



Social Cohesion

Oral Item, Social Wellbeing Committee, 6
April

Background

To give effect to the recommendations of the RCOI into the terrorist attack on Christchurch masjidain, Cabinet has asked me to report back with the following:

- a social cohesion strategic framework, including a measurement framework, developed with close community involvement.
- a proposal to build on the Government's existing work programme through tangible government actions in the short, medium and long-term to improve social cohesion.
- how communities, the business sector, the cultural sector, and central and local government can contribute to social cohesion, and how they can be enabled or supported.

Focus for today: strategic framework

Purpose of the framework:

- Contribute to a shared understanding of social cohesion and how it is strengthened in Aotearoa New Zealand.
- Guide effective and coordinated action to strengthen social cohesion.
- Form the basis for measurement. Can use it to monitor and report on social cohesion in Aotearoa New Zealand

Multiple phases of stakeholder engagement

Public participation was at the 'Involve' level (under IAP2 framework):

To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered

MSD employed an iterative process with multiple phases of engagement across a wide range of diverse groups. This included:

- **Public and targeted engagement on broad questions about social cohesion:** what it means, where to focus efforts, and how we know there's been progress
- **Focused collaboration to develop the framework** via 5 wānanga with a working group of 50-60 diverse community members with a variety of expertise
- **Bespoke Māori engagement**, involving 7 nationwide hui (mostly online) with community/sectoral stakeholders. Explored opportunities for formal partnership and reached out to iwi leaders. Capacity to engage has been limited due to COVID-19
- **Testing back the draft frameworks** with targeted stakeholders to see if we were on the right track

Draft Cabinet proposal

Key foundations to the proposals

*Te Tiriti o Waitangi is a guide to social cohesion. * The context is dynamic, events and societal changes impact social cohesion therefore our efforts to achieve and maintain it must also be dynamic. * Challenges to social cohesion are driven by social inequalities.

The Cabinet Proposal has four key parts

1. Strategic and Measurement Framework:

- The Strategic Framework articulates government's understanding of what social cohesion looks like in Aotearoa New Zealand and outcomes needed get there. It can provided a shared understand with communities and inspire action both inside and outside of government.
- The Measurement Framework enables progress/outcome tracking to keep us accountable for achieving measurable change by having key indicators for each outcome area

2. Government work programme contributing to social cohesion

- This will outline key activity Government has underway that contributes to social cohesion, and may identify areas to explore where more work can be done to lift the positive impact government can have on social cohesion outcomes

3. Investment and activity to enable social cohesion across Aotearoa

- the Social Cohesion Grant Fund to facilitate communities coming together and learning from each other [budget decisions pending]
- "*What you can do to promote social cohesion*" information sheets – targeted to particular sectors they will have practical suggestions to help enable behaviour shifts where people live, work and play

4. Public launch of this package

- including a targeted communication to the individuals and groups who have participated in their development through MSD's engagement process

Next steps

Date	Next Step
s (9)(2)(g)(i)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• potential Budget announcement introducing the Social Cohesion Grant Fund• draft Cabinet paper to you for Ministerial consultation• SWC consideration of Cabinet proposals• Public Release of the full package• The fund goes live

Discussion questions

- Does the language in the framework resonate with you? s (9)(2)(g)(i)
- Is there anything missing or that you think can be improved?