

## **About The Ministry for Ethnic Communities, Aotearoa, New Zealand.**

The Ministry for Ethnic Communities is the New Zealand government's chief advisor on ethnic communities, ethnic diversity and the inclusion of ethnic communities in broader society. Ethnic communities make a considerable contribution to the economic and social fabric of Aotearoa, New Zealand, as ethnic communities make up 20 percent of the country's population.

The creation of the Ministry was a recommendation of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Christchurch mosque attacks in 2020. The Ministry for Ethnic Communities was launched on 1 July 2021 by the Minister of Diversity, Inclusion and Ethnic Communities Priyanca Radhakrishnan. At its launch, Minister Radhakrishnan said, "This is the first time in its history that New Zealand has had a Ministry and Chief Executive solely focused on improving outcomes for our ethnic communities."

At its launch, the Ministry's priorities were established as:

- promoting the value of diversity and improving the inclusion of ethnic communities in wider society
- ensuring government services are accessible and for ethnic communities
- improving economic outcomes for ethnic communities, including addressing barriers to employment and
- connecting and empowering ethnic community groups.

### **Biography of Mervin Singham, Chief Executive.**

Mervin is a vastly experienced public servant and previously led the Office of Ethnic Affairs. Before becoming the new Ministry's first Chief Executive, he was appointed Executive Director for the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions in 2018. From 2012 to 2018, he held several executive leadership roles at the Department of Internal Affairs, including Deputy Chief Executive, Stewardship and Organisational Sustainability and Deputy Chief Executive, Strategy and Governance. Between 2000 and 2004, he was Chief Mediator at the Human Rights Commission. He was Complaints Manager at the Office of Race Relations Conciliator from 1997 to 2000. Mervin holds a Master of Laws (1st Class Honours), from Auckland University and a Bachelor of Laws (Honours) from the University of Canterbury.

### **Additional information to review**

- Website: <https://www.ethniccommunities.govt.nz/>
- Annual Report 21/22: <https://www.ethniccommunities.govt.nz/news/our-annual-report-20212022-section/>
- Ethnic communities in New Zealand dashboard: <https://www.ethniccommunities.govt.nz/resources-2/ethnic-communities-in-new-zealand/>
- Royal Commission of Inquiry into the terrorist attack on Christchurch masjidain on 15 March 2019: <https://christchurchattack.royalcommission.nz/>
- New Ministry for Ethnic Communities launched: <https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/new-ministry-ethnic-communities-launched>