

## Muslim Community Reference Group Hui 7

### Notes of meeting

<b>Date and time of meeting</b>	5 March 2020, meeting commenced at 9.20am
<b>Location</b>	Ngā Hau e Whā marae, 250 Pages Road, Christchurch
<b>Attendees</b>	Muslim Community Reference Group members Commissioners Sir William Young and Jacqui Caine Benesia Smith, Executive Director Chris Mene, Facilitator Secretariat staff
<b>Apologies</b>	Zulfiqar Butt, Noeleen van de Lisdonk, Shahed Abu Jwaied, Abdur Razzaq Khan, Shaymaa Arif

The purpose of these notes is to provide a record of the meeting, to provide background for those who were unable to attend and to capture actions arising from the hui.

#### **Session 1: Update on Royal Commission process and natural justice**

Sheikh Mohammed Amir performed a du'a.

Facilitator, Chris Mene welcomed members to the meeting and invited Jacqui Caine and Benesia Smith to provide the opening remarks.

Jacqui reflected on the wonderful mahi that the reference group has been doing leading up to today's hui (the second to last) and to the constructive kōrero that the Royal Commission continues to hear.

Benesia provided an update on the nature and extent of the Royal Commission's draft report.

Members were invited to discuss the opening remarks at their tables.

#### **Session 2: Firearms license process**

Benesia presented a brief overview of the 11-step process to obtain a firearms licence in New Zealand.

She noted that the Royal Commission has received many submissions about firearms, and there have been some very specific questions asked of the individual's application process in our meetings with relevant parties to the issuing of the licence.

Sir William responded to a number of questions raised about the firearms licence process.

*The meeting adjourned for morning tea at 10.30am recommencing at 11.15am.*

#### **Session 3: Issues and recommendations on National Security System and Counter Terrorism System**

Jacqui provided insights on issues raised relating to the National Security System and Countering Violent Extremism.

Members reflected on Jacqui's presentation and workshopped a number of issues and possible solutions.

#### **Session 4: Workshop: Community Voice Chapter**

Benesia provided an update on the how community voices are being included in the report.

The Royal Commission's community engagement has fallen in to four broad categories, with reference group being one of them. The others are families of the 51 shuhada and survivors and witnesses of the attack and their whānau, community and interest groups and the NZ public through our submission process.

The Royal Commission is currently undertaking its due diligence process that involves for example seeking consent from various people or organisations who we have spoken to and/or have made submissions, to use their quotes in the report.

Proposed quotes from reference group meetings were reviewed by members at their tables, providing comment to their facilitator and on the handouts.

#### **Midday prayer and lunch**

The group broke for Zuhr Salat (midday prayer) and moved into the whare kai (food hall) for lunch.

#### **Session 5: Suggested solutions from the MCRG**

The group discussed possible solutions it might suggest, based on the workshops to date and conversations that have been had throughout the process.

#### **Wrap up and next hui**

Jacqui acknowledged the commitment and journey to date of members. For the Royal Commission, the 51 shuhada continue to remain at the heart of the Inquiry.

She noted that we are approaching the date of 15 March, and that she and Sir William have been invited to attend the Christchurch City Council Ko Tātou, Tātou - We are One remembrance service at North Hagley Park. This event is to stand in solidarity for the principle that New Zealand values diversity and welcomes all individuals.

Members thanked the Royal Commission for advising of their attendance, with one member acknowledging those reference group members who lost loved ones on 15 March, noting that reference group members support, and will continue to stand behind, them and will continue to work on their behalf.

Benesia confirmed the next hui will be held on 2 April 2020.

The meeting closed at 3.45pm with afternoon tea.