New Zealand Action Plan for Human Rights

Race Relations Sector Advisory Group

Process for appointment, terms of reference and recommended members

Introduction

The Race Relations Sector Advisory Group will primarily be a group of experts who can advise the NZAP project. The group will be selected by the HRC.

A wide range of organisations put forward nominations to the Human Rights Commission for membership of the overseeing National Advisory Committee (NAC) to the project. It has taken a considerable period of time to confirm the NAC membership.

In inviting nominations, the Human Rights Commission said that if nominees were not appointed to the NAC they would be considered for any relevant Sector Advisory Group s to the NZAP. A number of members of the NAC will have expertise on race relations issues, these people might include (but are not limited to)

Information withheld under s 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)

Two other Sector Advisory Groups will be established as part of the NZAP: one focused on children's rights, the other on issues concerning disability. These two groups will liaise and work with the Race Relations Sector Advisory Group.

Appointing a Race Relations Sector Advisory Group

Consideration needs to first be given to the nominees who were unsuccessful in being appointed to the NAC. Where gaps have been identified in the balance of the proposed Sector Advisory Group people other than those identified through the public nomination process may be added. We need to ensure coverage is provided through the Race Relations Sector Advisory Group of key issues and attributes. The group is primarily a group of experts who will assist in guiding the work programme and draw on their networks and expertise on race relations issues. It will be important to ensure a good level of involvement of Pakeha, Maori and other ethnic groups to assist particularly with

communicating and discussing race relations issues within various cultural contexts. It will also be important to involve public sector representation on the group to reflect the NZAP partnership approach, to link in with work they may be doing, and get broad engagement.

The NZAPHR project manager has consulted with the Race Relations Commissioner and the Race and Ethnic Relations Team in developing this paper and the accompanying recommendations.

Listed below are the desirable areas of expertise, the nominees for the NAC who should be considered for representation on Race Relations Sector Advisory Group and an assessment of the gaps/desirable strengths that may not be covered in the nominees group. A list of other potential candidates is also included.

1. Desirable attributes, skills, expertise and issues of balance

Perspectives of:

Pakeha

Maori

Pacific

Asian

Expertise in:

Academic/research

Social policy

Practical implementation

Local government/community experience

Media

Knowledge/expertise in race relations issues concerning:

Treaty of Waitangi

Cultural diversity

Racial discrimination

Religion

Media

Immigration

Special measures to ensure equality

And generally issues such as: health, employment, education, housing

As a group consider:

Geographical spread

Connection with broad networks

Information withheld under s 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba).

1		



Information withheld under s9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)

3. Gaps

Pakeha (women/business)

Pacific (one more)

Media

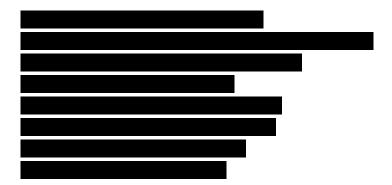
Chinese

African

Muslim

Public sector

4. Other possible nominees to meet gaps:



Administrative and financial arrangements

The HRC would be responsible for administrative and financial arrangements. To clarify the expectations of what this covers, the key aspects of this are listed below:

- NZAP team will organise travel and all other arrangements for Race Relations Sector Advisory Group ,
- NZAP project will meet costs associated with Race Relations Sector Advisory Group (including meeting fees),
- HRC will chair the Race Relations Sector Advisory Group, preferably either the Race Relations Commissioner or someone from the RERT team

Draft Terms of Reference

The role of the Race Relations Sector Advisory Group to Mana ki te Tangata – New Zealand Action Plan for Human Rights (NZAP) is to:

- i. Assist the Human Rights Commission (the Commission) to engage widespread participation by a diverse range of ethnic communities in the process to develop the NZAP;
- Review and provide feedback on discussion documents developed by the Commission, particularly in relation to race relations;
- iii. Review baseline data collected by the Commission on the current status of human rights in New Zealand, and on the basis of that data to;
 - a. Make recommendations to the Commission and the National Advisory Council identifying the race relations issues in which, in the opinion of the RRSAG, New Zealand could improve its human rights performance;
 - b. Make recommendations to the Commission and the National Advisory Council for strategies to enhance race relations in New Zealand for inclusion in the NZAP; and
- iv. Make recommendations to the Commission for the implementation, monitoring and review of the NZAP.

In developing its recommendations the RRSAG must refer to the provisions of international and domestic human rights law and of the Treaty of Waitangi.

The Human Rights Commission will be responsible for:

 Providing the RRSAG with discussion documents on human rights issues and baseline data about the current status of human rights in New Zealand;

- ii. Arranging meetings of the RRSAG and providing the necessary administrative support to enable RRSAG members to participate in those meetings;
- iii. Meeting travel and other reasonable costs associated with attending RRSAG meetings and paying a meeting fee to RRSAG members;
- iv. Enabling liaison between the RRSAG, and the National Advisory Council;
- v. Developing and implementing a public participation process to ensure widespread public involvement in the development of the NZAP;
- vi. Developing and implementing a communications programme to support the development of the NZAP;
- vii. Writing the NZAP.

Terms of Reference for officials on the RRSAG

The role of officials representing Government departments on the RRSAG will be to:

- i. Advise the RRSAG about relevant work being done in the public sector;
- ii. Assist in identifying and discussing issues associated with the development of the NZAP;
- iii. Assist with developing options for consideration by the RRSAG and the Commission; and
- iv. Provide liaison with the NZAP Government Liaison Committee.

Officials will not determine the content of the NZAP or make commitments on behalf of government.

Proposed timeline

Act	ion	Ву
1.	Invitations to selected members	Mid-July 2003
2.	Confirm membership and mail out materials for	

first meeting.	
 First meeting Confirm Terms of advisory Meeting formats and schedule for year ahead HRC participatory proposal 	August 2003
 4. Mail out material for comment • HRC discussion document drafts • Involvement/consultation plan and resources 	August
 5. Second meeting To review discussion documents To review involvement/consultation process To consider consultation plan for Phases 3-5 	October 2003
6. Third meetingTo review "status report"To evaluate Phase 2	March 2004
 7. Fourth meeting To review findings from broad consultation and emerging priorities for race relations 	July 2004
 8. Fifth meeting To review draft NZAP To review communications and implementation plans 	October 2004

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Commission:

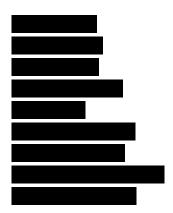
- 8. Agree that a maximum of 10 members (not including officials) are identified for the Race Relations Sector Advisory Group. Note that consideration will first be given to NAC nominees to reflect the undertaking made to them and the nominating groups.
- 9. Agree that the following nominees to the NAC be invited to join the Race Relations Sector Advisory Group:

Information withheld under 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)

Information withheld under 9(2)(a) and 9(2)(ba)



- 10. Agree that the Te Puni Kokiri, the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs and the Office of Ethnic Affairs are invited to be represented on the Race Relations Sector Advisory Group.
- 11. Select three of the following people be considered for invitation on to the Race Relations Sector Advisory Group in order to fill gaps in experience/skills:



- 12. Agree that:
 - the NZAP team will organise travel and all other administrative arrangements for the Race Relations Sector Advisory Group,
 - the NZAP team will meet costs associated with Race Relations Sector Advisory Group (including meeting fees), and
 - The Race Relations Commissioner, supported by the RERT, will chair and facilitate the substantive work of the Race Relations Sector Advisory Group.
- 13. Agree that the draft terms of reference (above) are provided to those invited to participate on the Race Relations Advisory Group