



## Kāpuia Pānui 2022/01

15 February 2022

Tēnā koutou and welcome to the first edition of Kāpuia Pānui for 2022.

### Agency updates on the RCOI Response Work Programme

#### 1. Further changes to gun laws come into effect

a) On 1 February, **the Arms Amendment Regulations 2021** came into effect. The changes are in response to RCOI recommendations to improve the firearms licencing system. The changes fall into three categories:

- Dealer licence changes
- Firearm, ammunition, security, and transportation changes
- Firearm licence changes.

Key changes relevant to the RCOI report are:

- Reduced length of firearms licence from 10 to 5 years for first time licence holders and those who have previously had their licence revoked or allowed it to expire;
- Offences and penalties have been changed to better reflect the seriousness of the offending. Examples include possessing a firearm without a licence which now has a penalty of up to one year in prison or a \$15,000 fine (previously 3 months or \$1,000 under the old system); and selling a firearm to an unlicensed person which carries up to a two year jail sentence or \$20,000 fine (previously 3 months or \$1,000 under the old system);
- Further high-risk firearms are prohibited including short (pistol-length) semi-automatic rifles. There are new requirements for lawful possession of a pistol carbine conversion kit which converts a pistol into a shoulder-fired firearm;
- Those who come to New Zealand who are issued a licence for up to a year will no longer be able to purchase and take ownership of a firearm in New Zealand.

You can read the Minister's full [media release here](#).

The Police have also released a summary version of the new regulations [here](#).

- b) Meanwhile, **the Firearms Prohibition Orders Legislation Bill**, had its first reading in Parliament on 9 February and passed with unanimous support. This Bill expands the list of people who will be unable to hold a firearms licence via Firearms Prohibition Orders.

Firearm Prohibition Orders (FPO) will take the form of a court order and can be used to prohibit an individual convicted of and sentenced for serious crime (including extortion, sexual violence, serious assault, and murder) from possessing, accessing, or using firearms for 10 years after their sentence has been completed. Breaching an FPO will result in a penalty of up to seven years, as would supplying firearms to those with an imposed Order.

You can read the Minister's full press release [here](#).

- c) The Police will also have a **dedicated firearms unit** to take over firearms regulatory activities established by the end of this year.
- d) A **firearms registry** is also to be set up from June 2023. The Minister of Police announced this stating:

“Successive governments have failed to deliver a register since it was first recommended by Justice Sir Thomas Thorp in 1997. This will finally track how many firearms are in legal circulation, who holds them, who is selling them, and who is buying them. Once it's established every licence holder will need to keep updating the registry as they buy or sell guns. They will have just over five years to register all their guns. The registry allows us to link firearms to licence holders, return stolen firearms to the legitimate owner, and hold licence holders to account for the safe storage and possession of firearms.”

## 2. Update on DPMC Community Engagement Tool

The Community Engagement Tool was created by DPMC to assist government agencies to design, plan and engage with communities on the RCOI, in response to RCOI recommendation 38 to improve public sector community engagement.

In late January the Lead Coordination Minister Hon Andrew Little wrote to the RCOI Responsible Ministers (including the Prime Minister) about the Tool, noting it was revised following Kāpuia's feedback and signalled his expectation that the Tool is mandatory for all RCOI engagements except in rare circumstances with explicit Ministerial approval. The Tool will also be revised when improvements are identified.

The Secretariat understands Ministers responsible for leading RCOI recommendations are writing to their agencies to reinforce their expectations around the Tool's required use for the RCOI response.

### 3. DPMC proactive release of RCOI Responsible Ministers August 2021 meeting documents

There have been a number of requests to the Lead Coordination Minister or the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet for information on the Government's RCOI Response, including about Kāpuia, under the Official Information Act and through Parliamentary Questions.

As well as the Minister or DPMC responding to those requests, and in accordance with current practice, a number of documents have now also been proactively released on DPMC's website on behalf of the Lead Coordination Minister relating to the August 2021 meeting of RCOI Responsible Ministers. The documents include the meeting agenda, overview of status of RCOI recommendations, a briefing on the Community Engagement Checklist, and high level workplan for consultation with Kāpuia. The documents can be found [here](#).

#### Other information

### 4. Masjid attacks coronial inquiry update

Due to Omicron, the Coronial hearing into the scope of the inquiry is now being held remotely between 22-24 February 2022. Data allowances are available for affected parties to participate in the online hearing, as well as victim assistance grants. More information can be found [here](#).

#### In the community

### 5. Dates of significance

Upcoming days of significance to New Zealand's diverse communities includes:

- February is Pride Month.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> February marks the 11th anniversary of the 2011 Christchurch earthquake which killed 185 people.

Noho ora mai

**The Kāpuia Secretariat**