



# 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

## Letter of Advice 2024/1

24 April 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

Thank you for your letter of 29 February 2024 and for your request that Kāpuia provides you with a letter of advice in the form of a final report, on further actions required on the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the terrorist attack on Christchurch masjidain on 15 March 2019 (15 March RCOI).

In 2019, 51 lives were lost and we fear that if the 15 March RCOI report and recommendations are not fully and consistently implemented, more lives will be lost in New Zealand. We know that terrorist and other malicious threats cannot all be prevented. We also know from the *New Zealand's Security Threat Environment 2023* that threats are now more complex, and they are increasing not reducing. We believe more must be done to deliver the Government response to the 15 March RCOI report. Communities are not seeing that this work programme is complete.

Kāpuia was established as a Ministerial Advisory Group in June 2021, to advise the Lead Coordination Minister<sup>1</sup>. As an independent advisory group, we have supported the Lead Coordination Minister and other Ministers to make decisions on the implementation of the Government's response work programme. In line with our terms of reference<sup>2</sup>, we have provided 10 letters of advice to the Lead Coordination Minister, six Ministers have discussed issues with us, and we have consulted with 26 government agencies and independent Crown entities (including the Human Rights Commission and the Law Commission).

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<sup>1</sup> Recommendation 44 of that report specified a non-government group should be established to report to the Lead Coordination Minister.

<sup>2</sup> [Kāpuia] provides independent advice to Ministers on the Government's Royal Commission report response. It does this by providing advice directly to the Lead Coordination Minister, and other Ministers with agreement from the Lead Coordination Minister. It can also provide feedback to agencies on any draft proposals, which agencies may seek feedback on or that Kāpuia might request to be briefed on. Kāpuia Terms of Reference Final.pdf (dpmc.govt.nz)

Over the last three years, we have provided feedback to agencies and advice to the Minister on the progress, gaps and opportunities we have identified in the government's response work programme. Our advice has influenced and enhanced the development of policy responses, and improved the way agencies engage with communities, academia, business and iwi. In some cases, we have seen our advice change the way agencies have approached their work more broadly. We discuss this further in our attached report. Agencies have valued the insights of Kāpuia, we have often been one of the first groups outside of Government to be trusted to give feedback on draft RCOI related policy. The broad view we have had across the response has also enabled us to bring a unique strategic lens to our feedback by linking work programmes and desired outcomes across agencies.

Our attached report should be read alongside our full assessment of progress on all 44 recommendations in the 15 March RCOI report (Appendix A). This assessment has been based on the most recent information available to Kāpuia, but we acknowledge that government agencies may have more current information. We have drawn from this assessment, to highlight our greatest continuing concerns arising from the 15 March RCOI report. We have identified benefits of this work progressing and potential risks if it is not undertaken.

We thank you and the previous Government for establishing Kāpuia and listening to our advice. We have valued this opportunity to provide non-government viewpoints and advice into the Government's 15 March RCOI response.

We ask that you share this report with the Prime Minister and other ministers responsible for the government responses to the 15 March RCOI report and recommendations.

Ngā mihi



Arihia Bennett  
Chair Kāpuia