



The Federation of  
Islamic Associations  
of New Zealand (Inc.)

اتحاد الجمعيات الإسلامية النيوزيلندية

# SUBMISSION

To

**Hon. Andrew Little**

Lead Coordination Minister for the  
Government's Response to The  
Royal Commission's Report into the  
Terrorist Attack on the  
CHRISTCHURCH MOSQUESs

## THE ENGAGEMENT PROCESS

Continuation of the Healing Process  
and Towards an Inclusive Socialscape  
for Ethnic and Religious Communities  
in Aotearoa New Zealand



February 2021

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SINCE 1979

**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

The Beehive  
Wellington

And Copy

**Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan,**  
Minister of Community and Voluntary Sector and  
Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities

Tēnā koe and Assalaamu Alaikum

I have pleasure in making this submission as part of the engagement process initiated by the government to address the findings and recommendations of the Royal Commission.

Ngā mihi

**Ibrar Shiekh**  
President, FIANZ

February 2021





Abdur Razzaq  
Chairperson,  
FIANZ Submission to Royal Commission and Follow-up

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## 1.00 PREAMBLE

At the outset, FIANZ conveys our gratitude to **Rt. Hon. Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of New Zealand** for making public the full report of the Royal Commission. Notwithstanding that some parts of the Report were withheld by the Royal Commissioners, we sincerely appreciate the transparency and robust manner with which the Government has responded to both the findings and the recommendations.

We have in particular applauded the **acceptance ‘in principle’ of all the 44 recommendations**, almost all of which were included in the FIANZ Submission Recommendations.

The **apology by the Prime Minister** for the failure of the arms licensing process and the security and intelligence agencies, was a watershed moment in the history of New Zealand and a significant step towards the healing process after the tragedy of terrorism on 15 March 2019. Of import in this context, is that these were two of the key areas which the FIANZ youth-led team spent 7 months investigating and then submitted our findings to the Royal Commission. We are pleased that much of our evidence-based findings are also noted in the Royal Commission report.

The current submission is in response to the **Engagement Process** initiated by the **Hon. Andrew Little**, in his capacity as the Lead Coordinating Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into the Terrorist Attack on the CHRISTCHURCH MOSQUES and **Hon. Priyanca Radhakrishnan**, Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector, Minister for Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities.

For FIANZ, the engagement initiated by Minister Little is a **positive start** to the response to the Royal Commission and a way forward to shape our country's social-scape for the future.

FIANZ shall play its part in ensuring we make meaningful and positive contribution.

## 2.00 PURPOSE & APPROACH

**The purpose of this submission is two-fold.**

Firstly, it provides baseline information on the key issues which are of concern to Muslims in New Zealand. As the national umbrella organisation of Muslims, we realise that there are a wide diversity of views. In this respect we focus on the mandate provided for in the Royal Commission Report and focus on the 44 Recommendations.

Secondly, we have outlined a draft implementation plan in keeping with the phased approach envisaged and outlined in the Royal Commission Report. It is acknowledged that such plan is contingent on many prevailing contextual factors, however FIANZ is firmly of the view that the wider community have expectations beyond just consultation.

**A social justice approach** to community relations is a cornerstone of Islam. We are particularly mindful of fostering equity and fairness in all that we strive to do. Like all New Zealanders, the Muslim community have been traumatised by the act of terror of 15 March 2019, we nevertheless are particularly conscious of the Quranic verses, which states:

*“O You who have attained to faith! Be ever steadfast in your devotion to God, bearing witness to the truth in all equity; and never let hatred of any-one lead you into the sin of deviating from justice. Be just: this is closest to being God-conscious. And remain conscious of God: verily, God is aware of all that you do.”*

*Quran 5:8*

<sup>2</sup> <https://fianz.com/christchurch-the-healing-process/>



In this context, we have to ensure that our submission and subsequent deliberations are in keeping with **Te Tiriti o Waitangi** and in keeping with the spirit of unity with the **tangata whenua**. FIANZ is cognisant of the societal foundations inherent in **Te WairuaKōmingomingo o te Māori** and the affinity Muslims have to this deep spirituality of our mutual identities. We have taken note of ,

***Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi***  
***With your food basket and my food basket the people will thrive***

This whakatauki talks to a collaborative community approach and Muslims respect, cherish and advocate such for the implementation of the 44 Recommendations of the Royal Commission.

FIANZ's engagement with the tangata whenua can be traced back to 1982 when the first hui was held in Wellington. This has carried on to the present day, since we consider the Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the foundation document which requires us to respect and give due acknowledgement to tangata whenua.



Our approach is a continuation of our previous submission detailed 'The Healing Process'<sup>2</sup>. In December 2019 we clearly stated, that unless steps are taken by all concerned stakeholders to address the healing process, the consequences of this massacre will linger and fester into a generational tragedy. The healing process needs to be well planned and implemented with utmost care and sensitivity.

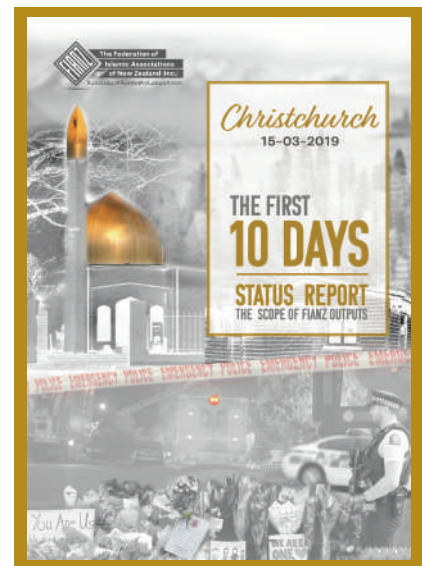
There are important lessons to be learned from overseas terror tragedies , where even 10 years as in the case of Norway and four years in the case of Canada, the lack of planned healing has festered ongoing trauma and social disharmony.



## 3.00 OUR ROLE SO FAR

**FIANZ as the national umbrella organisation for the Muslims of NZ was:**

- **Requested by the NZ government**, within 3 hours of the terror attack, to assist the NZ Police and other government agencies to coordinate in the aftermath of the 15 March tragedy. Within 6 hours of the terror attack, the FIANZ National Emergency Response Team were in the ground at the behest of the NZ Police to liaise, supervise and coordinate the immediate supportive services. For more information, please see the “First 10 Days”.<sup>3</sup>
- **Requested by the NZ government** to provide inputs into the Terms of Reference of the Royal Commission. All the suggestions, FIANZ had requested were subsequently included as the official Terms of Reference of The Royal Commission announced by the Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of NZ, on 8 April 2019.
- **Requested by the NZ government** to participate in the formative national consultation meetings related to the Christchurch Call, initiated by the Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister of NZ, to eliminate terrorist and violent extremist content online.
- **Requested by the Royal Commission of Inquiry** into the terrorist attack on Christchurch Masjidain on 15 March 2019 to make a submission to the Inquiry. This was followed up monthly meetings between the Royal Commissioners and FIANZ on matters related to the Inquiry.
- **Recognised by the Royal Commission** for making a “seminal” contribution with its formal submission of two Reports.<sup>4</sup> It is important to note that all the recommendations submitted by FIANZ have been incorporated in the 44 Recommendations of the Royal Commission.



<sup>3</sup> <https://fianz.com/christchurch-10days/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://fianz.com/christchurch-mosques-attach/>





## 4.00 OVERARCHING PRIORITY 1: WELL-BEING OF THE VICTIMS

Prior to highlighting the key concerns relating to the victims, it is important to understand some of the contextual parameters.

### Demographic Profile of Muslim Community in Canterbury

#### A) Total Muslim Population

- According to the 2018 census there were **4,512 Muslims in the Canterbury region**.
- Islam is one of two growing religions in the Canterbury region however they are less than 1% of the population.
- Muslims are a vulnerable minority with very little demographic impact in the Canterbury region.

Religious affiliation for people in Canterbury Region, 2006 - 18 Censuses

Category	2006 (%)	2013 (%)	2018 (%)
No Religion	36.2	44.5	51
Buddhism	1	1	0.7
Christian	56.2	49.3	37.1
Hinduism	0.5	0.8	1.3
Islam	0.6	0.6	0.8
Judaism	0.1	0.1	0.1
Māori religions, beliefs, and philosophies	0.5	0.4	0.4
Spiritualism and New age religions	0.5	0.5	0.4
Other religions, beliefs, and philosophies	0.3	0.4	1.7
Object to answering	6.3	4.1	6.7

Table 1: Religion Canterbury Region  
Source: NZ Census 2018



## B) Age Distribution

- One in four Muslims in the Canterbury region below age 15 and approximately half of the total Muslim population are below 30 years of age.

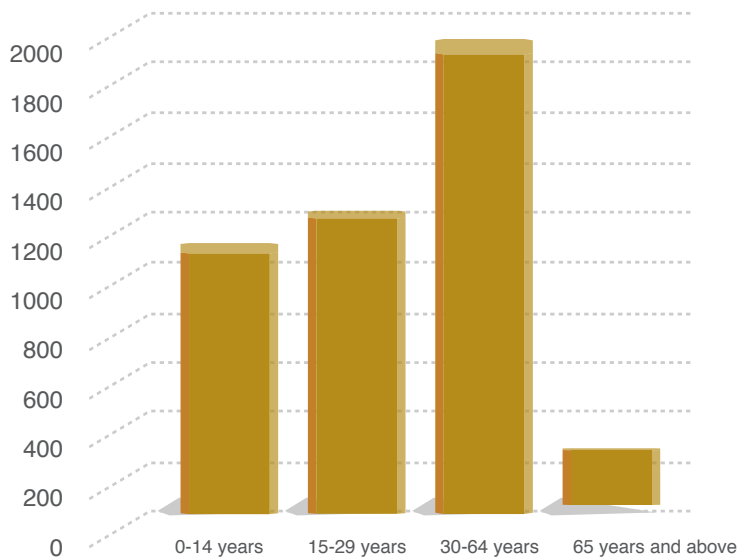


Chart 1: Age Distribution of Muslims in the Canterbury Region

Source: NZ Census 2018

## C) Country of Birth

- 20% of the Muslim population in the Canterbury region were born in the Middle East or Africa.
- 22% of the Muslim population in the Canterbury are born in New Zealand.
- 46% of the Muslims born in the Canterbury region were born in Asia.

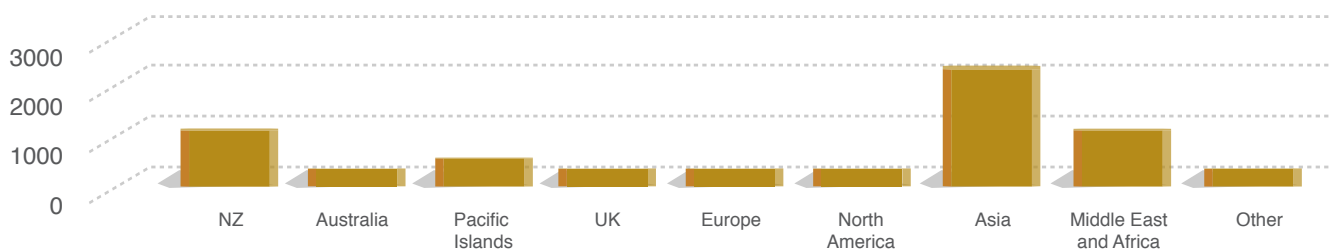


Chart 2: Place of Birth of Muslims in Canterbury Region

Source: NZ Census 2018



## D) Languages

The main languages prevalent in the Muslim community in the Canterbury Region are:

Alphabetical Order					
Arabic	Bengali	Bahasa (Indonesian)	Bahasa Melayu	Dari	English
Farsi	Hindi	Pastho	Somali	Turkish	Urdu

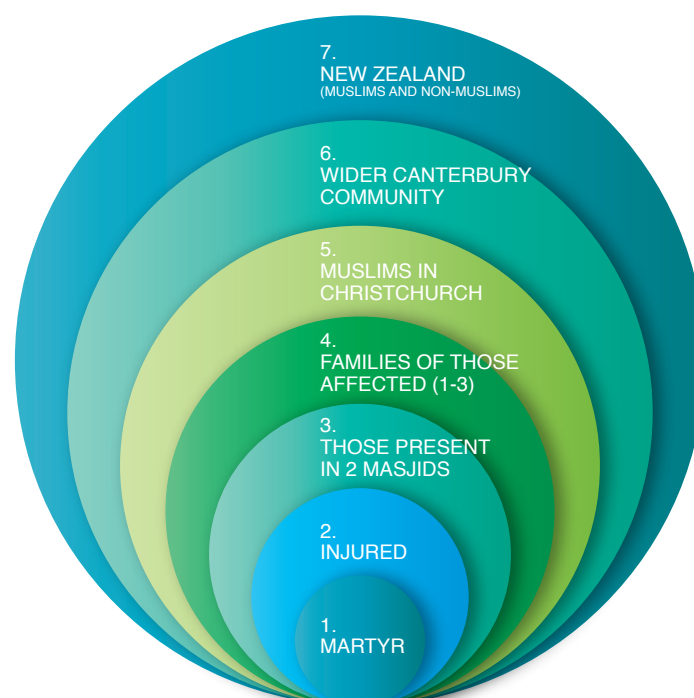
### Further Data Required:

The 2018 Census should be contacted to make available the following information:

1. Gender Breakdown of Muslims
2. Ethnicity of the Muslim Community in Canterbury (Numbers)
3. Occupation of the Adult Muslims

## E) Victims of the terror tragedy

The levels of victims





## F) Profile of Victims:

Based on research of crimes there is a cascading index of those who may be considered victims. The following is the gradation of victims developed by FIANZ .

### Level 1

Martyrs (Shaheed): 51<sup>5</sup> [Police] (Inna li lahi wa inna li layhi raja'un. "Indeed, to Allah we belong and to Allah we shall return.")

### Level 2

**Injured: The numbers vary, according to the agency**

- Bullet Injured: 40<sup>6</sup> [ According to the Police]
- Other Physically Injured: 49<sup>7</sup> [ According to Victims Support]
- Total Injured: 118<sup>8</sup> [ According to the Canterbury DHB]

### Level 3

**Those present in 2 Masjids: The numbers vary, according to the agency**

- 154<sup>9</sup> [ According to Victim Support];
- 155 [ According to Christchurch Foundation];
- 200<sup>10</sup> [ According to the ACC];
- 296<sup>11</sup> [ According to the Police]

### Level 4

**Families of those affected (Level 1-3): The numbers vary, according to the agency**

- 680<sup>12</sup> [According to ACC];
- 834 [FIANZ estimate]

<sup>5</sup> Royal Commission Report

<sup>6</sup> Royal Commission Report

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.victimsupport.org.nz/victim-support-to-distribute-additional-funds-to-victims-of-christchurch-terror-attacks/>

<sup>8</sup> <http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/HL1906/S00040/mosque-victims-spend-19500-hours-in-hospital-3000-in-icu.htm>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.victimsupport.org.nz/victim-support-to-distribute-additional-funds-to-victims-of-christchurch-terror-attacks/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/5890-extended-mental-health-support-for-those-affected-by-the-15-march-2019-terrorist-attack-proactive-release-pdf>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.victimsupport.org.nz/victim-support-completes-donation-distribution-to-victims-of-the-christchurch-mosque-attacks/>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/dmsdocument/5890-extended-mental-health-support-for-those-affected-by-the-15-march-2019-terrorist-attack-proactive-release-pdf>



## **G) Preliminary Needs Analysis: Results**

To-date no organization or agency have conducted a baseline needs analysis survey of the victims. From May 2019, FIANZ in association with MAC initiated a comprehensive needs analysis survey of the victims.

### **i) Survey and Methodology**

A survey instrument was developed covering demographic, social, financial, health, educational, housing and other baseline information. The survey also elicited views of the expectations from the government and Muslim organisations. Initially an on-line self-administered approach was initiated, however this did not prove very effective. After careful consideration of the survey methodology it was decided to conduct a face-to-face interview based survey of those who wanted to participate. It is important to note that the survey respondents also signed the questionnaire, which provides a level of authenticity to the data gathered. This survey was to ascertain the immediate and longterm needs of those who considered themselves victims.

### **ii) Preliminary Data on Respondents**

<b>Affected Status</b>	<b>Percentage of Survey Respondents</b>
Injured	40%
Shaheed	51%
Trauma	9%
	100%

### **iii) Preliminary Findings**

i) Respondents who have identified **long-term intergenerational issues** which need to be addressed for immediate family

<b>Response</b>	<b>Percentage of Respondents</b>
Yes	82 %
No	9%
Not Sure	9%
	100%



ii) Respondents who have identified **education and training issues** which need to be addressed for themselves and/or their immediate family

Response	Percentage of Victims
Yes	82%
No	10%
Not Sure	8%
	100%

iii) Respondents who have identified **employment issues** which need to be addressed for themselves and/or their immediate family

Response	Percentage of Victims
Yes	49%
No	38%
Not Sure	13%
	100%

iv) Respondents who have identified **immigration issues** which need to be addressed for themselves and/or their immediate family

Affected Status	Percentage of Victims
Injured	34%
Shaheed	56%
Trauma	10%
	100%



v) What is your expectation of help from the Government?

The following are some of the responses from the respondents:

Responses	
1	Financial support, emotional support, compensation for expenses (being on the pension we had more expenses than income) unable to support son who lost his job as a result of the terror attacks.
2	Assistance with getting my sister permanently located in New Zealand
3	Permanent support expected from government
4	Even distribution of donated funds
5	Superannuation status of the deceased person, support when its due in years time
6	Health & Medical support & accommodation & pension has been stopped
7	Gave citizenship or residency to the affected family and change the new law that just release it's not fair for most of the family
8	I request to help with my parent residency because I really need them here to support me. I have 2 little kids and I find it very difficult to take care of them alone.
9	After my husband's death, I expect that government will continuously support me in every way (finance) & also help me or provide some finance for my study in university. I want to become a register pharmacist.
10	Children's Education, employment
11	Four month later, I am going to finish my study. If I got a information Technology (IT) related job here, which should be a great help.
12	If government take away our immigration problem that will really help us to think a bright future.
13	My Expectation from the government in permanent solution live in New Zealand
14	I would eagerly request to the government to help me by granting the permanent resident visa to stay in New Zealand. And Financial support would be another great help.



15	Financial support. Housing (offring a house). In future if I am not be abke to work, I expect the government can help me
16	Financial / medical support
17	support financial, emotional spiritual
18	Change my visa condition, if possible, residency.
19	Financial Support, Health support, Community support
20	financial help
21	Job and financial help
22	1) Relief from the payments of taxation. 2) Proper counselor for become normal. 3) Bank loan relief. 4) Financial support for looking after me as they are paying from their own pockets. 5) Visa support for mother. 6) Disability allowance required.
23	get resident visa and on going support for my daily life
24	long term support while I am not well
25	I like to apply residency. If government can help me to get the residency.
26	I need a secure area for my family like (Broomfield or Yaldust). I appeal government to look at this matter and one thing more I need PR for my parent and brothers so my family always stay with me
27	to help me financially and mentally. Provide me with a long term solution. Eg. Residency. Help my family obtain a permanent solution to live in NZ to support me. Also financial support for the upbringing of my daughter.
28	NZ immigration support for easy visa process for family members. Financial assistance for me & my kids to survive. More culturally religious appropriate processes of support such as better ways of managing the court hearing.
29	To Accept me as the dependent of my son and weekly payments should be enough to cover my expenses.
30	To Accept me as the dependent of my son and weekly payments should be enough to cover my expenses.





31	To support Muslim Community safe & secure. Mostly during Ramadan
32	Financial support to pay off debt. To reunite family in NZ
33	I need help from immigration with visa for my parents & housing & medical health
34	I would like the government to understand that we the victims are going through financial, mental & immigration difficulties. I expect them to acknowledge our problems are unique for each individual and should be treated as such for every individual needs. I would also ask the government to make immigration rule easier for families of victims so they can immigrate to NZ and be a support to the victims
35	Help with getting disability benefits because of medical & physical problems
36	To bring her daughter & her family. Her daughter has not seen her parent for 17 years & her dad promised to visit her this year but sadly he is now deceased. She would like to reunite her family. She is the only one left back home. Laws to prevent & punish hate crimes against Muslim
37	See form complete by parents
38	Distribution of donations from victim support
39	To bring her sister & her family to NZ - the rest of the family are all here. She would like her sister to live here permanently.
40	The Government needs to observe and coordinate all organisation that has received donation funds, give the donations directly to the families, not those who claim they represent victims, to enable us easily direct them to our financial demands & needs.
41	Help with immigration for family support & financial support.
42	We need high security around mosque
43	financial compensation & support services (logistical & psychological)
44	We are expecting weekly financial aid from the government.
45	Help to get NZ Citizenship



46	Granting my wife the residency visa. Financial Aid as I am not working
47	To feel more secure in my city for me and for my family
48	Accommodation, sustainability for my family (2 kids) long term
49	Residency and in future my mother might request sister to visit her
50	Any assistance from the government will be highly appreciated
51	Any and all support for the victims' family members for education & employment.



# FIANZ REQUESTS



**FIANZ FOLLOW UP TO THE REPORT OF THE ROYAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY INTO THE ATTACK ON TWO CHRISTCHURCH MOSQUES**

## 1) Provision for Resources for Victims to Understand the Royal Commission Report

The DPMC needs to urgently provide resources for the victims to ensure they understand the findings and the recommendations of the Royal Commission Report. There is considerable disquiet about findings related to the terrorist and also the circumstances which led to the terrorism. The victims are also not aware of the impact of the recommendations, with respect to their own wellbeing.

## 2) A systematic and needs-based support framework.

That the DPMC commissions a comprehensive needs analysis survey of the victims and thereafter develop a framework of needs and match the relevant agencies with the needs identified by the victims. This needs to be on a systematic, all-inclusive basis with appropriate language and cultural support to the victims for them to participate in this needs analysis. Ad hoc support services only compounds the problems and overseas experience have highlighted the need for such a needs-based approach.

TYPE OF NEED	IMPACT	BRIEF DESCRIPTOR
Mental Wellbeing	Long Term	Psychological Services; addressing PTSD; anxiety and depression related disorders etc
Spiritual Wellbeing	Long Term	Support for the two Masjids so that they can provide spiritual and community-based services; meet the need for religious counselling; easing suffering;
Family Wellbeing	Medium Term	Housing affordability; intra-family issues; families without mothers/fathers; care of the elderly
Socio-Cultural Wellbeing	Medium Term	Integration into wider society; isolation based on language competency; insecurity and lack of trust
Education/Employment Wellbeing	Medium Term	Affordability for higher education; special needs education; assisting those medically unable to work; the unemployable; access to retraining, etc
Physical Wellbeing	Medium Term	Health issues; disabled adjustment assistance; timely medical intervention
Civic Wellbeing	Short Term	Immigration issues; access to local and national government welfare services;
Financial Wellbeing	Short Term	Financial planning of donor funds; affordability of high living costs; insufficient or no savings, etc



# FIANZ REQUESTS



FIANZ FOLLOW UP TO  
THE REPORT OF THE  
ROYAL COMMISSION  
OF INQUIRY INTO THE  
ATTACK ON TWO  
CHRISTCHURCH MOSQUES

### 3) Services Provision at the 2 Masjid

The two main local masjids (Masjid An Nur and Linwood Islamic Centre) have been providing an end-less programme of support and coordination since 15 March, 2019. Given that most of the officials are volunteers, it is essential that funding is provided to them, so that they continue and expand their current programmes. It is up to these two organisations to identify their resourcing needs

### 4) One-Stop Service Centre

We would recommend that a one-stop services centre be established, with appropriate (language and community services background) qualified Muslim staff. This Centre would be the interface between the victims and the government agencies (ACC, Immigration, IRD, MBIE, MSD, and others). The provision of counselling services would also be appropriate.

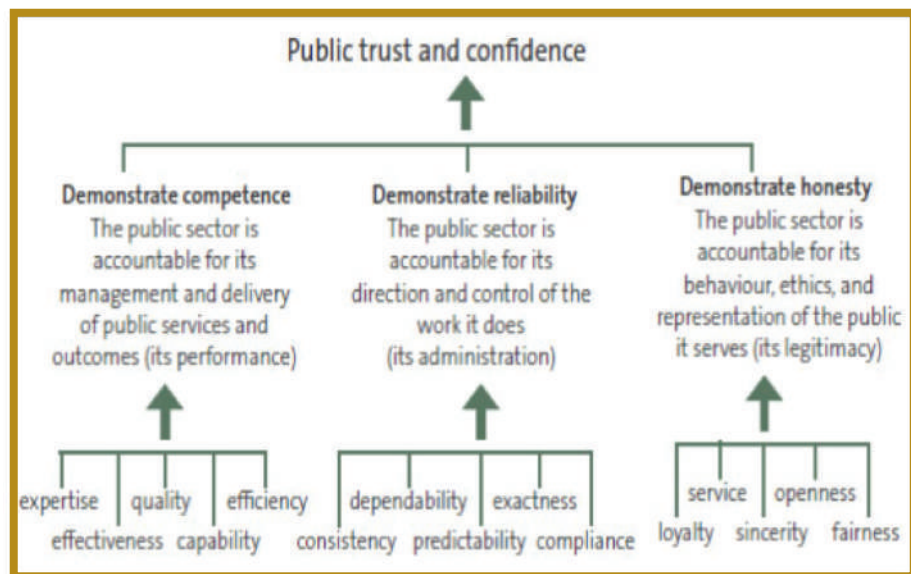
## 5.00 OVERARCHING PRIORITY 2: ACCOUNTABILITY OF KEY AGENCIES

### Accountability

It is FIANZ's contention, based on overwhelming response from the community, that there needs to be full accountability with respect to the NZ Police and the NZ Security Intelligence Services. This follows the apology by the Prime Minister followed by the apologies by the Police Commissioner and the Director General of the NZSIS.

The RC has clearly stated the pivotal importance of rebuilding trust and confidence of the community with Public sector agencies. The RCR clearly outlines that without the direct input of ethnic and religious communities trust cannot be rebuilt. In this context the ethnic and religious communities have a pivotal role in the "design and implementation of the solutions proposed by the RC" (Part 10 Clause 6.4.6).

The importance of regaining the **public trust** after the failings identified in the Royal Commission Report should be given a priority focus by the DPMC. In this respect, we have taken cognisance of the recommendations of the Office of the Controller and Auditor-General, Tumuaki o te Mana Arotake, of the importance of the public service agencies demonstrating competence, reliability and honesty.<sup>13</sup>



Source: Adapted from Geiling, D (2014), "Accountability and Trust"

<sup>13</sup> <https://oag.parliament.nz/2019/public-accountability/part3.htm>



# FIANZ REQUESTS



FIANZ FOLLOW UP TO  
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## Accountability: Our Approach with the NZ Police

FIANZ has taken the initiative to meet with the Police Commissioner and discuss some of the immediate steps which should be taken to strengthen the existing MOU between the respective organisations.

### We request:

- i) Regular consultative meetings are held with the Māori, Pacific and Ethnic Services
- ii) Liaison with the Muslim Reference Group to discuss matters which are of interest
- iii) Orientation of new Police on Islam and Muslims in NZ – NZ Police College
- iv) Orientation/training of Police at the FIANZ Training Centre, Wellington.



## Accountability: Our Approach with the NZSIS

FIANZ has taken the initiative to meet with the Director General and some of the immediate steps which may be taken to redress the disquiet which exists in the Muslim community after the release of the Royal Commission Report and the subsequent apology by the Director General.

### We request:

- i) Establish a Muslim Reference Group for consultation and liaison
- ii) The Director General to meet with the Muslim community (closed session) and address issues and queries raised by the community.
- iii) Orientation sessions on Islam and Muslims in NZ - At the FIANZ Training Centre, Wellington
- iv) Quarterly meetings between FIANZ and the DG (or her nominees) to monitor progress of relationship
- v) One-point contact at the NZSIS where Muslims can report any issues of concern and with follow-up



## 6.00 NATIONWIDE CONSULTATION

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The Engagement Process initiated by the Coordinating Minister and Minister for Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities attests to the organic and ethical approach. This is consistent with the 'public faced' programmes envisaged in the Royal Commission Report.

We have to take note of two prior similar engagements.



**Te Tari Matawaka**  
**Office of Ethnic Communities**

### **Prior Engagement 1: By OEC**

There are important lessons to be learned from previous such engagement with the Muslim community. The OEC organised 16 community meetings with over 250 Muslims (youth, women, men and elders) participating and a summary report was published which reported four key focus areas.<sup>14</sup>

#### **Safety and wellbeing**

- Communities' sense of safety and wellbeing was adversely impacted by the terror attacks. The healing process will continue for some time.
- Women especially feel vulnerable due to the way their clothing can visibly identify them as Muslim.
- While awareness of, and support for, Muslim communities has increased, hate speech, racism, and Islamophobia persist in face-to-face interactions as well as online.

#### **The role of the education system in promoting diversity**

- The education system, including continuing education and professional development, needs to reflect our increasingly diverse society by providing fit-for-purpose education and training for cultural and religious awareness.
- Unconscious - and sometimes conscious - bias continues to be experienced in our learning environments and education system.
- Learning environments must support an understanding of cultural and religious diversity, and ensure practical support is available by providing appropriate resources, for example, prayer rooms.

#### **Equal employment opportunities**

- Create equal employment opportunities for all and acknowledge that some groups -for example Muslim women - face higher barriers to entering and progressing in the work force.
- Employers need to look at how to incorporate cultural and religious diversity in workplaces.

#### **The role of the media**

- There must be better use of media to share positive stories in which diverse communities see themselves reflected.
- We all have a role to play in engaging with media in an informed way to counter narratives that perpetuate stereotypes, bias and misinformation.

**The OEC Report promised 25 'action points'** to be implemented and some 18 months later the Muslim community have yet to be advised on the progress. Such **unmet promises** have led many in the community to consider such engagement to be simply a 'façade of consultation'. This is a key lesson which has to be avoided.

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.ethniccommunities.govt.nz/resources-2/conversations-with-aotearoa-new-zealands-muslim-communities/>

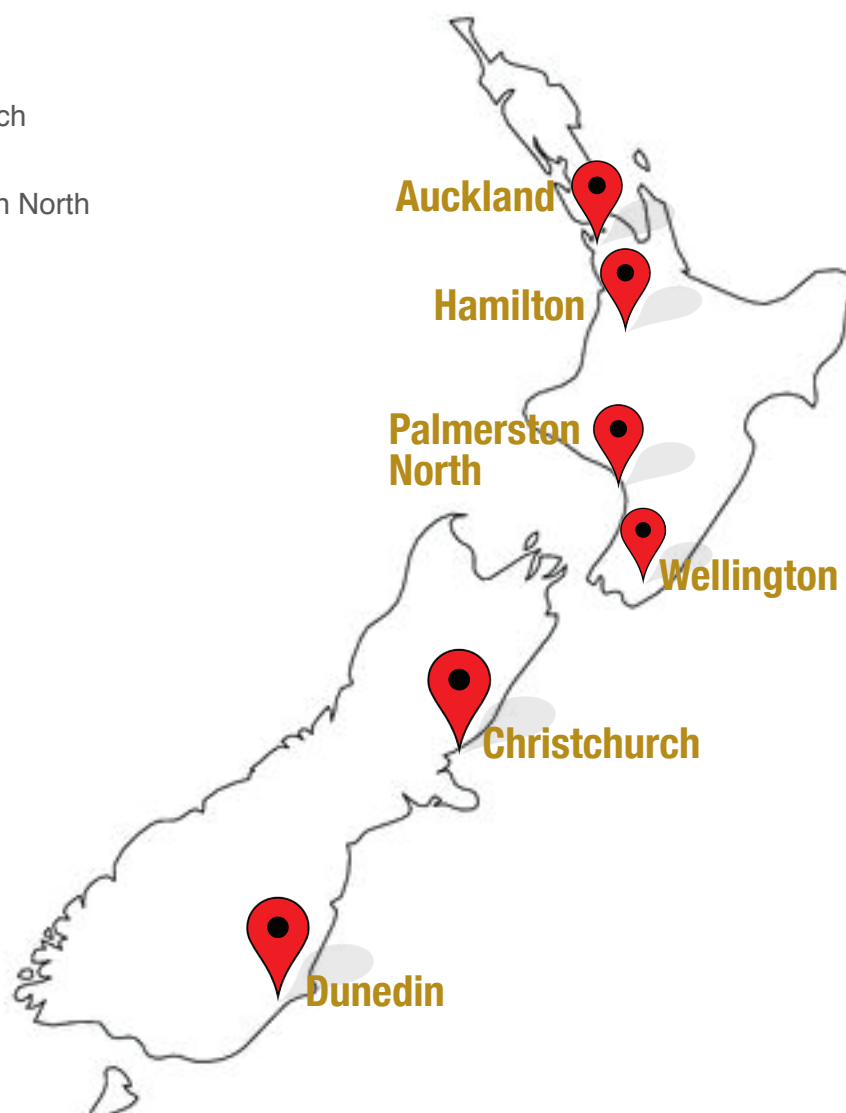




### Prior Engagement 1: FIANZ Nationwide Hui

FIANZ , as part of Royal Commission submission process, also undertook an extensive grass-roots consultation process with hui in the cities below. There were also people from other places who participated in these sessions.

- Dunedin
- Christchurch
- Wellington
- Palmerston North
- Hamilton
- Auckland



The key issues raised have been summarised and the recommendations analysed as part of the FIANZ RC Submission.<sup>15</sup> As such, FIANZ has a baseline index of key issues of concern , as highlighted by the wider Muslim community in the above cities. In addition to the above hui in the six centres, there were also focus group sessions. These sessions enabled FIANZ to prioritise the key issues and recommendations.

<sup>15</sup> <https://fianz.com/christchurch-rc/>



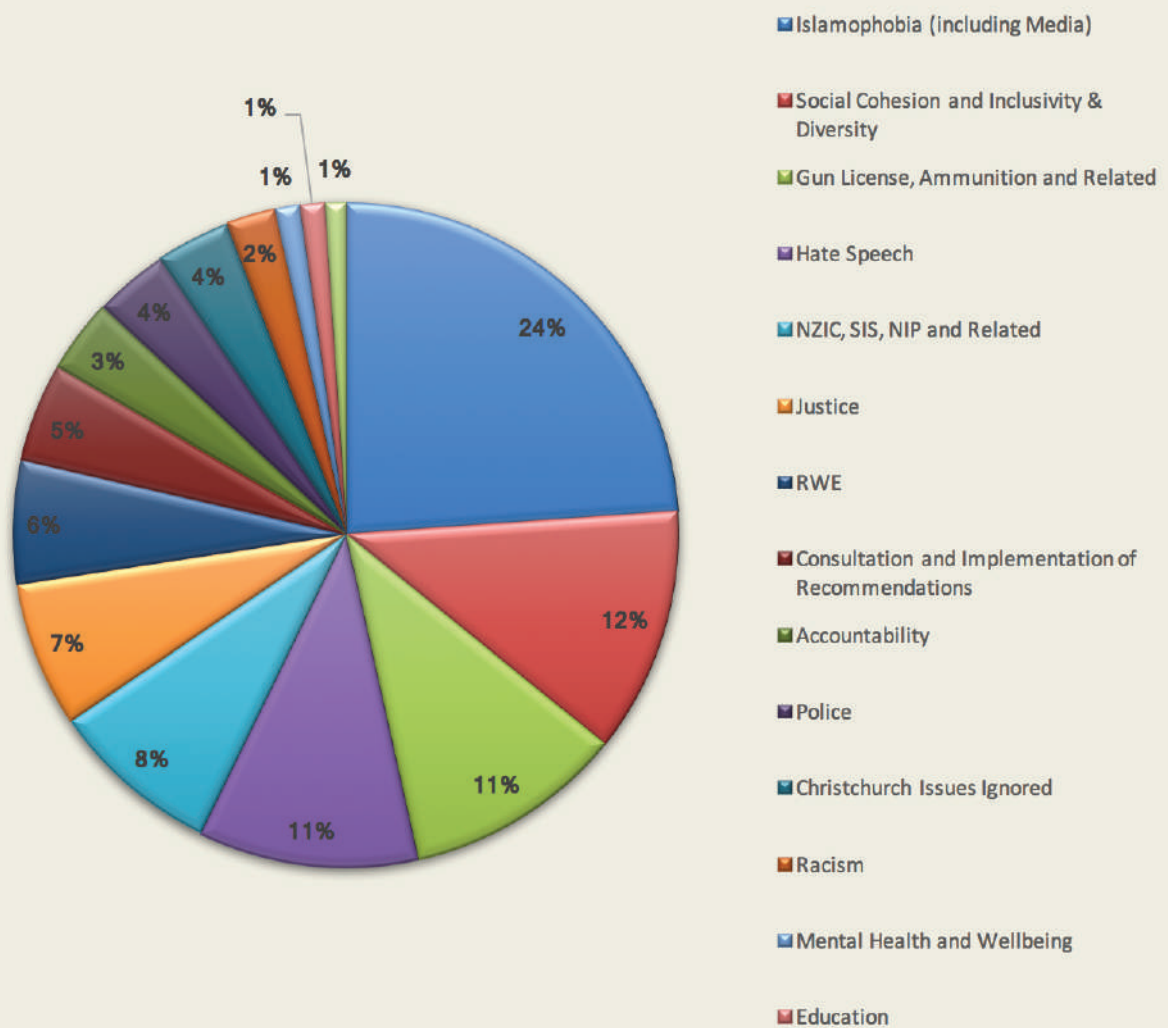
## KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED DURING HUI

(Ranking of issues based on number of comments by those attending the hui)

Affected Status	Response
Islamophobia (including Media)	23.90%
Social Cohesion and Inclusivity & Diversity	11.90%
Gun License, Ammunition and Related	10.70%
Hate Speech	10.70%
NZIC, SIS, NIP and Related	8.30%
Justice	7.10%
RWE	6.00%
Consultation and Implementation of Recommendations	4.80%
Accountability	3.60%
Police	3.60%
Christchurch Issues Ignored	3.60%
Racism	2.40%
Mental Health and Wellbeing	1.20%
Education	1.20%
Community Matters	1.00%



## KEY ISSUES IDENTIFIED DURING HUI





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## Organisation of Hui on Media responsibility

### Respond to Islamophobia

The Royal Commission's Terms of Reference did not include the role of the media. However, the Royal Commission Report nevertheless referred to the role of the media and the Muslim community's request of the need for the,

*"... media in New Zealand making a conscious effort to normalise Muslim representations on screen, and to take a critical, rational and ethical approach to priming and framing stories involving Islam Muslims and Muslim-majority countries and regions."*<sup>16</sup>

Islamophobia has consistently been a key area of concern for the Muslims in NZ and there is ample evidence of the media contributing to the securitisation of Islam. In this context, we consider it important and necessary for a national hui with representatives from the NZ media to discuss the responsibilities of the fourth estate. We consider this an essential step, side by side with the engagement process, so that there is a fair and balanced approach to the implementation of the recommendations.

**FIANZ is seeking the assistance of the DPMC with respect to this national hui with the media.**

<sup>16</sup> <https://christchurchattack.royalcommission.nz/the-report/voices-of-the-community/what-communities-told-us-about-the-broader-context-in-which-the-terrorist-attack-occurred/>

## 7.00 SOCIAL COHESION : AN INITIAL PERSPECTIVE

*In the name of God, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful O human-kind! We created you from a single pair of a male and a female and made you into nations and tribes that you may know one another.*

*Quran 49:13*

### Foundation

Diversity as a demographic reality and a foundational principle is grounded in the history of Aotearoa NZ. If we take Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the basis of our modern nation state, despite what has often been our failure over the decades to uphold its precepts or honour its spirit, then the acceptance of difference is at the very core of our national being.

How we manage such cultural, linguistic, tradition and religious difference is often a reflection of the value we place on diversity. Diversity has the potential to be a faultline running through the strata of land or a vein of gold waiting to be mined. It can break us or enrich us, it is a point of weakness or a mark of strength - and how we approach, manage and lead in this field will set the tone for our generations to come.

The concept of social cohesion is an attempt to reflect this core foundation, to affirm its value and to draw it into a reality we can live by. In the face of rapidly evolving national identities and social values, where unity is no longer based on outmoded ideas of homogeneity, reaffirming our core principles is a means of holding us all together in all of our diversity and coalescing a set of common goals – the recommendations of the Royal Commission Report are a starting point.

Immediately after the tragic events of 15 March 2019, there was an unprecedented response from the general NZ public – with a few notable exceptions this response occurred across all those points of difference that might otherwise have been considered divisive – race, colour, creed, political affiliation, age, ethnicity, urban/rural, education level, income strata, etc

In the face of atrocity we suddenly knew who were as a nation, who we were not and perhaps more importantly, who we wanted to be

As a result in the post 15th March context the wider NZ society has become more sensitized to the ways in which social cohesion can be threatened and have indicated a lower social tolerance for such behavior by both individuals and institutions. This serves to provide a well supported, popular and grass roots grounded social impetus to see positive change enacted. The widespread and intricate network of nation-wide community based organisations, also serve as functioning agencies for social cohesion.

For many in the Muslim community, the Government's support for the Royal Commission of Inquiry and its commitment to implementing the recommendations outlined in the Commission's final report, indicate a strong political will to effect change. The governing context now means that such political will may more easily find its expression in concrete action.

### **Muslim Community as Case Study**

Just as Te Tiriti may serve as a blueprint for an inclusive and pluralistic NZ society, likewise in the history of Islam there is the presence of the Madinah Constitution serving fundamentally the same purpose. Madinah was the first Islamic City State, established by the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) in 623CE it comprised a community made up of various peoples and tribes espousing different religious creeds (Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Pagan, etc). The Constitution referred to this fledgling society as – one ummah or one community. This has over the centuries formed a foundational principle that informed the development of Islamic civilisations that were both demographically complex as well as geographically expansive.

Today Islam is the second largest religion in the world numbering approximately 1.8 billion adherents and is currently the largest growing faith group among the major world religions. In many ways the Muslim community of Aotearoa NZ is a microcosm of this global snapshot. With a population of 61,455 (approx 1.3% of the total population), the Muslim community has members from over 60 different ethnic groups including Maori, Pasifika and Pakeha.

The social cohesion required to hold together such a variegated and multi-layered community has had to be solid enough to provide a firm footing on which we can all stand, whilst at the same time allowing sufficient flexibility to incorporate a widely diverse and evolving society.

The preceding 2 years have been a tumultuous time for the Muslim community of Aotearoa NZ and at times the faultlines of difference threatened to break apart the very foundations beneath our feet leaving us bereft of solid ground with no place to stand securely and call home. But just as our world turned upside down, the rest of Aotearoa NZ stood firm.

Always in the back of our mind, in the silence of our consciousness, in our deep heart we seek to honour the legacy of our 51 martyrs and we say that out of one act of darkness there is the potential for so much light. We have already seen this with the long-awaited changes to the arms legislation being pushed through, the establishment of the Royal Commission, the upgrading of the Office of Ethnic Communities, the appointment of a Minister to oversee the recommendations of the Royal Commission Report, the opening of the discussion around hate crimes, the review of Police procedures around gun licensing and above all the commitment of stakeholders throughout the public and civic sectors to meaningful and authentic engagement.

We are driven and compelled to undertake this work – to make sure that this never happens to our country again. On the 15th of March it was the Muslim community that was so brutally attacked but we know that it could just as easily have been someone else, some other minority community, some other marginalised group, some other vulnerable segment of our society.

And so together we are looking forward. We recognise that the changes that need to happen and the transformation that needs to take place to create a safe and inclusive country for everyone will require an all of Government approach alongside an all of Society approach. We are looking to Government to be our partners in this work and to take up the mantle of leadership for this vital mahi.

May peace be with us all.



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## A National Hui on Social Cohesion

The social cohesion framework will define our national identity for generations to come. FIANZ recommends a national hui where the many diverse communities which make up Aotearoa New Zealand can share their perspective on the social cohesion and at the same time we can collectively come to a consensus on the key principles of social cohesion which can guide government policy and address many of the recommendations of the Royal Commission.

FIANZ shall be pleased to organise such a hui and we need the support and guidance of the DPMC to take this first step in arriving at Key Principles.

**We suggest such a hui in August, 2021.**

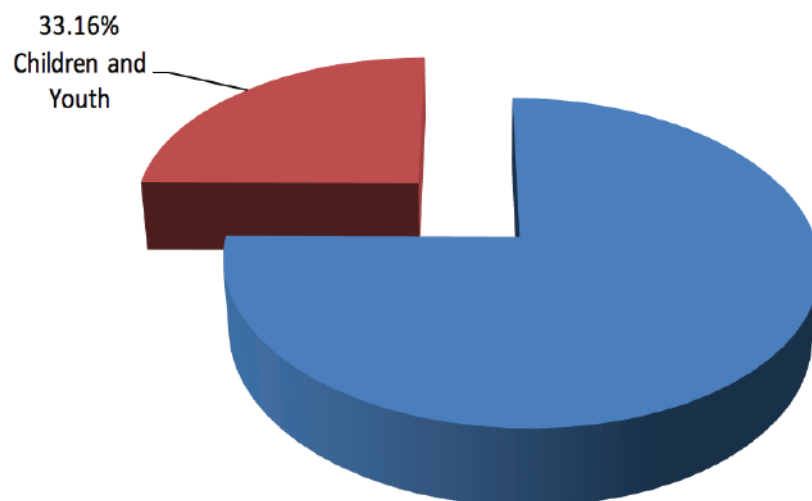


## 8.00 FOCUS ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

A key demographic feature of the NZ Muslim population is that over 33% are below 20 years of age, compared to 26% for the general population.<sup>1</sup> From early childhood centres to secondary schools, there is a growing need to redress the prejudice caused by Islamophobia and the potential impact on the social and mental wellbeing of this vulnerable age group.

A proactive effort to provide culturally-appropriate information to teachers and administrators to raise their awareness is an emerging need identified by the community.

There are an estimated 20,103 Muslim children in ECEs, primary schools, and secondary schools in NZ.<sup>2</sup>



Breakdown of Muslim children and youth as percentage of Muslim population

<sup>1</sup> Based on 2018 Census  
<sup>2</sup> Based on 2018 Census



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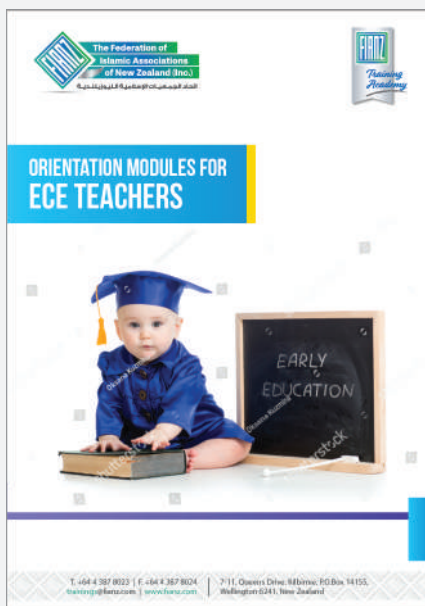


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## Cultural orientation modules for teachers and educators

Currently FIANZ has a nascent project to develop cultural orientation modules for teachers (ECE, Primary and Secondary) and administrators as part of their in-service and pre-service training. These modules have been designed to be offered in a blended mode and may also be supplemented with sessions with qualified Muslim educational practitioners within our community. Whilst there have been such ad hoc services being offered, particularly in the main centres, FIANZ blended approach shall ensure accessibility in the regional centres as well.

FIANZ requests a formal meeting with the Ministry of Education and the NZQA, where the modules and this offer of orientation sessions may be discussed.





## 9.00 THE 44 RECOMMENDATIONS

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## 9.00 The 44 Recommendations

We extend **our full support and cooperation** for the challenges that lie ahead this year for the implementation of the 44 Recommendations of the Royal Commission's Report into the Terrorist Attack on the CHRISTCHURCH MOSQUESs.

### Recovery Context

Based on evidence from previous overseas tragedies, the current Engagement Process is timely and appropriate. The DPMC needs to ensure that the implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission are in keeping with lessons learned overseas



Source: <https://www.ictg.org/phases-of-disaster-response.html>



## Time Frame

We trust that the draft time frame for implementation of the recommendations has been developed. The Royal Commission Report (RCR) has advised that some of the recommendation “should be able to be implemented relatively quickly”. (Part 10, Clause 6.2). The latter includes:

- Assigning ministerial responsibility (Recommendations 1 and 43)  
[Which has been already implemented, with your appointment]
- Establishing funding (Recommendation 14)  
Which awaits implementation after the establishment of the new national intelligence and security agency. There are however other requirements which should be a high priority and includes:
- Establishment of an **Advisory Group on Counter-Terrorism** as part of Recommendation 7.
- Promoting to the wider community the availability of grants for research on extremism and preventing, detecting and responding to current and emerging threats of violent extremism and terrorism.
- Formation of forums that enable community voices to influence decision-making (Recommendation 7 and 44)
- Establish an **Implementation Oversight Advisory Group** as part of Recommendation 44.

We also note that the RCR also suggested that the implementation of other recommendations “may take more time, to enable public conversations to take place.” Of key importance here is the need to have a planned and systematic information sharing and consultation process between the government agencies and the wider community as part of the engagement referred to in the RCR.



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## An Implementation Schedule:

It is recognised that many of the 44 Recommendations shall require various policy, procedural and legislative due processes. Furthermore, the need for ‘public-faced’ consultation will take time and resources. These changes should not be hurried despite pressure from various stakeholders and the media. In this context, FIANZ requests a phased schedule which is realistic and incorporates adequate time for consultation with stakeholders. At issue is that the wider community recognises and are able to monitor progress of the implementation of the recommendations. We have proffered a guideline below.

KEY	C = Completed I = Immediate ( within 3 months)	SM= Short to Medium Term ( 4 -6 months) ML= Medium to Long Term (7-18 months)	
	ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION	FIANZ SUGGESTED SCHEDULE	KEY NOTES RELATED TO IMPLEMENTATION
1	Coordinating Minister	C	We applaud the appointment of Hon Andrew Little.
2	National Intelligence and Security Agency (NISA)	SM	This should be a high priority in the face current RWE
3	Interdepartmental Executive Board	SM	This is a comprehensive and interrelated task , hence an initial frame of reference should suffice
4	Public Facing Strategy	SM	Start the process prior to the NISA
5	Amend Public Finance Act- Include ISA for Performance Audit	I	Public input into the performance metrics is necessary
6	Strengthen Parliamentary Intelligence and Security Committee	SM	This is critical to be completed before NISA, so less than 6 months
7	Establish Advisory Group on counter-terrorism (AGCT)	SM	Start the process prior to the NISA
8	Related to the workings of the National Intelligence and Security Agency	ML	Role of the AGCT pivotal
9	Related to the workings of the National Intelligence and Security Agency	SM	The Royal Commission specified within 6 months
10	Amend Intelligence and Security Act 2017	SM	This is key functional requirement



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	ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION	FIANZ SUGGESTED SCHEDULE	KEY NOTES RELATED TO IMPLEMENTATION
11	Related to the workings of the Public sector agencies on counter-terrorism	I	Experienced and trained human resources critical
12	Single contact point for public to report	I	This could start immediately appropriate designated staff. Follow-up reports are essential.
13	Identify indicators and risk factors – extremist behaviours	I	This should be a high priority in the face current RWE
14	Fund independent NZ-specific research to prevent extremism and terrorism	SM	Who and how managed should be discussed with the OAG.
15	Opportunities for public to understand extremism and terrorism and Social Cohesion	I	This should be a high priority in the face current RWE. Different languages should be considered.
16	Annual hui on countering violent extremism and terrorism.	I	A key plank of the public faced approach and a highlight event to review implementation progress
17	Legislative Requirements	SM	This legislation will bring considerable 'peace of mind', which has been hitherto been missing.
18	Review and ensure counter terrorism legislation	ML	In-depth public-faced consultation required beyond the AGCT
19	Police to improve firearms licensing system	SM	Ensure best practices experts involved
20	Police to introduce electronic system – firearms licensing	SM	Ensure best practices experts involved
21	Police to ensure regular training and evaluate quality related to firearms licensing	SM	Ensure best practices experts involved
22	Police to introduce performance indicators - firearms licensing	SM	Ensure best practices experts involved
23	Police - new processes for firearms licensing	SM	Ensure best practices experts involved



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	ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION	FIANZ SUGGESTED SCHEDULE	KEY NOTES RELATED TO IMPLEMENTATION
24	Mandatory reporting of firearms injuries	I	A major loophole which needs very urgent response
25	MSD coordinate with other Public sector agencies – one point support contact	SM	Ensure cultural sensitivity is acknowledged and high level media publicity of this contact
26	Collective Impact Network and Board – wrap-around services	I	Very urgent priority, keeping in context a baseline needs assessment
27	DPMC – restorative justice	I	Must be Muslim lawyer(s)
28	MSD responsible for whole-of-government approach to social cohesion	SM	Significant wider community input and hui is a prerequisite.
29	MSD collaboration with stakeholders on social cohesion	SM	Communities to provide input and they need to have adequate resources to make meaningful contribution
30	Investigate a fit for purpose agency focused on ethnic communities and multiculturalism	ML	Significant wider community input and hui is a prerequisite. Past inefficiencies as noted in the Royal Commission Report require a green-field approach.
31	Measures and indicators for social cohesion	ML	Significant wider community input and hui is a prerequisite.
32	More data gathering for better policy making	SM	Ensure best practices experts involved
33	CEs of Public sector agencies – workforce diversity and consult with Advisory Group on counter terrorism	SM	Specific Terms of Reference have to be developed in consultation with the OAG
34	Public Service Commissioner - Annual Report on progress of the Papa Pounamu and counter-terrorism	SM	Independent Review by the Human Rights Commissioner is also recommended.
35	Public Service Commissioner effort on workforce diversity and leadership	SM	Significant wider community input to identify latency and bottlenecks
36	Investment on young NZ'ers on civil role and rights, diversity and related	I	At two levels. Societal level through education and other Public sector agencies and Community Level through organisations and NGOs who need to be resourced





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	ROYAL COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION	FIANZ SUGGESTED SCHEDULE	KEY NOTES RELATED TO IMPLEMENTATION
37	MSD facilitate Public conversation on social cohesion	I	Significant wider community input and hui is a prerequisite backed up by appropriate resources
38	Public sector community engagement to be in accordance with New Zealand's Open Government Partnership commitments	SM	Independent Review by the Human Rights Commission
39	Amend Legislation – Hate-motivated offences	ML	Significant wider community input
40	Legislative changes to Crimes Act 1961	ML	Significant wider community input
41	Amend definition of 'objectionable'	I	High level publicity through media is required
42	NZ Police – record complaints and related	SM	High level publicity through media is required
43	Coordinating Minister given responsibility for implementation	C	Needs a specific Secretariat ( respond to email, phone and other community requests)
44	Establish an Implementation Oversight Advisory Group (OAG)	I	Seek community input to establish criteria for appointment and ensure the Terms of Reference are consistent with the spirit of the Royal Commission Recommendations



Cover Page Images References:  
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