



# Ministry for Ethnic Communities New Zealand Royal Honours

24 March 2022



Ministry for  
Ethnic  
Communities  
Te Tari Mātāwaka

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Opening Karakia

**Whakataka te hau ki te uru  
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga  
Kia mākinakina ki uta  
Kia mātaratara ki tai  
E hī ake ana te atakura  
He tio, he huka, he hauhūnga  
Haumi e! Hui e! Taiki e!**



# Today's Agenda



Item
What is the New Zealand Royal Honours system?
History of the honours system
How does the honours system work?
How do honours nominations work?
Why is it relevant for MEC's mahi?
Introducing MEC Honours nominations process
Timeframe for upcoming nominations
Embedding the process into our work and next steps
Q+A
<b>Wrap up</b>



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**Te Kāwanatanga  
o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Government

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# What is the New Zealand Royal Honours system?

The New Zealand royal honours system is a **system of orders, decorations and medals**, that recognises achievements of, or service by, New Zealanders.

These recognitions are awarded to individuals for their **service to the community** (often voluntary), their **contribution in any field**, or their **faithful service to the Crown** or the public sector.

*“Our honours system is a way for New Zealand to say thanks and well done to those who have served and those who have achieved. We believe that such recognition is consistent with the egalitarian character of New Zealand society and enlivens and enriches it.”* – Report of the Prime Minister's Honours Advisory Committee, September 1995



# History of the New Zealand Royal Honours system

- In 1848, Governor George Grey received the first honour granted to a New Zealand resident.
- From 1848 to 1975, New Zealand used the British honours system.
- In 1975, after a review of the system, two uniquely New Zealand honours were integrated into it: the Queen's Service Order, and the associated Queen's Service Medal.
- In 1987, the Order of New Zealand was instituted as the highest New Zealand honour. It recognises “outstanding service to the Crown and people of New Zealand in a civil or military capacity”.
- In 1995, the system was comprehensively reviewed by a committee established by the then Prime Minister. The committee sought public submissions on the system, and reported back to the Prime Minister with a number of recommendations. A number of changes were made to the system as a result. The most significant was the establishment of the New Zealand Order of Merit in May 1996, which replaced New Zealand's use of the Order of the British Empire.
- As of 2021, only the dynastic British honours continue in active use in New Zealand, with the exception of the Order of the Companions of Honour.



# The New Zealand Royal Honours system is made up of:

- *The Order of New Zealand*
- *The New Zealand Order of Merit*
- *The Queen's Service Order and associated Queen's Service Medal*
- *The New Zealand Bravery and Gallantry Awards*
- *The New Zealand Distinguished Service Decoration*
- *The New Zealand Antarctic Medal.*



# Seniority of various New Zealand Honours

**ONZ: The Order of New Zealand**  
The country's highest honour, restricted to 20 living persons at any time, plus additional members and honorary members.

**GNZM: Knight or Dame Grand Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit\***  
*Breast star plus badge* — *Badge worn from sash over right shoulder*  
Awarded for a pre-eminent contribution in any field over a sustained period. Services have usually brought international recognition.

**KNZM or DNZM: Knight or Dame Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit\*\***  
*Breast star plus badge* or *Breast star plus badge*  
For pre-eminent contribution in any field achieving at a national or international level, recognised by peers and demonstrating sustained commitment.

**CNZM: Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit**  
For a prominent national or international role, leading role in regional affairs or distinguished contribution to an area of activity.

**QSO: Queen's Service Order**  
Recognises valuable voluntary service to the community or faithful service to the Crown or public sector. Usually awarded for service at a national level.

**ONZM: Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit**  
For a distinguished regional or national role in any field.

**MNZM: Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit**  
For achievement or service to the community, usually in a national role.

**QSM: Queen's Service Medal**  
Same as QSO but usually awarded for service at a local or regional level.

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# How does the honours system work?

- Honours are administered by the Honours Unit, part of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.
- All nominations are considered by the Cabinet Appointments and Honours Committee, chaired by the Prime Minister. The formal responsibility for making recommendations to The Queen for the grant of honours rests with the Prime Minister.
- The final honours lists are approved by The Queen of New Zealand on the Prime Minister's advice.
- The Governor-General, on behalf of the Queen, holds investiture ceremonies for the people named in the New Year and The Queen's Birthday Honours Lists and in Special Honours Lists.





# How do honours nominations work?

- Honours Lists are published at **New Year** and on **Queen's Birthday**. Special Lists are published periodically (eg. COV-19)
- **Anyone can nominate** a person they think is worthy of a New Zealand Royal Honour and **anyone can be nominated**.
- Nominations are made through a **nomination form** and **letters of support**.
- Nomination forms are accepted throughout the year, but the processing and consideration of nominations **takes at least six months** prior to the announcement of an honours list at Queen's Birthday or New Year.
- DPMC's Honours Unit assesses all nominations (including background checks), and provide advice to the APH Cabinet Committee on 'finalists'
- Nominations are general (eg. not for a specific honour), and the number of honours available is strictly limited for each list. Not everyone nominated can receive recognition.



# Why is it relevant to MEC's mahi?



Ethnic communities  
have historically  
been  
underrepresented  
among honours  
recipients

# Why is it relevant to MEC's work?

It aligns with MEC's strategy...

**Priority 1: Taking action to promote the value of diversity and improve inclusion of ethnic communities within wider society**

**Priority 4: Connecting and empowering ethnic community groups**

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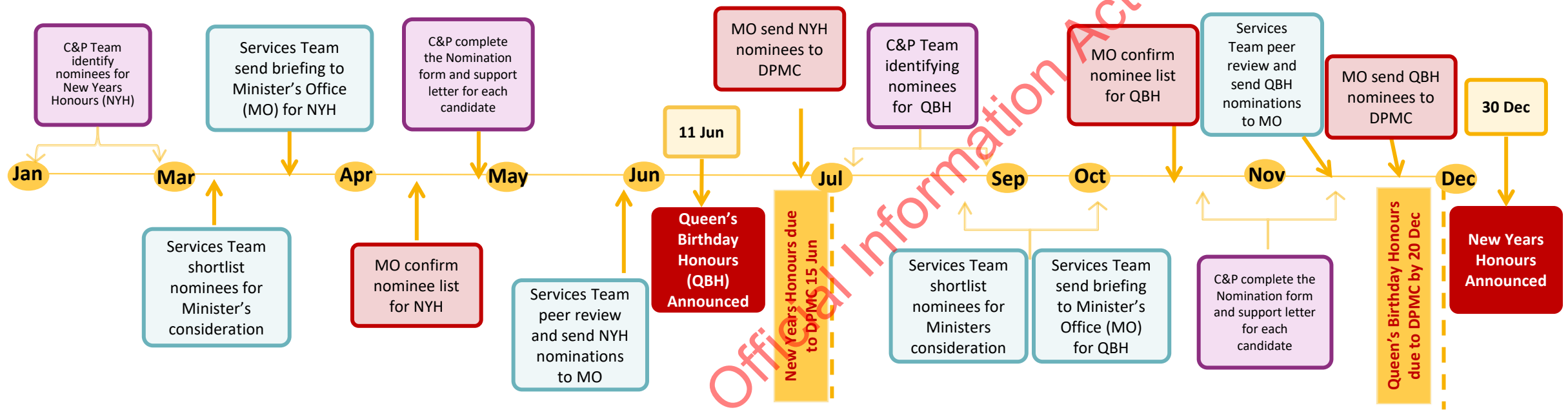
# MEC Honours process

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# New Zealand Honours : Timeline & Process



C&P Team	Services Team	Minister's Office	New Years Honours (NYH)	Queens Birthday Honours (QBH)	Potential Nominees requirements	Notes
<p>The C&amp;P Team</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify a long list of nominees for each honours round, and repeat (if necessary)</li> <li>Complete Honours Nomination form on behalf for the identified nominee</li> <li>Request support letters for identified nominees</li> </ul>	<p>The Services Team:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Signals to C&amp;P request for nominees for each Honour round</li> <li>Shortlists nominees and write up briefing for Minister's Office and repeat (if necessary)</li> <li>Peer reviews the Nomination forms and send them to the MO</li> </ul>	<p>The Ministers Office:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirm which if any nominees the Minister will nominate for Queens and New Years Honours</li> <li>Send to DPMC prior to each nomination close off accompanying nomination documents</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NYH announced 30 Dec</li> <li>Nominations close 15 Jun</li> <li>Potential nominees must be identified between Jan and Mar</li> <li>Shortlist of nominees to go to Minister by early Apr</li> <li>Final nominations due to Minister by early Jun</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QBH announced 11 Jun</li> <li>Nominations close 20 Dec</li> <li>Potential nominees must be identified between Jul and Aug</li> <li>Shortlist of nominees to go to Minister by early Oct</li> <li>Final nominations due to Minister by early Dec</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nominees should be identified throughout the year where possible</li> <li>Nominees must be active in the community and or career/education field</li> <li>Must not hold a recent New Zealand Honour (last 4 years)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Minimum of 5 nominees to be sent to Minister's Office for each Honour's round</li> <li>Training is needed for C&amp;P on how to write and fact check</li> <li>A second round of shortlist will likely not be needed if quality nominees are provided from the first list</li> </ul>

# Timeframe for upcoming honours nomination deadline

Item	Due date	Lead
Call for longlist of candidates is sent to C&P regional teams	By 21 March 2022	Services team
Longlist of candidates is sent to Services team	By 5 April 2022	C&P regional teams
Shortlisting and finalisation of top 5 nominees' list to submit to the MO	By 7 April 2022	*Shortlisting - (TBC) Peer review and submission – Services team
Advise on outcome of suggested nominees (and potential reworking of the list)	By 29 April 2022	MO Services Team If applicable, C&P regional teams
Approval of final list of nominees by the Minister	By 29 April 2022	MO
Completion of Nomination forms and sourcing of Letter of support	By 25 May 2022	C&P regional teams
Peer review and submission of the Nomination forms and Letters of support to the MO	By 27 May 2022	Services team
Submission of Nominations to DPMC Honours Unit	By 15 June 2022	MO



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# Embedding the new process in our mahi, and next steps



- Share the timeframe for upcoming nominations with the Minister through the Status Report.
- Create a cross-regional Honours working group and ToR.
- Share with all C&P our new [database](#) for tracking honours nominations and adding potential nominees at any time.
- Submission of long list of potential nominees by 5 April.
- Finalise shortlisting decision-making process.
- Add MEC Honours process to induction pack for new C&P advisors.

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Thanks for participating!



Q+A

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Closing Karakia

**Unuhia, unuhia  
Unuhia ki te uru tapu nui  
Kia wātea, kia māmā,  
te ngākau, te tinana,  
te wairua i te ara takatā  
Koia rā e Rongo,  
whakairia ake ki runga  
Kia tina! TINA! Hui e! TĀIKI E!**



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