

# Emergency Management Bill

## October 2023



New Zealand Council Of  
Christian Social Services

### Tirohanga Whānui | Overview

The New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services (NZCCSS) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Emergency Management Bill. We strongly support the kaupapa to improve the systems in place to protect New Zealanders.

### Taunakitanga | Recommendations

We raise the following points and recommendations for consideration:

#### Item One

The inclusion of Te Tiriti and Māori representation within this framework is welcome and necessary, as we recognise that Māori have been disproportionately impacted by natural disasters in recent times. Māori representation and a recognition of the Crown's responsibility to Tangata Whenua in this space will help to ensure that the impact to Māori from emergency situations will be minimised, and recovery will be made more accessible.

#### Recommendation One:

The explicit inclusion of both Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Māori interests is welcome and necessary.

#### Item Two

The bill has made important strides in clarifying the structure of emergency management entities and groups. Despite this, Emergency Management Committees, Area/Local Controllers and Recovery Managers continue to have no obligation to coordinate with community groups which may assist in the emergency response efforts. As seen following the devastation of Cyclone Gabrielle, community groups stepped up and provided immediate assistance wherever needed. Despite this some groups felt that they needed clearer directions and more access to critical information to coordinate their response. Community groups exist to serve and help wherever possible, and inclusion in this framework would make their efforts both more effective and efficient.

#### Recommendation Two:

We ask that Emergency Management Committees have an obligation to engage and share information with community groups where their capabilities can help with emergency response.

### Ko wai tātou | Who we are

NZCCSS has six foundation members; the Anglican Care Network, Baptist Churches of New Zealand, Catholic Social Services, Presbyterian Support and the Methodist and Salvation Army Churches.

Through this membership, NZCCSS represents over 350 organisations providing a range of social support services across Aotearoa. We believe in working to achieve a just and compassionate society for all, through our commitment to our faith and Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Further details on NZCCSS can be found on our website [www.nzccss.org.nz](http://www.nzccss.org.nz).

### Ingoa whakapā | Contact Name

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