

## **TINZ submission to National Archival and Library Institutions Ministerial Group**

The National Archival and Library Institutions Ministerial Group is seeking your feedback on how to strengthen the contribution to New Zealand's culture and democracy made by Archives New Zealand, the National Library of New Zealand and Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision.

For more information visit [www.dia.govt.nz/National-Archival-and-Library-Institutions-Ministerial-Group](http://www.dia.govt.nz/National-Archival-and-Library-Institutions-Ministerial-Group)

### **Questions**

*1. What are the two or three key challenges for the national archival and library institutions (Archives New Zealand, the National Library of New Zealand and Ngā Taonga Sound and Vision)? What is the most urgent challenge?*

**All people of Aotearoa have the right of access to knowledge about our nation and have confidence that such knowledge is accurate and unbiased, for the benefit of current and future generations of civil society.**

**TINZ identifies challenges faced by New Zealand's three national archival and library institutions to include:**

- **A key challenge is adequate resourcing to address on-going technological developments and practices for the capture and secure preservation of knowledge, as created by digitisation of records (communications and information) and increasing use of social media platforms (for important communications).**
- **The most urgent, overriding challenge is to ensure the transparent capture and preservation of reliable and comprehensive, non-partisan knowledge into the future.**

*2. Does the position of Chief Archivist have the independence and authority necessary to be an effective regulator of records and information management within its broad regulatory mandate? Does the position of National Librarian have the independence and authority necessary to carry out the responsibilities of that position? Why/why not?*

**TINZ answers 'No' and 'No'.**

**The current structuring of Archives New Zealand and National Library New Zealand requires reform. The roles of Chief Archivist and National Librarian currently report to a Tier-2 manager within DIA, for their guidance and for budgeting purposes, without independence from DIA's senior management and from government-of-the-day Ministerial influences over DIA.**

**TINZ identifies that the governance, policy setting, and operational resourcing of the national archival and library institutions, must be safeguarded without potential, compromising influences from government, civil service, other bodies, and individuals, in order to achieve effective short and long-term strategic outcomes and stability within appropriate budgets/resourcing. (Refer to our Q3 recommendation)**

*3. What changes, if any, would you suggest to the role or structure of Archives New Zealand or the National Library?*

**To achieve the necessary independence and benefit from economies of scale for operational purposes, TINZ recommends the creation of a new Officer of Parliament role under which the three**

**national archival and library institutions are positioned, to ensure the required integrity of their outcomes through complete independence from government and state sector prioritising influences.**

*4. What opportunities exist for the national archival and library institutions to work more effectively together in collecting, preserving and providing access to New Zealand's documentary heritage? In particular, what opportunities exist in relation to digital preservation and access?*

**Whereas the three institutions have differing roles, their common mission is to provide the public with readily accessible access to reliable knowledge of our nation.**

**TINZ recommends that the three national archival and library institutions be merged under the leadership of an Officer of Parliament, in order to achieve necessary independence from external influences. The resulting opportunities from their standalone merged structure include:**

- **to ensure the required integrity of their outcomes through complete independence from government and state sector prioritising influences,**
- **ensuring greater consistency of approach and outcomes, across the institutions,**
- **shared subject matter expertise resources for the digital challenges to be faced,**
- **beneficial economies of scale overall.**

**TINZ also recommends that, given the technological challenges faced by these institutions, a public enquiry/review be held to determine the nature and scope of knowledge that civil society wishes to gather and safeguard for future generations.**

*5. What does the public need in the next 30 years from the national archival and library institutions?*

**TINZ identifies that the public must be given full confidence that the national archival and library institutions have authoritative, independent and fully transparent governance, policies, practices and on-going resources for their timely, reliable capture, preservation and public access to the nation's records of government, public sector and civil society activities. By gaining/earning this public confidence, New Zealand's democratic processes and transparent, open-functioning of the state, can be safeguarded.**

**TINZ also identifies that these arrangements require considerable resourcing that must demonstrate sound value for taxpayers' money against well-debated objectives, and be subject to periodic OAG review. Hence the need to review the required scope of knowledge (Refer to our second recommendation under Q4.)**

*6. Any other comments?*

**Nil**