

21 March 2022

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To whom it may concern,

Submission from New Zealand Police to Te Ara Paerangi - Future Pathways Green Paper

New Zealand Police welcome the opportunity to comment on Te Ara Paerangi Future Pathways Green Paper 2021. New Zealand Police are normally not seen as part of the research infrastructure of Aotearoa/New Zealand. However, the growing need for an evidence base and the expanding research activities of New Zealand Police mean that it is a timely engagement.

We will comment on two aspects of the Green Paper while acknowledging that parts of the Green Paper concern elements of the research environment and workforce that do not directly affect police operations.

1. Development of Research Priorities

The Green Paper invites comments on the process to develop national research priorities. New Zealand Police have developed internal research capability that relates to policing priorities and operations. We would note that New Zealand Police deal with a range of matters that are critically important to the wellbeing of all New Zealanders. In this regard, New Zealand Police would welcome the opportunity to contribute to research priority setting and to offer our expertise and insights into matters of critical importance to New Zealand and New Zealanders. We would draw your attention to the document, [New Zealand Police Strategic Research Agenda - Te Rautaki Kaupapa Rangahau o Aotearoa, 2020-2022](#). As you will see from this document, New Zealand Police is placing a much higher priority on research and a research strategy.

We note the comments about co-development of these priorities and while New Zealand Police has not always played a role in the research system as a whole, we would now suggest that the moment has come where this would be timely. We would certainly be able to comment on basic research questions concerning the policing of New Zealand, the wellbeing and safety of New Zealanders, and the evidence required to ensure that social justice and equity questions are addressed.

To be clear, New Zealand Police will continue to develop and fund research that relates to operational matters. However, the observations above relate to broader social and cultural questions that should be part of a research priority setting exercise.

We also note the emphasis given to Māori needs and aspirations, and the importance of including Te Tiriti o Waitangi into research priorities and activities. This is a key aim for New Zealand Police and we would observe that we have expertise in this area, as well as

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a primary focus on meeting the needs of Māori communities. We would welcome an opportunity to contribute to any discussion of the research required to meet these Māori needs and aspirations.

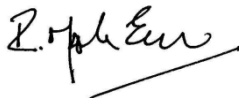
2. Productive Research Collaboration

We note the comments about utilising capability and activities across the state sector (as well as elsewhere) and the need to address (reduce) “unproductive competition” (3.1.2). Principally through our recently established Evidence-Based Policing Centre, which is developing a growing reputation both here in Aotearoa and internationally, New Zealand Police has developed a much more extensive research programme (see New Zealand Police, Strategic Research Agenda referred to above), with some internal capability as well as providing opportunities to fund external research providers. One section in this report is titled “Strengthening Our Sector Partnerships”.

We would welcome any opportunity to liaise with other research providers and funders, to develop co-funding models and research partnerships, and to improve awareness of what is happening more broadly in the research sector in order to improve partnerships and efficiencies. We already have significant links with researchers here in New Zealand and overseas, have jointly managed a number of significant projects with University-based staff and are increasingly using an evidence-based approach in our business. The opportunity exists to rapidly operationalise research in ways that are good for New Zealanders.

New Zealand Police might not be generally seen as a major player in relation to research in Aotearoa and in some ways, the research activities of New Zealand Police are modest. However, relevant research is critical to the operations of a major institution in Aotearoa and it makes sense to ensure that there are effective partnerships that provide benefits both ways and that contribute to an evidence-base for New Zealand Police so that we can be more effective while at the same time, allow research providers and systems to understand the research needs of our organisation and, more broadly, the justice system, as a way of contributing to the wellbeing of New Zealand.

Yours sincerely



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