

# Open Government Partnership New Zealand National Action Plan 2018-2021

Progress report for: January – March 2021


## Commitment 5: Public participation in policy development




**Lead agency:** The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC)




**Objective:** DPMC will assist the New Zealand public sector to develop a deeper and more consistent understanding of what good engagement with the public means (right across the International Association of Public Participation's (IAP2's) spectrum of public participation).

**Ambition:** New Zealanders increasingly experience a timelier and collaborative approach to public participation when policies are developed, and consider their concerns, diversity of views, life experience, and time are valued in the policy process. Improvements in public participation can result in better design of policy and services and increase their legitimacy. Improving public participation requires an informed approach to applying public participation methods throughout the policy development process. Developing a deeper understanding of what good engagement looks like and providing guidance about best practice methods across government, will achieve a more consistent and coherent approach to public participation.

**OGP values:** Civic participation

	Current Milestones	Progress
1	<p>Extend existing Policy Methods Toolbox guidance on public participation (<a href="https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/our-programmes/policy-project/policy-methods-toolbox-0">https://www.dPMC.govt.nz/our-programmes/policy-project/policy-methods-toolbox-0</a> ) to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) A design tool that will assist policy advisers to choose the appropriate level of engagement on the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation for a specific policy issue</li> <li>(ii) Guidance, for each level of the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation, on the characteristics and enablers of effective public participation and good engagement practice</li> <li>(iii) Guidance on inclusive engagement approaches that include and reflect the diversity of those interested and affected by policies</li> <li>(iv) Principles and concepts of community engagement in policy development</li> <li>(v) Guidance on building government agencies' organisational capability and readiness for community engagement</li> <li>(vi) Guidance on different types of community engagement methods, and their appropriateness for each level on the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation</li> </ul> <p><i>Start/End dates: October 2018/October 2020</i></p>	

2	Develop and share recent case studies documenting New Zealand innovation success stories in public participation in the policy development process <i>Start/End dates: October 2018/October 2020</i>	
3	Identify a 'live' policy issue in which to trial public engagement in policy development that is higher on the public participation spectrum than inform or consult, as a demonstration project <i>Start/End dates: October 2018/December 2020</i>	
4	Widely disseminate the results of the above actions <i>Start/End dates: December 2020/June 2021</i>	

Progress key:		<b>some delays</b>		<b>underway</b>		<b>Completed</b>

## WHAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING

In the period since the last report the Policy Project has continued its work on its one remaining milestone, Milestone 4 (refer above). Specifically in the January – March 2021 period we have:

- Continued to profile the resources at individual meetings with agencies and with public sector networks
- Used the engagement resources as one of the foundations for a draft checklist for good practice community engagement and provided it to agencies working on the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the terrorist attack on Christchurch masjidain on 15 March 2019 for consideration and testing<sup>1</sup>.
- Prepared for further discussion of the resources at the Policy Training Network meeting on 4 May 2021 and Policy Engagement Forum on 11 May 2021.
- Continued the write up of the survey results used to help shape the guidance and for publishing on our website
- Met with organisers of the IAP2 New Zealand Community and Stakeholder Engagement Symposium scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May in Auckland, to organise speaking at the event about the community engagement resources
- Monitored the web traffic relating to the Policy Project webpages on the DPMC website that have community engagement content including the guidance and other resources developed to fulfil Commitment 5 – and found that:
  - There were 1295-page views for the revised Community Engagement webpages from which the Commitment 5 resources can be accessed, and the new OGP webpage, in the January – March 2021 quarter

<sup>1</sup> [Royal Commission of Inquiry into the terrorist attack on Christchurch masjidain on 15 March 2019](#)  
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- There were 964 downloads of the six community engagement guidance resources and the demonstration project report by visitors to the community engagement and OGP webpages in the Jan – March 2021 quarter

## WHAT'S NEXT?

In the quarter ending June 2021, we will complete Milestone 4 by further disseminating the community engagement resources. Specifically, by the end of the period we will have completed the following:

- Provided a further introduction to the community engagement resources at the Policy Training Network meeting on 4 May 2021.
- Held a Policy Forum on community engagement on 11 May for policy managers and principal advisors to raise awareness of the resources and share case studies of good community engagement practice. The programme includes:
  - an address by Minister Sepuloni on the importance of community engagement in policy making
  - case studies profiling the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy and related 'Hive' initiative, which were profiled in the Demonstration Project report (Milestone 3).
  - group sessions to provide the opportunity to learn about four of the six engagement resources in greater depth.
- Following the Policy Forum, the case study presentations and Minister's address will be circulated to all policy managers and principal advisors across the public service and put on our website.
- Presented the keynote address at the IAP2 New Zealand Community and Stakeholder Engagement Symposium scheduled for 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> May in Auckland to showcase pathways to good engagement practice and the resources.
- Published the final write up of all the survey results used to help shape the guidance on our website and shared a selection of those results at the Engagement Symposium in May.
- Worked with relevant agencies to obtain feedback on the draft checklist for good practice community engagement.

- Further explored the potential to carry out an event or events on community engagement with the International Association of Public Participation Australasia and/or a New Zealand public sector organisation, such as the Institute of Public Administration New Zealand.
- Continued to encourage policy agencies to pilot the use of the Community Engagement Design Tool to determine which level on the IAP2 Spectrum of Public Participation to adopt for engagement on policy development for a specific issue, and to follow the results of its application.