



# Kāpuia

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

2 July 2021

The report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the terrorist attack on Christchurch mosques on 15 March 2019 identified many lessons to be learnt and significant areas needing change to make New Zealand safer and more inclusive. One of the 44 recommendations from the Royal Commission was for the establishment of an advisory group to Ministers on the oversight over and implementation of the Government Response to the report.

Minister Andrew Little [announced](#) the appointment of the Ministerial Advisory Group on the Government's Response to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the terrorist attack on Christchurch mosques on 12 June 2021.

This Ministerial Advisory Group is known as Kāpuia. The name Kāpuia reflects the importance of the group's work for the future of Aotearoa New Zealand. Kāpuia comes from the whakataukī or proverb "Ki te Kotahi te kākaho ka whati, ki te kāpuia e kore e whati". This whakataukī means if there is only one reed, it breaks easily, but gather many together they will not break. For our mahi, our work, these reeds reflect the different cultures in New Zealand, and when we all come together, we are strong and cannot be broken. By standing together in New Zealand, we will enhance social cohesion and create a safer country for everyone - by being together we cannot help but have each other's backs.

We are a group of 28 diverse individuals, and we are all honoured to support Ministers in the challenge of responding to the Royal Commission of Inquiry's report. Our draft Terms of Reference require us to provide advice to the Lead Coordination Minister (the Hon Andrew Little), by looking at the strengths, weaknesses, gaps and opportunities across the Government's response programme, and to report to the Lead Coordination Minister on the progress that the Government is making. Our role will be additional to community consultations that government agencies will also undertake. Our Terms of Reference will be finalised later in the year.

Kāpuia held its first meeting in Wellington on 30 June 2021. We look forward at our next meeting to learning about the Government's Response plan and priorities for implementation.

If you are interested in some of the current Government consultations on social cohesion and hate speech which are open for public comment until **6 August 2021**, you can find more about these here:

- Ministerial release <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/social-cohesion-programme-address-incitement-hatred-and-discrimination>
- Social cohesion <https://social-cohesion.citizenspace.com/social-cohesion/public-consultation/>
- Incitement <https://www.justice.govt.nz/about/news-and-media/news/proposals-against-incitement/>

The Government is also looking to appoint some additional members to Kāpuia, and information about that process can be found here <https://dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/national-security/royal-commission-inquiry-terrorist-attack-christchurch-masjidain-2>

## *Arihia Bennett (Chair) and the members of Kāpuia*