

This report covers the main activities undertaken by the group/business unit for the period. It excludes the GE23 Programme or by-elections, which are reported on through separate channels.

### **Progress against the strategic priorities**

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#### ***Building our capability***

- Nga Maihi team are working to consolidate and strengthen improvements made during the year while also building the capability and resilience of colleagues and business units to incorporate Te Ao Māori successfully in their respective environments. Work undertaken has certainly ramped up this past month with the MEO, and the team is covering the country assisting our colleagues in the tasks and spaces below.
  - Te Ao Māori Sessions Planning & Implementation – EC-wide
  - Development & Launch of Echo Space
  - IAP2 Training Planning & Facilitation Development – Align IAP2 with Community Engagement, Ngā Maihihioterā and Te Tiriti for delivery to CE.
  - Democracy Matters Induction Workshops planning and participation.
  - Legal Services Translation Support.
- **9(2)(a)** will be starting on Monday 8 May as Senior Advisor – Interagency Liaison, reporting to Mark Lawson.

#### ***Preparing for an election***

- Nga Maihi team:
  - Te reo Māori & Tikanga Support – VS Brochures
  - Te Ahunga mai o te Kōwhiringa Pōti Māori timeline development for Website
  - MEO te reo Māori Collateral – Procurement of Translators
  - MEO te reo Māori Collateral coordination, and editing
  - MEO Brochure Recordings for Website
  - Recruitment Support – CE Manager
  - Strategic Engagement & Partnerships Planning Day
  - MEO Launch and Advertising Campaign
  - MEO Campaign collateral – 7 Dialect te reo Māori translations
  - Media responsiveness
  - Kaupapa Māori VPs - April: Māori Advisory Team Travelled alongside Peter Potaka to Christchurch and Dunedin to meet with EC staff and external parties who may be interested in hosting a kaupapa Māori VP. Attended LNI EM meeting in Palmerston North. Supported EMs LNI with 17 priority communities across Masterton, Taumarunui, Taihape, New Plymouth, Taranaki, Whanganui, Marton, Rangitikei district.

#### ***Building relationships and understanding***

- Nga Maihi team:

#### **Planning/Doing**

- Iwi Chairs Forum proposal to support MEO
- Stakeholder Engagement Planning
- Logistics and Supplies Managers Training – Mihi Whakatau (Late May – June)
- Mindanao Young Leaders Programme Visit

- Te reo Māori & Tikanga Support – VS Brochures
- Te Ao Māori Sessions Planning & Implementation – EC-wide
- Development & Launch of Echo Space
- Te Ahunga mai o te Kōwhiringa Pōti Māori timeline development for Website

#### Completed

- MEO te reo Māori Collateral – Procurement of Translators
- MEO Brochure Recordings for Website
- IAP2 Training Plan & Facilitation Development – Align IAP2 with CE/Ngāmaihihi/Te Tiriti for delivery to CE
- Recruitment Support – CE Manager
- Strategic Engagement & Partnerships Planning Day
- Australia Commission Visit
- Te Pae Herenga o Tāmaki hui – Supporting CE

#### Ongoing

- MEO Campaign collateral – 7 Dialect te reo Māori translations
- Democracy Matters Induction Workshops
- Legal Services Translation Support
- Kaupapa Māori VPs - April:
  - Māori Advisory Team Travelled alongside Peter Potaka to Christchurch and Dunedin to meet with EC staff and external parties who may be interested in hosting a kaupapa Māori VP
  - Attended LNI EM meeting in Palmerston North
  - Supported EMs LNI with 17 priority communities across Marsterton, Taumarunui, Taihape, New Plymouth, Taranaki, Whanganui, Marton, Rangitikei district

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**Progress against the strategic priorities**

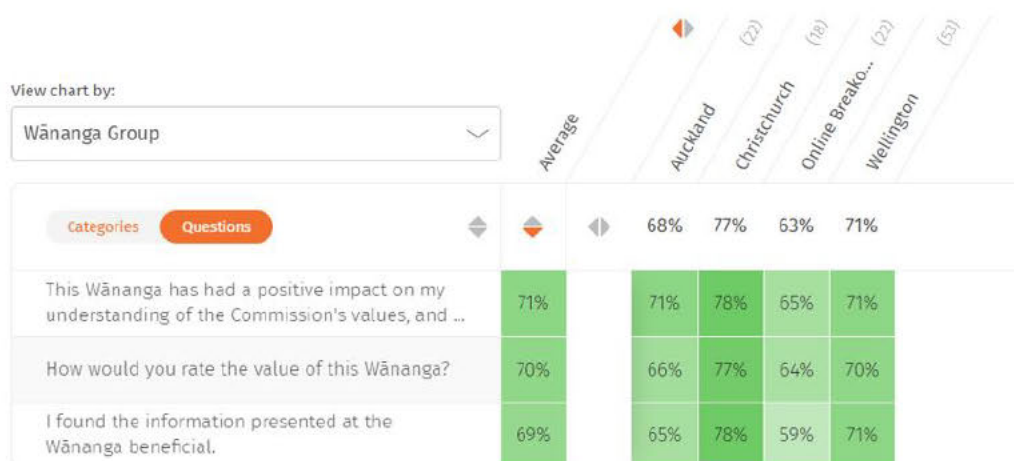
***Building our capability***

The FY24 Budgets were approved by the Board at the 14 April, and the SPE was completed and has now been sent to the Ministry of Justice.

The migration of new UVP web server to Catalyst Cloud is underway is progressing well.

The results of the All Staff Wānanga survey have been received and there was a participation rate of 83% (200 of 240 employees attended) which provides important feedback for future wānanga. The overall rating that was received was 70%, with higher ratings received from the in-person groups than the online group. The lessons learnt centre around timing and the amount of notice, IT support, trial runs, blended approach of online and in person, communications, invite management and attendance management.

Overall Sentiment by group (Taupo group did not have 5 responses, hence no data)



Democracy Matters Orientation and Induction was developed, socialised and prepared for the first session for 2023 to be held on 3 May. This session was attended by 15 employees who had started since 1 April 2023. There are three further sessions scheduled in 2023 on 5 July, 6 September and 6 November. There will be a debrief session that will be attended by Izak, Dave, Hone, Chelsea, Lucy and Anusha to look at what worked well and where we can improve.

Work has progressed on the learning modules including scoping a financial literacy model. The Management Essentials training course as part of the induction for managers and for new managers is being planned for delivery in May. This will cover EC policies, processes and guidance, employee life cycle, finance and purchasing, communications policies. There have been 11 people identified for this course and the People and Culture team will communicate with their managers regarding participation on this course.

The TOIL guidelines have progressed and a session with SLG on these will be planned in the near future.

With <sup>9(2)(a)</sup> leaving the Commission on 31 March 2023, the People and Culture team are now responsible for Health Safety and Wellbeing including running the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Committee meetings and reporting to ELT and the Board. The new Health, Safety and Wellbeing Policy was approved by the Board at the March meeting and is now published on ECHO. Now that we are in a GE year, the Health, Safety and Wellbeing Committee meetings are held monthly rather than quarterly.

#### ***Preparing for an election***

There were two successful releases in April: Mike on 26 April with a focus on non-MVP MEO features and EMS on 19 April. The EMS release is the penultimate planned release for GE and contained several features, enhancements, and fixes, including support for ARTS. Scheduling of Security and Performance testing is underway.

Our external provider, IMPAC, continued to deliver the first round of training for Health Safety Wellbeing for Voting Services, and de-escalation training for Community Engagement.

With the announcement of the new living wage on 3 April (increase to \$26 per hour from \$23.65 per hour), any employees were on the previous living wage have now had an increase to \$26/hour effective 3 April.

The teams across Enterprise Services have continued the review of relevant chapters of the Operations and Enterprise Services Manuals.

#### ***Preparing for the future***

The board approved draft Procurement Policy and associated draft Procurement Procedures have gone out for wider consultation with feedback due by 5 May.

System changes that have been updated include the FMIS with the new financial delegations as per the recently revised Delegations Policy and an update to EMS to optimise the EMS/BC integration.

Automation tests have been built and put in place for key areas of EMS this will improve quality and resilience of system releases.

#### ***Building relationships and understanding***

Training and support for EMs on bank reconciliations and cashbook management has been undertaken this month.

The People and Culture team had meetings with the Senior Māori Advisors to promote the collaboration and integration of work across our business units as appropriate.

#### ***Other progress***

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KMPG will be start their annual audit with an interim visit in June and will return in September to complete the FY23 audit. The final signoff for the audit required this year is 31 October 2023 (previous years have received an extension due to Covid).

#### ***Issues under management***

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Illness in the Administration team has meant there has been pressures to deliver the work by this team including reception and catering across the Commission. We are working through this with support from other teams and casual staff are currently being recruited to cover this in the future.

**Other news**

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We had four new starters in Enterprise Services including Paul [9(2)(a)] (Assistant Accountant), Karen Stewart (Manager Property and Procurement), [9(2)(a)] (Cyber Security Analyst) and Himanshu [9(2)(a)] (Senior Systems Administrator). [9(2)(a)] was appointed to the role of Principal Advisor People and Culture.

Offers have been accepted for four roles – Principal Advisor Enterprise Services, Recruitment and Talent Lead, Health, Safety and Wellbeing Lead and Systems Administrator. We have offered the Senior Advisor Information Management role and we are waiting to hear back.

We are currently recruiting for 14 roles – two Finance Business Partners, People and Culture Business Partner, and four Regional Advisor People and Culture roles (GE roles), Procurement Advisor, two Solution Architects, Senior Systems Administrator, Administration Officer (IT), Project Manager and Senior Systems Specialist.

[9(2)(a)] and [9(2)(a)] have completed their contracts as Senior Procurement Advisor and Procurement Advisor, and [9(2)(a)] finishes on 12 May.

**Security Update (to be excluded when sharing across the Commission)**

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[9(2)(ba)(ii)]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[9(2)(ba)(ii)]

[REDACTED]

9(2)(ba)(ii)

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## **Progress against the strategic priorities**

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### ***Preparing for an election***

- Oral hearings were held with parties for the broadcasting allocation, and the team continues to work on options for the allocation decision.
- Continued to process applications for registration from third parties.
- We provided advice and support on a variety of operational deliverables including advice on the Māori electoral option, voting age changes, and voting services.
- Preparing for the third party briefing.
- Preparing for the publishers and broadcasters briefing.
- Finalising the last of the suite of handbooks for GE: the publishers and broadcasters handbook.
- Held a briefing for all party secretaries, covering rules and requirements for the election and campaign.
- The team have been working with party secretaries and their auditors providing advice and guidance in the leadup to the annual compliance due 1 May.
- Finalising the candidate nomination forms for the election.

### ***Preparing for the future***

- Continuing work with the Communications Team on the development of election candidate hub animated resources for the election, on being a candidate, and rules for loans, donations and advertising expenses. Final animations have been received and reviewed, and these will be online in the candidate hub after King's Birthday Weekend.
- Participating in the GE steering group, GE Programme Board, the working group on risk and security, stakeholder engagement plan, Data and Information management Committee.
- Final comments on the PIA for the ARTS project.
- Finalising the process manual for nominations process and testing the nominations process in EMS.
- Supported decision-making around making collection of candidate gender optional.
- Work continued in supporting the Ministry of Justice on legislation to reduce the voting age for local elections.
- Supporting the appearance of the Electoral Commission before the Justice Committee Inquiry into 2022 Local Elections.

### ***Building relationships and understanding***

- Continuing to support information requests and presentations to the Independent Panel reviewing electoral law.
- Reviewing and publishing the Hamilton West By-election returns.

- Making contact with social media platforms to discuss electoral integrity measures and escalations.
- Working with the digital safety team at DIA on election content.
- Providing peer review for the Office of the Clerk on the electoral chapter of the next edition of Parliamentary Practice in New Zealand.
- Contributed information on electoral finance to an OECD survey on public integrity indicators.
- Continued working with parties to help them understand new financial statement requirements, and began publishing this information on the party register to inform the public.
- Presenting to the AEC delegation on the electoral system and election finance rules.
- Finalising the interagency graphic on roles of EC, ASA, BSA and Media Council.

## Other progress

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The team is handling an increased number of enquiries and complaints as the election approaches.

### Advisory opinions

We received 47 advisory requests in April. All were responded to within the 5 working day timeframe. Requests from MPs are increasing as we approach the start of the regulated period.

### Official Information Act requests responded to in April

We responded to two OIA requests in April. Both were within the 20 working day timeframe.

Requestor	Topic	Response Time
9(2)(a)	<p>the following numbers of how many voters fit the following descriptions. General North Island voter population</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total voter population</li> <li>• General voter population</li> <li>• General North Island voter population</li> <li>• General South Island voter population</li> <li>• Māori voter population</li> <li>• Māori North Island voter population</li> <li>• Māori South Island voter population</li> </ul> <p>Could I also have the same numbers for 1993 and 1996.</p>	16WD
9(2)(a)	what the definition of the term “person” is in the Electoral Act 1993	8WD

### Parliamentary questions responded to in April

We responded to 10 parliamentary questions in April.



<b>Requestor</b>	<b>Question</b>	<b>Date of Response</b>
Hon Paul Goldsmith	What is the planned budget, if anything, for materials and campaigns to promote the ability of people to switch between the general and Māori electoral roles?	06/04/2023 Clarification 11/04/2023
Simeon Brown	What funding, if any, has been distributed by any of the departments or entities that the Minister is responsible for to Tātou NZ, listed by date, amount, purpose, and who specifically, signed off on the funding?	12/04/2023
Simeon Brown	What funding, if any, has been distributed by any of the departments or entities that the Minister is responsible for to Dialogue22, listed by date, amount, purpose, and who specifically, signed off on the funding?	12/04/2023
Melissa Lee	What Memorandums of Understanding, if any, have your responsible Departments or Crown Entities signed with Cloud Services Providers; if any, Who have these been signed with, when were they signed and for what reason?	13/04/2023
Simeon Brown	What funding, if any, has been distributed by any of the departments or entities that the Minister is responsible for to Stanley St Ltd, listed by date, amount, purpose, and who specifically, signed off on the funding?	20/04/2023
Simeon Brown	How much, if any, has been spent on Meta Ads (Facebook and Instagram) by all departments/entities that the Minister is responsible for in the period 01 January 2022 to 17 April 2023, listed by month and amount?	20/04/2023
Simeon Brown	How much, if any, has been spent on Google Ads by all departments/entities that the Minister is responsible for in the period 01 January 2022 to 17 April 2023?	20/04/2023
Stuart Smith	Will the Minister's reporting departments or entities, if they have any, become carbon neutral by 2025; and does their reporting departments or entities measure, verify and report their emissions annually, if so, when did they start doing that?	21/04/2023
Stuart Smith	Has the Minister's reporting departments or entities, if they have any, set any gross emissions reduction targets in-line with a 1.5 degree pathway; if so when did this occur; and what are the specific gross emissions reduction targets for each of the Minister's reporting departments or entities?	21/04/2023
Stuart Smith	How many battery-electric or hybrid vehicles has the Minister's reporting departments, agencies, or entities purchased over the last 24 months, if any; and how many petrol or diesel vehicles has the Minister's reporting departments, agencies, or entities purchased over the last 24 months, if any; and if petrol or diesel vehicles were purchased, what was the specific reason for purchasing the petrol or diesel vehicles over the battery-electric or hybrid ones?	21/04/2023

## **Issues under management**

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- Nothing to report

## **Other news**

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- Nothing to report



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## **Progress against the strategic priorities**

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### ***Building our capability***

Strategic Engagement and Partnerships staff from across the motu spent two days in Auckland completing IAP2 training and beginning their preparation for GE23.

As part of this hui, we engaged a panel of representatives from Tangata Whenua and priority communities to speak with kaimahi about what is important to consider in our planning and engagement with these cohorts for the future. Feedback included accessibility around language, more engaging content, approaches that support diversity, utilising community networks, reducing barriers to participation, authenticity, and developing longer term relationships.

Business Enablement has been working with the Strategic Engagement and Partnership to implement the Te Kete (aka Community Engagement Monitoring and Evaluation Framework) in the past few months. The main project outcome achieved has been the co-design, development, testing and implementation of a structured framework with supporting tools and resources, which enables the monitoring, measurement and evaluation of the value and impact of community engagement, relative to the Commission's organisational purpose and objectives. The project is now reaching the wrap-up stage, currently finalising a project closure report and handover plan. This will support the smooth transition of ownership of Te Kete to the business, which is targeted for completion by the end of this week.

The following enrolment recruitment is underway:

*Enrolment Officer – Auckland (Fixed term).* This role is back fill for a staff member seconded to Voting Services as an Electorate Manager. A preferred candidate has been identified, and referee checks are underway. We expect to have this role filled by the end of May 2023.

*Senior Enrolment Officer – Christchurch.* A preferred candidate has been identified, and referee checks have been completed. The Request to Appoint is being drafted. We expect to have this role filled by the end of May 2023.

*Enrolment Support Officer – Wellington.* Interviews have been completed, and a preferred candidate identified. That person is currently employed in the team on a fixed term contract, so we will be offering that person a permanent contract. Another applicant from this recruitment has been identified as being suitable to be offered the fixed term role.

Three new fixed term team members joined the Communications and Education team at the beginning of April. Rebecca **9(2)(a)**, Senior Communications and Education Advisor, Sarah **9(2)(a)** Senior Communications and Education Advisor and Amelia **9(2)(a)**, Communications and Education Advisor will help to deliver the communications work programme for the 2023 General Election.

### ***Organisational communications***

We have launched consultation on the Procurement Policy and have supported the laptop rollout at National Office, as well as informing about winter wellness, the induction programme, and other initiatives underway.

Development of collateral to support Voting Services and Community Engagement in the delivery of the 2023 General Election is well underway. We have supported the delivery of emails to schools and councils regarding venue use, and alumni regarding working for us this year. The team continue to provide advice and guidance across the Commission for sharing information in an election year.

The team are continuing to spotlight the values and Commission purpose in alignment with the SLG and All Staff Wānanga and providing opportunities for teams to connect and share information.

The team continues to work to share information across the Commission, including the visit from the Australian Electoral Commission. The team has been spending time with Community Engagement teams and a range of cross-collaborative activities, sharing how we can provide guidance and support.

## ***Preparing for an election***

### *Māori Electoral Option*

The Māori Electoral Option campaign started on 31 March, the commencement date of the MEO legislation. The first phase of the campaign, to raise awareness of the Option and to let Māori know that they should get an information pack in the mail, ran until 15 April. The second phase to let Māori know what to do if they didn't get a pack ran from 16 to 29 April. The campaign is now in its third phase to raise general awareness that you have until 13 July to change rolls if you want to.

Information about the Option and digital and printed resources were sent to Stakeholders in April. Resources are available on the website for stakeholders to download or order printed copies. The communications team is working with the Māori Advisory team to produce the resources in regional dialects.

A benchmark survey was completed in March to measure awareness and understanding of the Option before the start of the campaign and will be repeated at the end of the campaign period. A report on the survey results is due in early April.

As at 1 May, 6,220 Māori electors have changed rolls; 3,362 moving from the General roll to the Māori roll, and 2,907 from the Māori roll to the General roll. 192 Māori electors have enrolled onto the General roll for the first time, and 313 onto the Māori roll. Approx. 33% of roll changes have been made online and 67% via paper forms.

The MEO campaign has also been beneficial for the health of our rolls, with 6512 Māori electors updating their details, without changing roll type.

Delivery of the MEO mailout packs to 512,000 Māori electors was completed by NZ Post over the period 1-6 April.

The community engagement campaign is underway, delivered by temporary staff, contracted community organisations, and the Commission's permanent CE teams across the regional hubs. Recruitment is still an issue, particularly in the Wellington and Northland regions. A small number of temporary staff have left since completing training and we currently have 11 vacancies.

Contracted organisations are not confirmed for South Island regions and this remains an issue. Eleven temporary enrolment processing staff supplied by PersolKelly have successfully completed training and are working alongside our permanent processing and operations staff in Ellerslie and Lower Hutt. Planning is underway for an SMS campaign to dormant electors, scheduled for 12 May.

The Commission's 0800 information services provider, Telnet, continues to respond to public requests on our behalf. There are 3 dedicated Te Reo speakers assisting with MEO. As at 30 April, there were 532 email interactions and 1136 phone calls received for the campaign. The top 3 requests were changing details, sending packs and new enrolment enquiries.

Further systems development work is being completed on non-MVP scope items, and additional requirements that were identified during testing. These relate to the exception period (electors on the provisional roll and enrol online confirmation email wording) and updates to the SMS extract for dormant electors. Some changes were implemented as part of the regular scheduled MIKE release in late April, and the remainder are expected to be implemented in May.

We have instigated a specific process to support Māori customers who call and have been impacted by the Cyclone, providing them the opportunity to receive information about the Māori Electoral Option and how they can take part. This will be supported by an outbound call campaign for specific customers whose addresses have been red stickered.

Enrolment is working with Legal & Policy to develop the SVD Audit process for GE2023 (this is a required pre-GE activity).

### ***Preparing for the future***

The current contract with Telnet expires in June 2024 and the Manager Business Enablement has been working with Procurement to develop the full procurement plan for the 0800 Information Services, to refresh the contract arrangement for the next nine years. The Board has approved the procurement plan on 12 April. Given the market complexity and the contract significance, it is planned to hold a ROI (Registration of Interest) process from 15 May to 30 June 2023, followed by the RFP (Request for Proposal) process from 2 October 2023 to 15 February 2024. An external evaluator will be sought to assist with the panel evaluation.

Manager Business Enablement has held the contract performance review meeting with Telnet and Print Advisors in April. It is planned to continue the performance review meeting with Bluestar, Candida and City Print in May.

Enrolment is currently reviewing and testing new roll cleanse formats with a view to improving the efficacy of the roll cleanse integrity process.

### ***Always On advertising***

A media schedule to continue always on activity for the second quarter was approved and is now live. The level of activity has had to reduce for this quarter to work within the remaining budget for the financial year.

### ***Building relationships and understanding***

#### ***Media section***

Māori media in particular are taking interest in the changes to the Māori Electoral Option which came into effect on 31 March, and the number of people changing rolls since then. There have been regular stories and interviews on the Option on iwi radio including Radio Waatea and Awa FM, Te Karere, Māori Television, and the Kahu section of the New Zealand Herald.

There has been a lot of attention from journalists on the donation pages of the elections.nz website. The main media outlets carried stories on the Hamilton West by-election candidate returns detailing how much they received in donations and spent on election advertising. Media have also reported an increase in larger donations to political parties as parties fund for their election campaigns.

Election news coverage over the past month has been focussed on candidate selections, how parties are polling, early campaigning and election signage going up, policy announcements by parties – and speculation on what policies parties might take into the election.

#### *Strategic Engagement & Partnerships*

Director SEP has held hui with Whaikaha, Ministry for Youth Development and Ministry for Ethnic Communities during April. All parties have expressed interest in longer term partnership, and we discussed opportunities including using networks to share information; establishing advisory panels to support collateral refinement; support for accessibility including language and accessible voting places; support for recruitment; cultural competence training; and collaboration on events on other activations to share information directly with priority communities.

Internally, Enrolment and Business Enablement are providing support for the EC Health and Safety working group, the Incident Response team, and the Process and Quality assurance working group.

#### *Election Access Fund communications*

Advertising for the Election Access Fund is live including on social media. Engagement with the posts is being monitored by the team. People who feature in our advertising for the Fund all have lived experience of disability. Media placement includes radio, digital, and community newspapers throughout the country. The next wave of stakeholder resources are being compiled to be sent out by both email a physical pack.

#### *Election integrity*

A communications plan for electoral integrity outlining our communications activity to maintain trust and confidence in the electoral process will be discussed with the Board at its next meeting. This work is aligned with activity led by the Deputy Chief Electoral Officer on integrity, security and trust and confidence in the election. The communications team has met with external agencies including Te Tari Taiwhenua Department of Internal Affairs and Te Tari O Te Pirimia Me Te Komiti Matua Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet on issues around election integrity, messaging and ways we will work together on misinformation around the election.

A voting place was set up at a community hall in Wellington to create a series of education videos to demystify the voting experience for first time voters. The video covers what to expect when you get to a voting place and how to vote. This was filmed with an external crew and managed by members of the communications and voting services teams. People from across the Commission appear in the video. A collection of still photos were also taken for external and internal use. The videos will be edited and published on the Commission's website and social pages in June.

#### *Websites*

During April we published donation and candidate returns for the Hamilton West by-election, and archived by-election content from vote.nz to elections.nz. Updates were also made to the party register on elections.nz to reflect the new financial reporting requirements for registered parties.

#### *Social media*

The social media terms of use have been updated and are being reviewed by legal and policy. These let people know what to expect when engaging with us on our social channels. Once final, these will be published to the privacy and security section at vote.nz.

Onboarding for the new social media management platform, Sprout Social, has been completed and the team is now using the tool for managing all our social media accounts. An important feature of the tool is enhanced reporting functionality that we will use for reporting statistics about our social media activity and engagement.

Social media posts about the Māori Electoral Option continue to attract both positive and negative comments, which are being moderated and responded to where appropriate.

New paid activity for the Election Access Fund started in March and is attracting engagement.

Posts about recruitment were published across all our social media platforms. These did not perform as well as we would have liked, and we plan to do more in the lead up to applications opening.

Our Facebook reach was up 195% over April, and our Instagram reach was up 205%. (Reach is the number of accounts that saw any content from our Page, or about our Page, including posts, stories, ads, social information, and more. Reach is different from impressions, which may include multiple views of our posts by the same accounts. This metric is estimated.)

In April, we had 69 new Facebook page likes, and 75 new Instagram followers. Overall, we currently have 46,629 Facebook followers, 2,749 Instagram followers and 1,988 Twitter followers.

## **Other progress**

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### **Issues under management**

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n/a

### **Other news**

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Nadia Sal started as our Manager Delivery & Support in Voting Services, fixed term contract until June 2024.

Finalising recruitment on the Manager Community Engagement (Central) with preferred candidate expected to be in role by mid-May.

The Request to Appoint form has been approved for a preferred candidate of the six-month fixed-term Senior Advisor Learning and Development role, commencing in May.

There have been some positive COVID cases in the Auckland office. Standard COVID prevention protocols are in place.

The “large print” version of the ROE1 Enrolment application form, for the blind and low vision community, has been printed and is being distributed through stakeholders and partners in that community.

The Enrolment Support team is currently providing data, nomination check and SVD check services for eight local body by-elections across the country. In addition, in April the team has responded to a further 10 requests for data pursuant to sections 112, 113 and 114 of the Electoral Act.

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## **Progress against the strategic priorities**

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### *Building our capability*

- New team-member Kristin **9(2)(a)** will join Strategy, Governance and Development on 8 May. She will soon hire several more team-members to join her part of the team.
- Dimitry **9(2)(a)** started on 17 April as a Senior Advisor, Data and Insights, doubling the size of the D&I team.

### *Preparing for an election*

- The Election Access Fund will shortly consider a new application for EAF funds, from a previously successful recipient. The EAF panel will meet on 8 May to consider the application.
- GE23 data is now in Te Kauhanganaroa and the Data and Insights team are working with Voting Services and the Programme team to deliver dashboards for use in planning for and tracking progress of the General Election.

### *Preparing for the future*

- The Strategy, Governance and Development team has organised a joint session with the Māori advisory team to promote teambuilding with the addition of new staff. This will be held in Wellington on 12 May.

### *Building relationships and understanding*

n/a

## **Other progress**

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- Two International Business Unit representatives travelled to Suva, Fiji, for four days (17-20 April) to meet with the Fijian Elections Office's Acting Supervisor of Elections, securing multiple channels of work for the coming year.
- Two International Business Unit representatives and DCE Leigh Deuchars will travel to Nadi, Fiji, for five days (1-5 May) to attend the PIANZEA Senior Officials Committee meeting.
- The Commission's draft 2023/24 Statement of Performance Expectations (SPE) and Q3 Quarterly Report (January - March 2023) have been prepared and submitted to the Ministry of Justice.



- The MEO dashboard has seen widespread use throughout the Commission and feedback is positive.

### **Issues under management**

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- n/a

### **Other news**

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- DCE Leigh Deuchars' EA Charmaine **9(2)(a)** has joined the team as a permanent Commission employee, having started in the role in a temporary capacity.