

Hon Andrew Little

Minister of Health
Minister Responsible for the GCSB
Minister Responsible for the NZSIS
Minister for Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations
Minister Responsible for Pike River Re-entry



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

18 NOV 2021

Arihia Bennett MNZM

Chair, Kāpuia

By email: kapuia@dpmc.govt.nz

Your ref: Kāpuia advice: 2021/04

Tēnā koe Arihia

I would like thank Kāpuia again for its letter dated 19 October 2021 which provided me with comprehensive advice on the proposed work programme to respond to ko tō tātou kāinga tēnei: the report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the terrorist attack on Christchurch masjidain (the RCOI report).

As the roopu is aware, I am preparing a paper that will seek Cabinet's agreement to the forward work programme. I agreed to provide Kāpuia with a detailed response to its advice on the work programme, and how this has been incorporated into my proposal to Cabinet, once I had given it detailed consideration and consulted with other Ministers.

I have attached a summary of the paper that I will be presenting to Cabinet over the coming weeks. It is important to me that this paper reflects the advice that Kāpuia has provided on the response work programme, and I acknowledge the commitment of the roopu in making this possible. My proposals to Cabinet are strengthened by Kāpuia's advice and the independent and diverse perspectives that it represents.

The paper outlines a programme of work that would see substantive work to address all 44 of the RCOI report's recommendations having commenced or become part of agencies' ongoing activities by 2023. This acknowledges, in line with Kāpuia's comments, that truly fulfilling the intent of the RCOI report will involve ongoing actions and commitment. The work programme also includes initiatives that are independent of the RCOI but have strong links to its intent.

In line with the Kāpuia's feedback, the work programme has been organised across a smaller and more integrated set of themes that emphasise the inter-connected nature of the RCOI response, and the contribution of each part of the work programme to achieving the Government's vision for a diverse, inclusive and safe New Zealand. I will acknowledge in my submission to Cabinet that Kāpuia's support for the programme being submitted for Cabinet consideration is subject to its ongoing consideration of the prioritisation and sequencing of the work; and that it may provide further advice on the work programme in the future.

I agree that the government will need a robust impact framework to monitor the outcomes of the response work programme and determine whether any changes are needed. This will take time to develop, and I have proposed to Cabinet that I report back to Responsible Ministers in the first half of 2022 with a proposed impact framework. This timeframe will enable Kāpuia to provide advice on the framework, which will form an important element of its monitoring and oversight role.

I have also considered Kāpuia's suggestion that population portfolios are included in the Ministerial and agency leadership structures supporting the RCOI response. I agree that

population portfolios have an important perspective on the RCOI response. At this stage I do not consider that it would be appropriate to include all the population portfolios in the formal leadership structures that have responsibility for the RCOI response. Those structures already involve all those portfolios with specific accountabilities for responding to the RCOI report's recommendations. That includes my colleague, the Minister for the Community & Voluntary Sector, Diversity, Inclusion & Ethnic Communities, and Youth and Associate Minister for Social Development & Employment, along with the Ministry for Social Development and the Ministry for Ethnic Communities. I would also note that Government decisions on the RCOI response are ultimately made by Cabinet which has collective accountability for those decisions. However, I will be outlining my expectation to Ministers and agencies that they are engaging effectively with the population agencies in the development of all policy proposals that could impact their portfolio areas.

It is clear to me that agencies need to change how they engage with all communities on counter terrorism and wider national security issues. As I mentioned in my recent speech at Parliament to the Victoria University Centre for Strategic Studies, we need to take a new approach to our conversations, and language and words are important. That applies to the way agencies engage with communities. Ongoing change is needed in the culture of public sector organisations to help make this happen, and this was recognised by the Royal Commission when it made its recommendations on public sector workforce diversity and cultural competency. Kāpuia has an important role in providing advice on what it thinks may assist this change and where more needs to be done. It has already provided me with advice on agency engagement practices and you will see that reflected in the summary of the Cabinet paper, which acknowledges that while there have been some lessons learned, ongoing effort that will be required in this area. I look forward to the roopu's ongoing advice on how we can continue to do better on this area as we work together to ensure the meaningful institutional public sector change that everyone in Aotearoa New Zealand deserves and has the right to expect.

I trust that the summary of the Cabinet paper will be of use to Kāpuia and that members will see their feedback reflected in the proposals that I am making. The fact I am providing the roopu with this summary on a confidential basis before the paper is considered by Cabinet reflects the trusted advisor status it has with me. In due course, after the full paper has been considered by Cabinet, it will be proactively released, with any redactions my colleagues and I may consider necessary. I will be instructing officials to ensure that Kāpuia is provided with a copy of the proactively released paper before it is made public.

I would like to acknowledge again the significant efforts of the roopu in providing advice on the work programme. I hope that it will provide a useful reference point for the Government and for Kāpuia as we continue this important kaupapa.



Nāku noa, nā
Hon Andrew Little

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

Attachment: Cabinet paper summary: Establishing a longer-term work programme to respond to *ko tō tātou kāinga tēnei: the report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the terrorist attack on Christchurch masjidain*