

The following is summarised information from a Security Intelligence Report. Where possible, excerpts of the original document have been used. Some details are withheld under section 6(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 as release would prejudice national security. The individual responsible for the Christchurch Mosque attacks is referred to as "the attacker". References to the individual's manifesto have been withheld under section 6(c) of the OIA as the document has been classified as objectionable material by the Chief Censor and therefore release would prejudice the maintenance of the law.

Influence of online subcultures on Christchurch mosques shooter

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Summary

- The Christchurch mosques shooter's engagement with online subcultures likely contributed to normalising and desensitising him to the broad range of extreme views that featured in his manifesto and attack video. The attacker's references to in-jokes and ironic content reflects a broader trend in extreme right-wing online subcultures, in which individuals use humour, Internet memes, and in-group signaling to subvert cultural taboos and promote extreme messages.
- Participants in these online subcultures will almost certainly continue discussing and circulating the attacker's manifesto and attack video, which will heighten the potential for further online-inspired violence by similarly desensitised individuals.
- Security agencies will almost certainly face difficulties in distinguishing genuine violent threats from the aspirational, ironic or non-credible threats and hate-speech emanating from these online subcultures.