

**Tuesday November 5, 2024**

**Spokesperson: Commissioner Andrew Coster**

**Reviewing Police's management, training and understanding of hate incidents**

Te Raranga is Police's programme focused on improving the police's response to hate crime.

New Zealand Police recently published Police Te Raranga training materials and conducted an internal review of these materials following some concerns raised. Commissioner Andrew Coster says that the review revealed a complex and somewhat ambiguous legal landscape surrounding hate-motivated crime and incidents.

"Based on advice from legal experts on human rights and reviews of overseas case-law, the review identified a more conservative approach is appropriate," says Commissioner Coster.

Four recommendations were made on the training. These recommendations included updating Police's working definition of a hate incident and reflecting the definition into training materials.

"The Police Executive has agreed Police's definition of a non-criminal hate incident should shift from a perception-based standard to one requiring reasonable grounds to believe an event involves or implies a significant risk of harm to the physical safety of any person and was motivated by a hostility or prejudice based on a person's particular characteristic, such as race, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, or age.

"This revised definition ensures that Police acts in accordance with its legal mandate and responsibilities."

The other recommendations were: to explore options to engage with community groups regarding the revised approach, using multiple paths to communicate and reinforce the updated approach internally and externally, and to explore options to update existing records flagged under the previous definition of a hate incident.

Police is now exploring the most appropriate way to update existing records flagged under the previous definition of a hate incident. The new definition comes into effect immediately and revised training and guidance will be issued to Police staff in the coming period. Police will report against the new definition from 1 January 2025.

The review was conducted by Police's assurance group and provided reassurance Police's Te Raranga training is appropriately framed according to the law and Police's responsibilities. It addresses recommendation 42 of the RCOI and provides clarity to staff about the threshold and rationale for recording hate-motivations. Police has accepted the findings from the review and is taking appropriate actions to align to these findings.

"At its core, Te Raranga supports officers to recognise, record, respond to and resolve hate-motivated offending.

"Violence and other crime driven by hate is not acceptable and should not be condoned by anyone.

"Police is committed to identifying and tackling hate incidents to keep the community safe and improve our response and support for victims of hate crime."

**Notes:**

The training materials can be found here: [Te Raranga \(The Weave\) | New Zealand Police](#)

Police are not arresting people for 'hate speech'. Police training has never focused on limiting someone's freedom of expression and 'hate-motivation' would not be a reason for arrest - a crime must first have been committed.

For a hate-motivated offence to occur a crime must have been committed and that crime was motivated by hostility towards the victim's race, colour, nationality, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, age or disability.

ENDS