

Independent Police Conduct Authority

Independent oversight:

- protects against abuse of power
- exposes misconduct and poor practice
- provides public accountability
- increases police self-discipline
- builds public trust and confidence.



Towards genuine independence

The New Zealand Authority:

- has legal independence from police
- is moving towards operational independence



A period of change

We have:

- a new name
- a broader mandate
- wider legislative powers
- more resources



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Whaia te pono, kia puawai ko te tika

Legislative changes

November 2007 law changes:

- investigate historic complaints
- community input into governance
- faster notification of complaints
- referral of minor complaints to police



Independent investigation

Key changes:

- less reviewing of police files
- more independent investigation
- more investigators hired
- greater transparency and public reporting



Operation Austin

Background:

- Allegations of historic sexual offending by police
- Charges were laid against police
- Some were acquitted and laid complaints

Our findings:

- The police investigation was conducted well
- The decision to lay charges was appropriate



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Shooting of Graeme Burton

Background:

- A violent offender on parole
- Warrants were issued for his arrest
- Police did not act
- The offender committed murder
- Police shot and arrested him

Our findings:

- Police should have acted sooner
- The shooting was justified – self-defence

Other investigations

- New Zealand's 'terror plot' – no terrorism charges laid
- Fatal shootings by police
- Death after pepper spray used in arrest
- Pursuits
- Conflicts of interest and unprofessional conduct



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Case management

- Team approach to investigation
- New case management system
- Investigate serious incidents
- Refer less serious incidents to police
- Introduce right of appeal from police
- Increased budget



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Increased powers

- Own motion investigations
- Our findings used in Court
- Powers of search, arrest and surveillance
- Power to prosecute
- Increased public accountability



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Our vision

Whaia te pono, kia puawai ko te tika

Seek out the truth, that justice may prevail.



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