

THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS



Te Tari Taiwhenua

annual report

Pūrongo ā Tau
2007–08

1840

1907

2007



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

New Zealand's Approach to Identity is Trusted and Well Led

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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As the country's oldest government department, the Department of Internal Affairs has played a unique and significant role in New Zealand's national development. The Department began its life as the Office of the Colonial Secretary in 1840. In 1907, New Zealand's status changed from Colony to Dominion, the Colonial Secretary formally became the Minister of Internal Affairs and the Office of the Colonial Secretary was renamed the Department of Internal Affairs.

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 re-named the Department of Internal Affairs.

2007 This past year, we celebrated the 100th anniversary as the Department of Internal Affairs



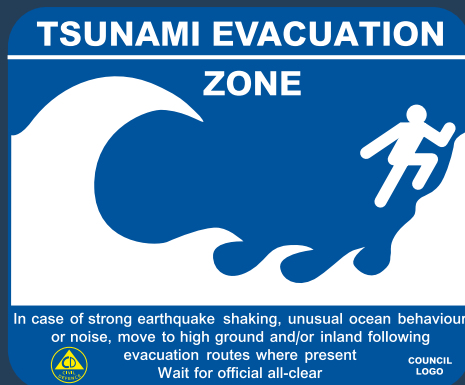
1907 The proclamation of Dominion status is read on the steps of Parliament.

The Department of Internal Affairs 1840.1907.2007



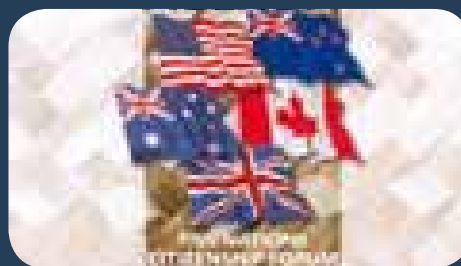
The Department's first ceremonial event was the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi on 6 February 1840. Since then, it has continued to host many high-profile events, including VIP visits to New Zealand. In 2007, one highlight was the Irish President, Mary McAleese's visit.

The Department has had oversight of local government since the 1870s. To support the 2007 local authority elections, the Department ran a public information campaign on how to vote using the Single Transferable Voting (STV) system.



In 1938, the Department assumed administrative responsibility for emergency precautions. By 1959, this had evolved into responsibility for civil defence. In May 2008, the Department launched the National Tsunami Signage Technical Standard as part of a wider tsunami risk management programme.

The British Nationality and New Zealand Citizenship Act 1948 created New Zealand Citizenship. In November 2007, the Department hosted the 2007 Five Nations Citizenship Forum with delegates from New Zealand, Australia, Canada, the United States and the United Kingdom to exchange ideas and update each other on citizenship issues and laws.



In recognition of New Zealand's growing diversity, the Office of Ethnic Affairs (OEA) was established in 2001 to help encourage and promote the opportunities that diversity offers our country. In 2007/08, the Department produced its second book in the *Portraits* series, which contains images and stories told by ethnic New Zealanders about their journeys and life experiences.

The Department has always supported new government functions. During 2007/08, the Department established a new compliance unit to enforce the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Act (anti-spam), which came into effect on 5 September 2007.

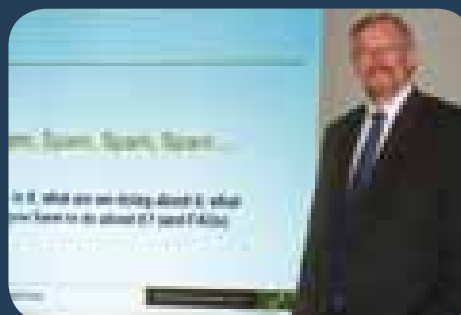


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