



Information Sheet 2:

Government initiatives underway

The Government's initial response to the report includes updates on relevant work that was already underway and new initiatives around three key areas; supporting our diverse communities, tackling harmful behaviour and discrimination, and keeping New Zealand safe.

Supporting our diverse communities

Establish a Ministry for Ethnic Communities

Lead agency: Department of Internal Affairs

This new Ministry will take the place of the Office of Ethnic Communities and will increase the standing and mana of the agency, improve leadership of ethnic communities within the public sector, and provide a greater ability to deliver on the ongoing work to better support and respond to the needs of our ethnically diverse communities. This Ministry will be in place from 1 July 2021.

Establish Ethnic Communities Graduate Programme

Lead agency: Department of Internal Affairs

This programme will create opportunities for graduates and build the diversity of knowledge and experience within the public sector. It will provide a meaningful first employment opportunity and a targeted pathway into the Public Service for skilled graduates from ethnic communities, with the added benefit of injecting broader cultural competency across the Public Sector.

Establish a Collective Impact Board

Lead agency: Ministry of Social Development

Current support for whānau, survivors and witnesses will be further developed and co-ordinated, including through the establishment of specialist "navigators". The Collective Impact Board will enable affected communities to shape ongoing support services for their long-term recovery needs.

Establish a National Centre of Excellence

Lead agency: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

The centre will bring together academia, civil society and government to research the preventing and countering violent extremism and focus on understanding diversity and promote of social cohesion. This will help inform public discussion and guide the work of policy agencies across government.

Implement a trial to support young children to improve their self-regulation, resilience, and social skills

Lead agency: Ministry of Education

Roll out of a one year trial for 2,500 children in around 70 early learning services to support children's development of key skills, such as self-regulation. This trial will test the optimal

programme design for promoting self-regulation and language development in Early Childhood Education services.

Tackling harmful behaviour and discrimination

Establish New Zealand Police programme Te Raranga, The Weave

Lead agency: New Zealand Police

Te Raranga will make improvements in Police's frontline practice to identify, record, and manage hate crime, and deliver a service that is more responsive to victims.

Increase the capacity of the Human Rights Commission

Lead agency: Ministry of Justice

Funding will be provided to develop a team of highly skilled individuals who can provide mediation, facilitate conversations or be more proactive in exercising the Commission's inquiry function. This specialised team will be able to provide mediation and facilitate conversations for people who have been hurt by harmful behaviour, and where the threshold for a legal response may not be met.

Implement Multi-Agency Coordination and Intervention Programme (MACIP)

Lead agency: New Zealand Police

MACIP is an early intervention programme to prevent terrorism and violent extremism by working with individuals displaying concerning behaviour and directing their behaviour away from violent extremism and violent acts of hate by providing wrap around services and support. The programme will be led by New Zealand Police.

Change hate speech legislation

Lead agency: Ministry of Justice

Hate speech is best understood through the incitement provisions in the Human Rights Act which prohibit speech that is likely to incite others to feel hostility or contempt towards a group based on their colour, race, or ethnic or national origins.

We propose to continue our work to make changes to protect against hate speech in the Human Rights Act and taking into account recommendation 40 of the report.

Extend the Safer Communities Fund

Lead agency: Department of Internal Affairs

Additional funding for the Safer Communities Fund that was established in 2019 to provide communities with funding to upgrade and implement security measures that will reduce the threat and fear from a potential attack. This is specifically for communities who are 'at risk' of terrorism or hate incidents.

Keeping New Zealand safe

Strengthen New Zealand's Counter Terrorism Laws

Lead agency: Ministry of Justice

Changes include a new offence to criminalise planning or preparation for a terrorist act, creating a new offence to more clearly criminalise terrorist weapons and combat training.

Accede to the Budapest Convention on Cybercrime

Lead agency: Ministry of Justice

This international treaty seeks to address internet and computer crime, by aligning nations' laws, facilitating information-sharing on current threats and sharing best practice.