

New Zealand
Human Rights Commission

2001 – 2002

- 1. CHANGES**
- 2. CHALLENGES**
- 3. SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES**



Human Rights
COMMISSION
Komihana Tikanga Tangata

New Zealand Human Rights Commission

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1. CHANGES

[i.] Legislation:

Human Rights Amendment Act 2001

[ii.] Mandate:

- **Broadened – Primary functions**
- **Government more fully accountable**
 - **Anti-discrimination provisions**
 - **Declaration of Inconsistency**
- **Duty to act independently**

[iii.] Structure/Organisation:

- **Merger with Race Relations Office**
- **Commissioners – 3 full-time, 5 part-time**
- **Establishment - Director of Human Rights Proceedings**
- **Renaming: Human Rights Review Tribunal**
- **Dispute resolution**

[iv.] Financial : some increased funding achieved



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2. CHALLENGES

- **Become more strategically focussed**
 - from narrow compliance to effective implementation
- **Build public knowledge, understanding and respect for fundamental human rights**
- **Gain support across the political spectrum**
- **Mainstreaming of human rights treaty provisions, principles and perspectives into development of all legislation and public policy as well as into private sector practice**
- **Recognition of economic, social and cultural rights**
- **Achieve improved funding for mass media information campaigns**



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3. SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES – NATIONAL

- **National Plan of Action for the promotion and protection of human rights**
- **Human rights and the Treaty of Waitangi**
- **Disability rights issues**
- **Detention/treatment of asylum seekers**
- **Freedom of speech and its limits**
- **Affirmative action**
- **Discrimination against older workers**
- **Racial harassment in schools**
- **Measuring human rights outcomes**
- **Human Rights Day – 10 December**
- **Race Relations Day 21 March**
- **Monitoring New Zealand ratification and compliance with United Nations human rights instruments including the eight ILO fundamental Labour standards**



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3. SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITIES – INTERNATIONAL

The international dimension of the New Zealand Human Rights Commission's work will:

- **Focus on those activities that most closely reflect and support the Commission's national priorities;**
- **Focus on human rights in the Asia-Pacific region with special emphasis on the Pacific;**
- **Prioritise implementation of the Teheran Framework;**
- **Support the work of the Asia Pacific Forum;**
- **Contribute to the:**
 - **development of a Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities**
 - **finalisation of the Draft Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples**
 - **full implementation of ILO Convention 182 on the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour**



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