



## Kāpuia

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

Letter of Advice: 2024/02

30 May 2024

Hon Judith Collins KC

Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report  
into the Terrorist Attack on the Christchurch Mosques

Tēnā koe Minister Collins

Kāpuia appreciated the opportunity to give feedback on your draft Cabinet paper and seeks your support to include our comment within the paper. With the 51 shuhada and their families in our hearts and after meeting to discuss the Cabinet paper, Kāpuia wishes to express its disappointment and concern at the direction the Government is now taking on the response to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the terrorist attack on Christchurch masjidain on 15 March 2019 (15 March RCOI).

The 15 March RCOI report, its conclusions, findings, and recommendations were all directed at supporting New Zealand and New Zealanders to be safer, and to ensure the ongoing welfare and wellbeing of the victims of the attack. Kāpuia acknowledges positive changes have come from the response to this Royal Commission's report. However, we are concerned these next decisions will reverse that progress. We are particularly concerned at the decision not to establish a national intelligence and security agency as this was a central recommendation of the report (Recommendation 2). Without the focus from this agency, Kāpuia is concerned the threats faced directly and indirectly by New Zealanders could further increase. In addition, Kāpuia seeks further assurance that there will be adequate support for the welfare of the victims of 15 March, as the quantum of ongoing support is not clear from the proposals. We are also concerned a decision was made on restorative justice (Recommendation 27) without discussing options with the affected community.

Kāpuia also wishes to record that while you advised us of the Government's intended direction earlier this year, the roopu was not consulted on this, prior to seeing this draft paper. Although we provided advice on all these matters in our 24 April 2024 letter and report to you, we were not consulted on the Government's intention to conclude the coordinated cross-government response nor the decision not to progress a number of 15 March RCOI recommendations (when the previous government had agreed in principle to them all). We agree many of the recommendations of the

15 March RCOI report will bring about long-term change but, with the coordinated response concluding and agency budgets under pressure many of these will need continued effort and monitoring to achieve the intended outcomes.

We urge the Government to take this advice and our final report into account when making these decisions, to ensure the Government's already significant investment in this work is realised and decisions result in a safer New Zealand for everyone.

Ngā mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Arihia Bennett', written in a cursive style.

Arihia Bennett  
Chair | Kāpuia