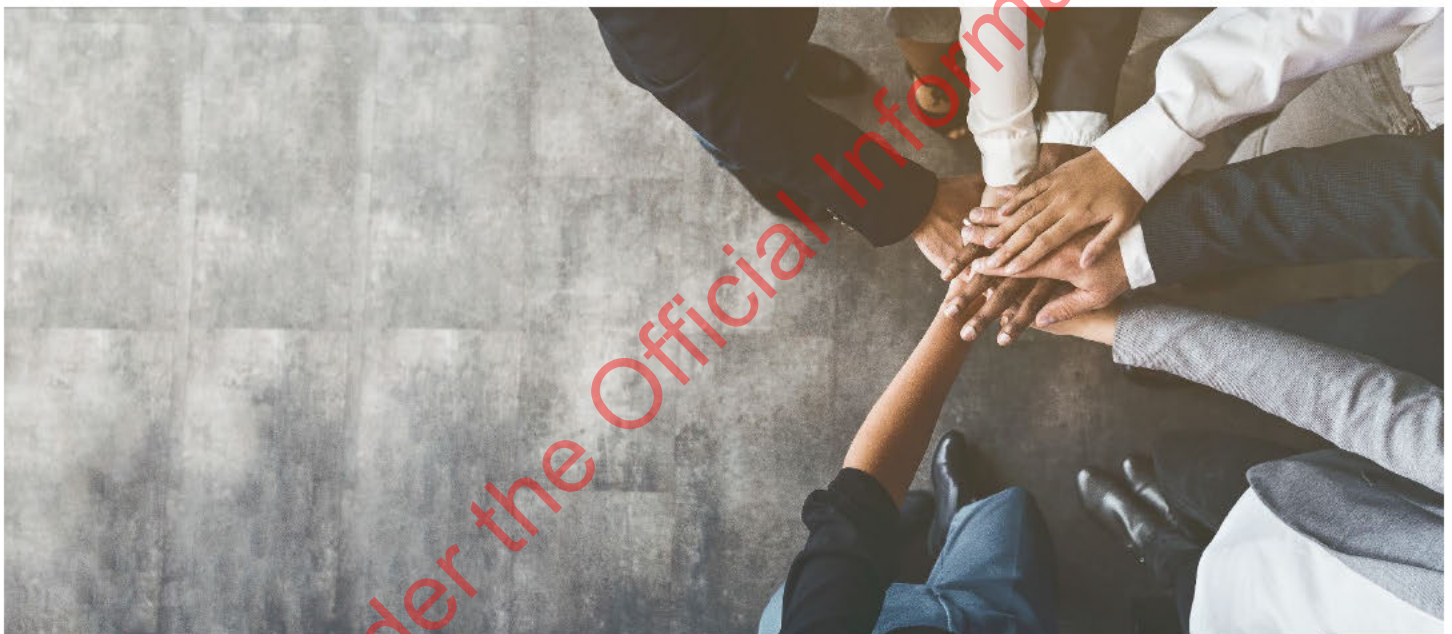


# HE WHENUA TAURIKURA

## NATIONAL CENTRE OF RESEARCH EXCELLENCE



### **DPMC REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

REPORTING PERIOD 1<sup>ST</sup> JANUARY 23 – 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 23

13<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2023

## Contents

1. PURPOSE .....	3
2. THE CENTRE'S OVERALL STRATEGIC PLAN, ANNUAL PLAN AND RESEARCH PRIORITIES, AND PROGRESS AGAINST THESE DURING THE GRANT PERIOD.....	4
<b>2.1 INTRODUCTION</b> .....	4
<b>2.2 SUMMARY OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN, ANNUAL PLAN &amp; RESEARCH PRIORITIES</b> .....	4
<b>2.3 PROGRESS TO DATE</b> .....	6
3. THE CENTRES YTD SPEND OF THIS GRANT AGAINST ITS ANNUAL BUDGET .....	7
<b>3.1 OVERVIEW</b> .....	7
<b>3.2 OPERATING COST OF THE TRUST</b> .....	8
<b>3.3 RESEARCH CENTRES 2023 OPERATIONS BUDGET</b> .....	9
<b>3.4 RESEARCH CENTRES 2023 RESEARCH BUDGET</b> .....	10
4. The TRUST'S ASSESSMENT OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE CENTRE HAS OR IS LIKELY TO MEET ITS PURPOSES, AS SET OUT IN THE TRUST DEED.....	11

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## 1. PURPOSE

This document provides the Trust's report to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on delivery of the Trust's activities / initiatives set out in the conditional grant established on 16 March 2023 to provide a total of \$1,423,842 (ex GST) funding to the Trust for the 2022/23 financial year. This conditional grant comprised:

Costs related to the setting up and operating costs of the Trust	\$98,842 (including a contingency amount of \$20,000)
Research costs of the Centre	\$825,000
Operating costs of the Centre	\$500,000

The conditional grant requires that the Trust complete delivery of the Activity/Initiative and provide a final report to DPMC within 3 months of the completion of the Grant Period, to report on:

- The Centre's overall Strategic Plan, Annual Plan and Research Priorities, and progress against these during the grant period.
- The Centre's year-to-date spend of this Grant against its annual budget.
- The Trust's assessment of the extent to which the Centre has or is likely to meet its purposes, as set out in the Trust Deed.

## 2. THE CENTRE'S OVERALL STRATEGIC PLAN, ANNUAL PLAN AND RESEARCH PRIORITIES, AND PROGRESS AGAINST THESE DURING THE GRANT PERIOD.

### 2.1 INTRODUCTION

The Research Center has presented the Trust with a comprehensive 2023 annual plan encompassing their strategic vision, research priorities, and budget. The Trust has wholeheartedly endorsed this plan and is committed to collaborating with the Research Center to pursue a mutual mission and unified objective. The contents of the report have been summarised below.

### 2.2 SUMMARY OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN, ANNUAL PLAN & RESEARCH PRIORITIES

"He Whenua Taurikura" is an independent National Centre of Research Excellence hosted by Victoria University of Wellington, established in response to a recommendation 14 from the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Christchurch Mosque terrorist attack. Its vision is to achieve a peaceful land (Aotearoa New Zealand) by promoting research on preventing and countering violent extremism while focusing on understanding diversity and fostering social cohesion.

#### 2.2.1 VISION AND MISSION:

Vision: The vision is a peaceful land.

Mission: To advance research into countering and preventing terrorism and violent extremism in Aotearoa New Zealand, emphasizing diversity, social cohesion, and inclusion.

#### 2.2.2 OBJECTIVES:

1. Develop and Enhance Expertise: Cultivate expertise in preventing and countering violent extremism in the New Zealand context, grounded in Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi) and Te Ao Māori approaches.
2. Generate Research: Generate evidence-based research on preventing and countering violent extremism to inform New Zealand policy.
3. Build Partnerships: Foster collaborations between researchers, civil society, and government to collectively address violent extremism.
4. Public Engagement: Engage with the public, media, and communities to promote dialogue and understanding on countering extremism.

#### 2.2.3 STRATEGIC PLAN

- The Centre is developing a three-year Strategic Plan (2023-2025) to establish itself as a national leader in violent extremism research.
- Research focus includes online hate, disinformation, and understanding the impact of extremist ideologies on individuals and communities.
- Key activities in 2023 include scholarships, research associates, and a flagship research program.

## 2.2.4 KEY ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES

- Develop and Enhance Expertise: Focuses on building a strong expertise base by supporting new and early career researchers, enhancing domestic research networks, identifying key affiliates, and fostering partnerships with international entities.
- Generate Research: Aims to drive and support high-quality, New Zealand-specific research that aligns with Te Tiriti o Waitangi, fostering partnerships with international organizations and generating additional research investment.
- Public Engagement: Seeks to support informed public dialogue and raise awareness about countering extremism, publishing content, engaging with trusted media, and participating in various forms of public discourse.

## 2.2.5 RISKS AND MITIGATION:

### 2.2.5.1 Staffing Risk:

Potential staff turnover and uncertainties related to potential staffing cuts.

Mitigation: Succession planning, recruitment for specific projects, robust documentation, external funding buffer, and host institution support.

### 2.2.5.2 Budgetary Risk:

Tight operational budget with limited contingency funds.

Mitigation: Augmenting the 2023 budget with residual funds and considering overhead costs in future appointments.

### 2.2.5.3 Health and Safety Risk:

Concerns about the personal safety of staff and affiliates due to the nature of their work.

Mitigation: Maintaining a low profile, enhanced security measures, succession planning, online safety measures, and anonymity for scholarship recipients.

### 2.2.5.4 Reputation Risk:

Potential negative media or online attention as the Center's profile grows.

Mitigation: Affirming the Center's identity, seeking guidance from the Board of Governors, and focusing on positive messaging.

### 2.2.5.5 Project Delivery Risk:

Risks related to staff loss and potential non-completion of student thesis projects.

Mitigation: Diversifying research funding, allocating funding to scholarships, and providing support for scholarship students.

## 2.2.6 OPPORTUNITIES:

- Opportunities include building strategic partnerships, collaborating internationally, securing co-funding, hosting events, and diversifying income streams for sustainability.

In summary, He Whenua Taurikura (The Research Centre) aims to advance research and understanding to prevent and counter violent extremism in New Zealand while promoting diversity, inclusion, and social cohesion. The Centre is taking proactive measures to address operational risks and seize opportunities for growth and impact.

## 2.3 PROGRESS TO DATE

Below, you'll find a summary of the Research Centre's progress in each category, as outlined by its key activities and initiatives.

### Developing Expertise:

- Funding Postgraduate Scholarships: Awarding scholarships to nurture a network of talented researchers with ties to communities and marginalized groups
- He Manu Taki Scholars Group: A forum supporting early career researchers in areas related to counterterrorism, hate, disinformation, and social connectedness.
- Summer Scholarships/Internships: Allocating funds for students to work on research projects during the summer.
- Nostalgia Project: Led by Co-Director Paul Spoonley, focusing on 'toxic nostalgia' and mentoring early career researchers.

### Generating Research:

- Seeding Project: Led by Paul Spoonley, aiming to guide research networking and explore extremism research in New Zealand.
- Scholarship Allocations: Funding four doctoral and two master's research projects in 2023, comprising the largest research funding allocation.

### Building Partnerships:

- Collaborating with academic, government, and community groups nationally and internationally.
- Hosting annual hui (meetings) with government agencies, researchers, and civil society to discuss countering terrorism and violent extremism.

### Public Engagement:

- Media Interviews: Co-Directors providing credible, evidence-based insights through interviews in various media.
- Public Presentations: Regular speaking engagements by Co-Directors to various groups.
- Research-Related Hui (Symposium): Organizing events like 'Imagining Peace' Symposium and co-hosted hui.
- Seminar Series: Hosting a seminar series with international speakers on counterterrorism and extremism.

- Podcast Series: Creating the 'Defiant Hope' podcast series highlighting community responses to extremism.
- Regular Hui: Maintaining ongoing discussions and relationships with various community stakeholders.
- HWT Newsletter: Circulating an e-newsletter with updates on activities and events.
- HWT Website: Developing a website as a platform for public information on the Centre's purpose and resources.

### **3. THE CENTRE'S YTD SPEND OF THIS GRANT AGAINST ITS ANNUAL BUDGET**

#### **3.1 OVERVIEW**

The Research Centre has provided a draft operating and research budget for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2023 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023. The 2023 operations budget includes \$240,633 surplus that has been carried forward from the DPMC establishment grant.

It is important to note that the Trust has had challenges registering for GST as IRD have declined our application, noting there is no evident taxable activity. The invoice we have received from DPMC includes GST although the funds we have received from DPMC exclude GST. As a result, we do not have sufficient funds to grant the Research Centre funds for their operating and research activities. The funding for research (\$825,000) and the operating costs (\$500,000) of the Centre have not yet been transferred to Victoria University of Wellington (VUW). They remain in the Trust's bank account earning interest, pending resolution of the GST issue.

DPMC is actively helping the Trust to resolve these issues. As soon as we get further clarity on the matter, we will endeavor to transfer the funds to the Research Centre to ensure we can progress with our annual and strategic plan.

The trust received a total of \$113,668.30, inclusive of GST, which also incorporated a contingency allocation of \$23,000. A substantial portion of these funds was allocated towards covering expenses such as chair, trustee, and secretariat fees. Additionally, legal expenses were notably high during the initial startup phase due to our engagement with Buddle Findlay for crucial startup document support. It's worth noting that the trust did not utilise the \$23,000 contingency allowance provided by DPMC.



## 3.2 OPERATING COST OF THE TRUST

### Income Statement

He Whenua Taurikura - National Centre of Research Excellence  
1st September 2022 - 31st June 2023

YTD

#### Revenue

Revenue from Grant	\$ 90,667.92	
Interest Income	\$ 3,409.87	
<b>Net revenue</b>		<b>\$ 94,077.79</b>

#### Expenses

Chair Fees	\$ 17,658	
Trustees Fees	\$ 35,552	
Secretariat	\$ 21,793	
IRD	\$ 2,847	
Travel	\$ 4,713	
Parking	\$ 209	
Taxi	\$ 118	
Catering		
Legal and Professional Fees	\$ 7,010	
Bank charges	\$ 20	
Microsoft Teams	\$ 110	
<b>Net Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 90,030.88</b>
<b>Net Income (Loss)</b>		<b>\$ 4,046.91</b>

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### 3.3 RESEARCH CENTRES 2023 OPERATIONS BUDGET

<b>He Whenua Taurikura - DRAFT OPERATIONS BUDGET</b>	
<b>Start date</b>	1-Jan-23
<b>End date</b>	31-Dec-23
<b>Project number</b>	E4248
<b>Award</b>	4361
Note: all revenue and expenses in this budget are GST-exclusive	
	<b>2023</b>
<b>REVENUE (excluding GST)</b>	
Operating funding HWT Trust	500,000
Surplus DPMC establishment grant funds carried forward*	240,633
<b>Total revenue</b>	<b>740,633</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE (excluding GST)</b>	
<b>Salaries and salary related costs</b>	
Co-Directors	198,530
Administration/Project Staff	145,307
<b>Overheads</b>	
Overhead on applicable staff at Institution Rate†	123,029
<b>Variable Costs</b>	
Travel and Accommodation	10,000
Food and Catering	3,000
Office and Stationery	3,000
Material Costs (includes website development, contingency)	23,000
IT	10,000
Koha and volunteer payments	1,000
Te Papa Pounamu costs	5,000
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>521,866</b>
<b>BUDGET SUMMARY EXCLUDING GST</b>	
TOTAL REVENUE	740,633
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	521,866
<b>NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>	<b>218,767</b>

### 3.4 RESEARCH CENTRES 2023 RESEARCH BUDGET

He Whenua Taurikura - RESEARCH FUNDING BUDGET		
Start date	1-Jan-23	
End date	31-Dec-23	
Project number	E4435	
Award	5159	
Note: all revenue and expenses in this budget are GST-exclusive		
	2023	
<b>REVENUE (excluding GST)</b>		
Research funding HWT Trust	825,000	
<b>EXPENDITURE (excluding GST)</b>		
<b>Scholarships</b>		
Masters scholarships (2)	30,000	Scholarship value \$15,000
PhD Scholarships (3)*	450,000	Scholarship value \$150,000 over 3 years. Funding is allocated to initial year of enrolment.
<b>Projects</b>		
He Manu Taki Forum	2,000	
Seminar series	1,500	
Podcast series	20,224	
Student/researcher induction programme	10,000	
Research-related hui	10,000	Imagining Peace symposium and/or co-hosted hui
Writing and planning retreat	15,000	Travel and accommodation
Summer scholarship pilot	25,000	2 university-based students (up to \$10,000 each); 1 student co-funded & hosted by govt agency (\$5,000)
Flagship Project 1: Toxic Nostalgia	55,987	Research Fellow, meetings, workshop, travel and related costs
Flagship Project 2: De/Radicalisation and Youth	11,690	Research Fellow, IT, travel
Flagship Project 3: Path to Peace Project	19,881	Research Fellow, IT, travel
CTCC research questions	2,560	Research Assistant : literature survey
<b>Other research-related costs</b>		
Research Committee	10,000	Meeting fees, travel, accommodation
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>663,842</b>	
<b>BUDGET SUMMARY EXCLUDING GST</b>		
TOTAL INCOME	825,000	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	663,842	
*NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT	161,158	

#### **4. THE TRUST'S ASSESSMENT OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE CENTRE HAS OR IS LIKELY TO MEET ITS PURPOSES, AS SET OUT IN THE TRUST DEED.**

The Trust has conducted a comprehensive assessment of the Center's progress towards meeting its defined purposes, as outlined in the trust deed. The Trust acknowledges that the Center has made commendable progress, exemplifying dedication, and hard work in fulfilling its mission.


Some notable acknowledgements include the Center's successful Scholarship Day initiative which played a pivotal role in promoting education and engagement with the community. The Center's flagship research on nostalgia has garnered recognition and aligns with its core mission and objectives. Finally, the provision of quarterly Director reports and consistent media updates has been beneficial in maintaining transparency and communication.

The Trust recognise that the establishment phase, especially for a centre dealing with sensitive topics such as countering extremism and violent terrorism, is often more complex than initially anticipated. The Trust acknowledges the dedication and hard work in the first year of operation in laying the foundation for capacity and capability building. Enhanced community engagement is seen as a key priority. The Center's directors and secretariat have exhibited unwavering dedication in building the organisation's profile and reputation. The Center is respected for its inclusive approach and the integrity with which it conducts its activities. It is developing a reputation as a centre of research excellence. The Trust recognises the extensive time, effort, and passion invested in ensuring the Center's future success.

The impending departure of Prof Paul Spoonley, who has held a prominent role, is acknowledged as a significant loss. The Trust emphasises the importance of a seamless transition to a new leader, understanding its potential impact on the organisation's momentum and reputation. The Trust has taken early steps to plan for Paul's succession, acknowledging the inherent challenges, particularly for a center in its early establishment phase.

Operating on a tight budget has been challenging, especially during the startup phase. The financial constraints have had an impact on community investment.

9(2)(g)(i)



In summary, the Trust recognises the Center's achievements and dedication in fulfilling its mission. While challenges such as financial constraints and transition planning exist, the Trust remains committed to supporting the Center's mission and addressing these challenges for its continued growth and impact. Clarifying the role of the Board and ensuring strong leadership transitions are among the key areas that require attention moving forward.

Per the Trust Deed, the HWT Trust is established to fund, facilitate, and promote research into the prevention and countering of violent extremism in New Zealand by:

a) Establishing and administering one or more contestable research funds to support New Zealand-specific research on the causes of, and measures to prevent, terrorism and violent extremism.

He Whenua Taurikura works with the research centre to establish and administers contestable research funds to support New Zealand-specific research on the causes of, and measures to prevent terrorism and violent extremism through the following initiatives:

Seeding Project - 'The Way We Never Were': Under the leadership of Co-Director Paul Spoonley, He Whenua Taurikura initiates a seeding project in 2023 focused on 'toxic nostalgia.' This project serves as the starting point for research networking and exploration of extremism research in New Zealand. As part of this project, they fund a part-time Research Fellow (0.2 FTE) to assist in developing research approaches, themes, and potential collaborations. The project's findings inform areas of further research, which will be developed in 2024 as part of the Center's flagship research program.

Launch of Flagship Research Program: He Whenua Taurikura proposes the launch of a flagship research program titled 'Radicalization, Conspiracism, and Disengagement in Aotearoa.' This program includes three funded research fellows who will conduct their own projects while working alongside a multidisciplinary network of research associates. The proposed projects focus on various aspects of extremism research:

- Project 1: Examines youth, conspiracism, and radicalization, with a focus on understanding the experiences of young individuals engaged with or exposed to hate groups and conspiracism. The project also explores initiatives supporting youth to disengage from these extremist influences.
- Project 2: Named 'Mau te Rongo,' this project, conducted from a Māori research perspective, aims to understand the contexts of whānau Māori who participated in the 2022 occupation at parliament grounds or are drawn to beliefs promoting misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, or racism.
- Project 3: Building on the earlier seeding funding in 2023, this project continues its work into 2024, bringing together scholars interested in extremism. The project's focus is on researching the contemporary politicization of nostalgia and ideas of racial purity.

Scholarship Allocations: In 2023, He Whenua Taurikura allocates significant research funding, with \$480,000 (58% of the total available) directed toward scholarships. These scholarships are intended to support new research projects and early career researchers.

Kororāreka Writing Retreat: The centre hosts a writing and planning event for research fellows, Co-Directors and the secretariat. This event results in the creation of research project plans for 2024 and a program of research-related events.

Through these initiatives, He Whenua Taurikura is actively establishing and administering research funds to support New Zealand-specific research on the causes of and measures to prevent terrorism and violent extremism.



b) Providing support (including but not limited to funding) to civil society and community organisations for projects relating to researching or improving public understanding in New Zealand of preventing and countering violent extremism.

He Whenua Taurikura provides support to civil society and community organisations for projects related to researching and improving public understanding in New Zealand of preventing and countering violent extremism through its postgraduate scholarships and the activities of its Centre Co-Directors.

He Whenua Taurikura Postgraduate Scholarships: These scholarships offer financial support to emerging researchers, including those with community affiliations. By funding researchers in the field of PCVE and social cohesion, He Whenua Taurikura directly contributes to research and the generation of knowledge in this area. The research conducted by the scholarship recipients can lead to a deeper understanding of the issues surrounding violent extremism, thus improving public awareness, and understanding.

The Centre's Co-Director Activities: The Centre's Co-Directors play a significant role in enhancing public understanding of PCVE. Their engagement in media interviews, interactions with community groups, discussions with government agencies, and ongoing dialogues with community stakeholders all serve to disseminate information, expertise, and insights related to PCVE. This proactive engagement and sharing of knowledge not only inform the public but also foster collaboration and cooperation between various stakeholders in the community, ultimately contributing to a more comprehensive and informed approach to preventing and countering violent extremism.

c) Establishing scholarships to incentivise continued research into the prevention and countering of violent extremism in New Zealand.

He Whenua Taurikura works with the research centre to establish scholarships and other initiatives to incentivise continued research into the prevention and countering of violent extremism in New Zealand through the following means:

1. Postgraduate Scholarships: The Centre offers Postgraduate Scholarships through the He Whenua Taurikura scholarship program. These scholarships are specifically designed to support and incentivise continued research into the prevention and countering of violent extremism. They fund both Ph.D. and Master's students with strong community ties. In 2023, three Ph.D. and two Master's scholars were funded, and the scholarship round for 2024 is set to begin in September 2023. This demonstrates the commitment to nurturing emerging scholars and encouraging them to engage in research related to extremism.
2. He Whenua Taurikura Research Associates: In addition to scholarships, the organisation is in the process of establishing a network of Research Associates. These Research Associates, referred to as He Kaiwhakatere (The Navigators), will be actively involved in expanding the community of researchers working on preventing violent extremism in New Zealand. As an incentive, members of this network will be eligible for funding and will have the opportunity to participate in research programs, workshops, and events. This fosters a sense of collaboration and support for researchers engaged in this critical field.
3. Summer Scholarships: He Whenua Taurikura introduces a Summer Scholarship program in 2023. This initiative incentivises research into the prevention and countering of violent extremism by providing opportunities for scholars to work on real-world research projects over the summer. The program offers a practical and hands-on approach to research, as scholars are supervised by established university researchers embedded within government agencies. This not only supports research efforts but also allows scholars to contribute directly to addressing extremism.

4. He Manu Taki Scholars Group: While not explicitly focused on scholarships, the He Manu Taki Scholars Group, a forum for early career researchers, is instrumental in incentivising research into countering extremism. This group fosters a community of researchers working on counterterrorism, hate, disinformation, and social connectedness. Through monthly online meetings and a 2-day residential program, it provides a platform for knowledge exchange and networking, further motivating researchers to engage in this vital area of study.

These initiatives collectively demonstrate He Whenua Taurikura's dedication to incentivising and promoting ongoing research efforts in the prevention and countering of violent extremism in New Zealand. They provide opportunities, support, and resources to scholars and researchers to explore this critical issue.

d) Establishing a public facing website to educate and facilitate collaboration in the field of the prevention and countering of violent extremism in New Zealand;

He Whenua Taurikura has established a public-facing website to educate and facilitate collaboration in the field of preventing and countering violent extremism in New Zealand. This website, developed in 2023, serves as a vital platform for disseminating information about the Center's mission, activities, and available resources. The website's content includes details on scholarships and project funding, access to podcasts and seminar recordings, updates on news and upcoming events, and more.

The website has already been created and is live, providing a valuable resource for those interested in the Center's work. You can access it at the following URL: <https://hwt.ac.nz/funding-information/>.

e) Creating a policy briefs series based on New Zealand research on preventing and countering violent extremism.

He Whenua Taurikura is working towards creating policy brief series based on New Zealand research on preventing and countering violent extremism. Two of the initiatives commenced are explained below.

Engaging a Research Assistant for Literature Review: The Centre is involved in producing policy briefs by hiring a Research Assistant to conduct a literature review. This literature review is likely in response to specific questions posed by government agencies. By synthesising existing research and knowledge on the subject of preventing and countering violent extremism, the Centre can provide valuable insights and information that inform and shape policy development in this field.

Engaging Researchers to Respond to Policy Analysts: The Centre is currently running a project that involves engaging researchers to respond to challenges and issues raised by policy analysts from agencies such as CTAG (Counter-Terrorism and Analysis Group) and DPMC (Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet). This project demonstrates a proactive approach to addressing real-world problems and concerns related to preventing and countering violent extremism. Researchers working on this project likely produce policy briefs that are directly informed by New Zealand-specific research, which can be used to guide and influence government policies in this area.

f) Creating channels for proactive information sharing in the field of the prevention and countering of violent extremism in New Zealand.

He Whenua Taurikura has established various channels for proactive information sharing in the field of preventing and countering violent extremism in New Zealand:

1. Media Interviews: The Co-Directors regularly engage in media interviews, providing credible, evidence-based insights through online, radio, television, and print media. These interviews and comments serve as a key avenue for promoting the Center's public profile and reputation while contributing to discussions on issues relevant to the Center's mission.

2. Public Presentations and Engagements: Co-Directors actively participate in public speaking engagements, reaching out to schools, businesses, and community groups. These presentations provide opportunities to share knowledge and insights related to the Center's mission and objectives.

3. Building and Maintaining Relationships: The Center is dedicated to nurturing and consolidating relationships of trust with various community stakeholders, including Māori, Pacific, Muslim, Jewish, LBQTI+, refugee, and ethnic communities, as well as academic stakeholders. These relationships are of paramount importance and guide the activities and priorities of He Whenua Taurikura. The organization emphasizes the inclusion of communities targeted by extremists, seeking their advice and guidance in its work.

4. HWT Newsletter: He Whenua Taurikura circulates an e-newsletter to its research and community networks. This newsletter provides updates on the Center's activities and information about upcoming events, ensuring that stakeholders remain informed about the latest developments in the field.

5. HWT Website: The Center has developed a website, serving as an online platform for publicly available information. This website includes details on scholarship and project funding, links to podcasts and seminar recordings, as well as updates on news and upcoming events. It facilitates the sharing of information and resources related to the prevention and countering of violent extremism.

These diverse channels ensure that He Whenua Taurikura actively shares information and engages with various stakeholders to advance its mission and objectives in preventing and countering violent extremism in New Zealand.

g) Providing and facilitating advice to government and other groups and organisations on preventing and countering violent extremism in New Zealand, including the annual He Whenua Taurikura hui;

He Whenua Taurikura provides and facilitates advice to government and other groups and organisations on preventing and countering violent extremism in New Zealand through several means, including:

Annual He Whenua Taurikura Hui: The annual He Whenua Taurikura hui serves as a platform for providing advice and insights on preventing and countering violent extremism. Both the Centre and the Board of Trustees actively participate in this event. During the hui, experts and stakeholders gather to exchange knowledge, share experiences, and discuss strategies to address violent extremism. This annual event acts as a significant forum for advising and collaborating with government agencies and various organizations in the field.

Centre Co-Directors' Involvement: The Centre Co-Directors play a pivotal role in providing advice and insights. They contribute through the following activities:

- Media Interviews: By engaging in media interviews, the Co-Directors can offer expert advice and insights to a broader audience, including government and community groups. This outreach is a way to disseminate information and recommendations related to preventing and countering violent extremism.
- Speaking to Community Groups and Representatives: By speaking to community groups and representatives, the Co-Directors can offer guidance and expertise to local communities. This



direct interaction helps in advising and informing these groups on the best practices for addressing violent extremism.

- Engaging with Government Agencies: The Co-Directors have ongoing discussions with government agencies, which involves providing advice and insights on strategies, policies, and initiatives related to preventing and countering violent extremism. This engagement helps in shaping government responses in this critical area.

h) Holding and supporting events and workshops relating to the prevention and countering of violent extremism in New Zealand, including the He Whenua Taurikura Hui;

He Whenua Taurikura hosts an annual national hui, known as the He Whenua Taurikura Hui. This event is a significant gathering that convenes individuals from diverse sectors of society to build relationships and enhance understanding of countering violent extremism and terrorism. The hui will be held on the 5&6<sup>th</sup> of December at the Tākina Convention Centre, Wellington. The hui serves as a platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration, aligning with the recommendations of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Christchurch Mosque attacks. The focus of the 2023 hui is on preventing radicalization to violence and further harm. Attendees are invited to register, with participation limited to ensure meaningful engagement. For those unable to attend in person, live streaming of speeches, panel events, and resources is provided on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) website.

i) Creating and administering secondment opportunities for practitioners and researchers to spend time in government or in research/civil society organisations and institutes to enable experiential learning into the prevention and countering of violent extremism in New Zealand.

There is no information on this to report at this stage. We will continue to focus on this going forward.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

IN-CONFIDENCE



28 March 2024

Board of He Whenua Taurikura Trust  
Vanisa Dhiru  
Andy George  
Ikhtlaq Kashkari  
Tracey McIntosh  
Dave Moskovitz

Tēnā koutou

It was good to meet with you all at the Governance Board meeting on 28 February 2024 and to hear your collective views on the Centre's progress and how DPMC can best support you.

Firstly, thank you for previously providing further information to support the Trust's report on the progress of the He Whenua Taurikura National Centre of Research Excellence for the year ended 30 June 2023, in accordance with reporting requirements as part of the conditional grant.

I would like to acknowledge the significant progress that the Board has made in the past year, establishing the Centre and working through the respective roles and responsibilities of both the Centre and the Trust. This establishment phase is inevitably one of the hardest to achieve, but the foundations are now in place to set the Centre up well for success.

I am pleased with the progress the Centre has made to develop a network of researchers from universities across the country, broadening the community of those involved in preventing and countering violent extremism in New Zealand. The increased diversity of perspectives across different academic disciplines is welcomed.

I hope that in broadening the network, all of the existing and established academics with a range of expertise in the field of countering terrorism and violent extremism continue to be included in Centre activities. From a range of conversations that DPMC has had with researchers, there are a small number who seem to not yet view the Centre as a mechanism to support their work, as envisaged by the Royal Commission of Inquiry. I encourage the Trust to work with the Centre and Victoria University of Wellington (VUW) to ensure that this is the case.

The contestable funding that the Centre will be making available to the wider research community in 2024 will hopefully enable research to be supported in a variety of institutions across the country, directly delivering the first of the Trust's purposes. I encourage the Trust to continue to prioritise this activity, ensuring that the research funding provided by DPMC be made available to support projects originating both inside and outside of the Centre.

In addition, I would like to seek your support to ensure that the Centre's work is focused entirely on research directly related to countering terrorism and violent extremism. This is the sole purpose of the Trust and for which the funding provided by DPMC can be used. The threat to New Zealanders – from individuals with a range of identity, faith and political motivations, as well as mixed, unstable and unclear ideologies – remains a pressing one, and the Centre has a critical role to play in supporting our collective work to prevent terrorist attacks and further loss of life.

There is one area that I would like to draw particular attention to in relation to the Centre's priorities – per s4.1(g) of the Deed of Trust:

## IN-CONFIDENCE

**4.1 Purpose of trust:** *The Trust is established to fund, facilitate and promote research into the prevention and countering of violent extremism in New Zealand by:*

...

- g) providing and facilitating advice to government and other groups and organisations on preventing and countering violent extremism in New Zealand;*

The Centre has an important role in building strong partnerships with those government agencies working on behalf of New Zealanders to prevent and counter violent extremism, by providing a strong evidence base to help ensure that work addressing the evolving terrorism threat that we collectively face is effective. As mentioned in your report though, engagement with government agencies has not yet been operationalised, and this is an area that I recommend that the Trust focus on supporting the Centre to deliver in 2024.

To enable these strong partnerships, I request the support of the Trust to ensure that not less than a quarter (25%) of the research funding being provided by DPMC in 2024 is used by the Centre to directly respond to the research needs of agencies.

This level of focus should ensure that the research that the Centre is supporting is at the heart of national work on terrorism and violent extremism. I encourage the Centre to partner closely with agencies to coordinate the delivery of both long-term and rapid evidence research, conducted by researchers across the country who have expertise on these important issues. Whilst literature reviews might form a part of this, I would expect that most of this funding be made available more broadly to researchers through fully open, transparent, and contestable processes.

I therefore propose to include the following condition within the new conditional grant that will provide the Trust with DPMC's funding for the Centre for 2024:

*"One quarter (25%) of the research funding provided be used to directly enable research from across the country that responds to government agency priorities for research into preventing and countering violent extremism, as indicated by DPMC and the Counter Terrorism Coordination Committee (CTCC)."*

A copy of the proposed conditional grant is attached for your consideration and signing. This reflects the available DPMC funding levels for the Centre for the current year discussed at the Board meeting, of \$500,000 operating funding and \$825,000 research funding. As discussed, DPMC is no longer able to fund the Trust operating costs of up to \$150,000 going forward so this is the final payment for the Trust.

If you have any comments or questions on this letter, DPMC would be happy to discuss these. Please contact 9(2)(a) [REDACTED] DPMC) in the first instance.

Thank you once again for the significant progress that the Trust Board and the Centre have made in the past year. I look forward to continuing our collective work to support its ongoing development throughout 2024. This letter can be shared with VUW and the Centre as required.

Ngā mihi nui

Bridget White  
Executive Director  
National Security Group