Inquiry Response is for a diverse, inclusive, and safe Aotearoa New Zealand. The response started with 33 hui across the country and community engagement has continued to be an important part of this work. A number of initiatives have been implemented since March 15 to ensure New Zealand is a safer and more secure country for all – and that work will continue.

- **New Zealand's first national security strategy**

Launched in 2023, *Secure Together Tō Tātou Korowai Manaaki* sets a vision for New Zealand's national security that is focused, integrated, and inclusive – one that positions New Zealand to act early to prevent threats whenever possible.

- **Publication of the 2021 and 2023 National Security Intelligence Priorities**

The National Security Intelligence Priorities (NSIPs) - *Whakaarotau Marumaru Aotearoa* - define where intelligence should support government to make informed decisions about national security. The NSIPs support intelligence and assessment agencies to prioritise effort and add value to decision-making. This is the first time these priorities were made public.

- **He Whenua Taurikura Hui**

In 2021 and 2022, the He Whenua Taurikura Hui brought together central and local government agencies, communities, civil society, the private sector and researchers to build relationships and share understanding of countering violent extremism and terrorism.

- **He Whenua Taurikura | National Centre of Research Excellence**

In 2022, New Zealand's National Centre of Research Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism was launched. Hosted by Victoria University, this independent Centre advances research through a range of activities, including direct funding of projects, funding graduate students to undertake research, collaborative partnerships, community engagement and knowledge sharing.

- **Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Strategic Fund**

The Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism Fund supports community and civil society organisations to deliver initiatives that counter and build resilience to violent extremism and

radicalisation. The Fund recognises that communities and sectors outside of government play an important role in helping prevent and counter violent extremism in Aotearoa New Zealand.

- **Kia mataara ki ngā tohu – Know the Signs – a guide for identifying signs of violent extremism**

In 2022, the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service released a public guide detailing observable behaviours and activities intelligence professionals find most concerning in individuals on a pathway to violent extremism. The NZSIS has reviewed all terrorism-related incidents and investigations over the past 16 years to analyse the common behaviours and activities observed.

- **The first New Zealand Security Threat Environment Report**

In 2023, the New Zealand Security Intelligence Service published its first ever comprehensive assessment on the threats of violent extremism, foreign interference and espionage facing contemporary New Zealand. New Zealand's Security Threat Environment 2023 is an analytical report on the nature of the threats New Zealand faces as a country.

- **Launch of Te Tari Pūreke The Firearms Safety Authority and the Firearms Registry**

Te Tari Pūreke was launched in 2022 and is responsible for managing the firearms licensing system in New Zealand. The Firearms Registry was launched in June 2023 with a five-year implementation programme. Once fully established, the Firearms Registry will give Police and Te Tari Pūreke a complete record of all lawfully held arms items in New Zealand.

- **Te Raranga (The Weave)**

In July 2021, NZ Police established Te Raranga, a community- centric partnering programme that has developed resources to support the public to recognise and report hate-motivated crime; align partner agencies to work towards reducing the harm caused by hate; train police staff to recognise, and record hate-motivated offences if it occurs.

- **The Collective Impact Board**

The Collective Impact Board was established to provide advice and recommendations to the Kaiwhakaoranga Service and its partners to help inform the wrap-around services and supports provided to the affected community. This strengthened coordination across agencies and advocated for the needs of the affected community. The Board was in place from May 2021 to November 2023.

- **The Kaiwhakaoranga Specialist Case Management Service**

Established in 2019, the Kaiwhakaoranga Service was a specialised case management service hosted by the Ministry of Social Development. The Service provided one point of contact to facilitate access to a wide range of services and support for the affected community in key areas such as budgeting and income assistance, immigration, legal, education and training, employment, school attendance, health, wellbeing and social support, and housing. From 1 July 2024 as the Service ends, support for the affected community will come from individual government and non-government organisations.

- **Licensed Immigration Advisors**

In 2019, a funding pool of Licensed Immigration Advisors was established to provide access to immigration advice for the community affected by the March 15 mosque attacks. It has helped support family reunification for the community, acknowledging the exceptional circumstances of many victims and their families.

- **Christchurch Call (now the Christchurch Call Foundation)**

In 2019, the New Zealand Prime Minister and President of France, led the adoption of the Christchurch Call to Action. The Christchurch Call is a commitment by Governments and online service providers to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online.

- **Ministry for Ethnic Communities**

In 2021, the Ministry for Ethnic Communities was established. The Ministry is the government's chief advisor on ethnic diversity and inclusion in New Zealand society. It connects and empowers ethnic and faith communities to create a genuinely inclusive society for every New Zealander. The Ministry also funds community-led initiatives through its Ethnic Communities Development Fund. One of the early initiatives of the Ministry has been the establishment of an Analytics, Monitoring and Evaluation function. This will bolster the Ministry's ability to provide evidence-informed policy advice and monitor outcomes for ethnic communities.

- **The Ethnic Communities Graduate Programme**

The Ethnic Communities Graduate Programme provides a meaningful first employment opportunity in the public service for skilled graduates from ethnic communities. It directly addresses the low representation of ethnically diverse employees and the barriers they face to accessing employment in the public sector. The programme offers a pathway into the public service, ensuring the public service better reflects the communities. The Ministry for Ethnic Communities has run this programme since 2021 and is currently on the third Ethnic Communities Graduate intake.

- **Te Korowai Whetū Social Cohesion and community fund**

In 2022, the Ministry of Social Development released *Te Korowai Whetū Social Cohesion*, including a community fund that supports initiatives that bring people together, strengthening social cohesion. The programme also includes a package of tools and resources to support New Zealanders' collective social cohesion efforts, which are available for individuals and communities on the MSD website.

- **Community Learning Hubs**

Piloted in Christchurch following the 15 March 2019 terror attacks and now rolled out across the country, Learning Community Hubs play a vital role for ethnic communities to access and understand the New Zealand education system and support their children.

- **Royal Commission of Inquiry Ethnic and Faith Engagement Response Fund**

In 2021, the \$1 million fund was established to support minority ethnic and religious communities to engage with the Government so they can inform the Government response to the RCOI. The fund closed in June 2023.

