



1840

# statement of intent

tauāki whakamaunga atu

## 2007–10

1907

2007





The Department of Internal Affairs (formerly the Colonial Secretary's Office) is the oldest government department. Virtually all existing government departments can trace their origins to activities once undertaken within the Department.

**1840** When Captain Hobson arrived to sign the Treaty of Waitangi in 1840, he was accompanied by four officials who constituted the whole of the New Zealand civil service. Of these four, Lieutenant Willoughby Shortland was formally appointed Colonial Secretary (the senior government official) on 7 March 1840. The Colonial Secretary's office had been unofficially in existence since before Hobson left Sydney for New Zealand.

**1907** At the London Colonial Conference in 1907, Prime Ministers made a decision to rename the colonies "Dominions". On 26 September 1907, the Governor and the Prime Minister formally proclaimed New Zealand a Dominion. The Colonial Secretary's Office was renamed the Department of Internal Affairs.

**2007** This year, we celebrate 100 years as the Department of Internal Affairs. This Statement of Intent explains our work.

- » Our first Ceremonial Event was at Waitangi on 6 February 1840, when Shortland acted as Master of Ceremonies.
- » The first *New Zealand Gazette* was published on 7 July 1841.
- » The Aliens Act 1866 laid down the principles to be followed in granting naturalisation.
- » The first local government legislation was passed in the 1870s.
- » The first gambling legislation was the Gaming and Lotteries Act of 1881.
- » By 1900, the Colonial Secretariat was occasionally receiving requests for passports, although few countries required them as yet. It was not until the First World War that the requirement for travel documents became standard in most parts of the world.
- » The Fire Brigades Act of 1906 provided for fire districts and fire boards and the administration of the Act became a responsibility of the Colonial Secretary.
- » The first Censor was appointed on 16 September 1916, in response to agitation about the influence of the cinematograph.
- » In 1938 the Department assumed administrative responsibility for emergency precautions in case of natural disaster or enemy action.
- » The British Nationality and New Zealand Citizenship Act 1948 created New Zealand citizenship.

TE TARI TAIWHENUA  
THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS »

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2007–10

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# our vision

The Department of Internal Affairs is a recognised leader in public service – known for innovation, essential to New Zealand, and trusted to deliver

# our purpose

The Department of Internal Affairs serves and connects citizens, communities and government to build a strong, safe nation

# outcomes we contribute to

Strong Sustainable Communities/Hapū/Iwi

Safer Communities

Trusted Records of New Zealand Identity

**We also have a key Departmental objective**

Executive Government is Well Supported

# our workplace principles

We value people

We act with integrity

We provide outstanding service

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