



20 May 2010

Kia ora koutou

## **Integration of Archives New Zealand and National Library of New Zealand and the Department of Internal Affairs: information for stakeholders**

This is our second letter to stakeholders on the integration programme. We have also set up a website, [www.integration.dia.govt.nz](http://www.integration.dia.govt.nz) as a record of the programme and its public communications. In addition to these written and electronic communications, we have been meeting face-to-face with stakeholder groups. We will continue to do so in line with our commitment to listen and respond to those with a legal and professional interest in the changes.

We appreciate your attention to the integration programme and your commitment to our cultural institutions and services. Recent meetings and public statements have identified that there is a need for assurance about a number of issues associated with the integration of our three departments.

These are:

- retaining the independence of statutory officers.
- the continuation of the portfolios of Minister Responsible for Archives New Zealand and Minister Responsible for the National Library and the continuation of Vote Archives and Vote National Library.
- the protection of money voted for Archives and National Library from potential diversion to unrelated activities.
- the reporting lines of statutory officers.
- protection of the Alexander Turnbull Library under the National Library Act.

This letter provides information on these issues from our perspective as Chief Executives.

### **The independence of statutory officers**

We have advised the State Services Commission (SSC) that changes to legislation should reflect the minimal changes required to implement the Government's decision to integrate the three agencies, while maintaining the intent of existing legislation about functions and services, the independence of statutory officers, and the strengthening of national cultural institutions. The SSC agrees with this approach. This approach will not change the statutory roles of the National Librarian, the Chief Librarian of the Alexander Turnbull Library, or the Chief Archivist. The legislation

itself will be available for public scrutiny and we expect it to go before a select committee for detailed examination. We appreciate that people will want to see the legislation for themselves to ensure that our intentions have been carried into the plain meaning of the law. We will let you know as soon as we are able to tell you about the content of the legislation.

### **The continuation of the portfolios of Minister Responsible for Archives New Zealand and Minister Responsible for the National Library and Vote National Library and Vote Archives New Zealand**

The integration will go ahead with no change to votes or portfolios. The present portfolios and votes must still be in place for the 2010/11 Budget year. Any decision to change them after that would be a matter for the Government. Typically, the advice of the Department would be sought on any proposal for change, and the Department would report on stakeholders' views. As Chief Executives we are agreed that any change in portfolios or votes would have no substantive effect on the role of statutory officers or the ability of the Minister to receive expert advice. This happens now with activities that have no specific portfolio or vote, such as Internal Affairs largest single operation, passport management.

### **The protection of money voted for Archives New Zealand and National Library from potential diversion to unrelated activities**

The history of this concern is well understood. The current policies of the Department of Internal Affairs would not allow this to happen. If it did happen, this would be apparent to the Office of the Auditor-General and to the Government Administration Committee of parliament which scrutinises the Department annually. The Department's system of overhead and shared services allocation is standard across the organisation. The system would apply to the new areas being integrated. This will allow scrutiny of the use of the money voted by parliament.

The Government expects all organisations to make savings and some savings have been identified as a result of integration. We expect that the combined baseline funding of the new Department will be reduced over time to reflect this. Funds allocated by parliament for specific purposes will continue to be spent on those purposes.

### **The reporting lines of statutory officers**

The concept of 'tiers' in the Public Service is not relevant to the role, responsibility or influence of positions. Internal Affairs' passport operation, for example, employs 170 people in New Zealand and overseas, and generates third-party revenues of more than \$55 million dollars. It is critically important to New Zealand's security, international access and success. It is bigger than some stand-alone government departments. It is led by a 'third tier' manager. This management arrangement is typical of larger government departments.

The National Librarian and the Chief Archivist under existing law are employees of the State Services Commissioner. In practice, most employer-employee relationships are delegated by the Commissioner to the Commissioner's direct reports, and in some instances to 'third' tier managers.

As a result of the Government decision to integrate the three departments, the National Librarian and Chief Archivist will be employees of the Chief Executive of the Department of Internal Affairs. The organisational design of the new Department is

being done as part of the integration programme. We expect that a range of options for reporting lines will be considered before the final design is agreed.

### **Protection of the Alexander Turnbull Library under the National Library Act**

The Turnbull Library is intended to continue with its present functions, roles and purpose.

### **Summary**

In summary, we believe that the integration itself and the Government's options for the organisation of votes and portfolios pose no threat to the statutory roles of the National Librarian, the Chief Librarian of the Alexander Turnbull Library or the Chief Archivist. We also consider that there is no increased risk of neglect of the needs of Archives New Zealand or the National Library by the integration. The Public Service requirements developed since the early 2000s for the production of Statements of Intent and increased scrutiny by parliament and the Office of the Auditor-General substantially mitigate the risk of neglect for any government function.

We believe that Archives New Zealand and National Library will continue to be leading cultural institutions of national and international importance and that their future needs will be better served as part of a larger department at the centre of government operations.

We appreciate that stakeholders will continue to seek assurance from the Government and will scrutinise the detail of what is planned. We welcome this, and hope that issues raised for debate will be based on sound evidence, an understanding of the modern Public Service and the need for government agencies to find new ways of working to respond to a difficult immediate economic future.

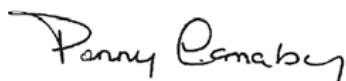
We look forward to talking with you, and to your continued support of our important cultural institutions and their services.

Nā mātou, nā



### **Greg Goulding**

Acting Chief Executive of Archives New Zealand Te Rua Mahara o te Kāwanatanga  
Chief Archivist



### **Penny Carnaby**

Chief Executive of the National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o  
Aotearoa  
National Librarian



### **Brendan Boyle**

Chief Executive of the Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari Taiwhenua  
Secretary for Internal Affairs