Kia ora everyone -

It's been a very distressing weekend, and our thoughts and condolences are with the victims, families and communities involved in the terrorist attack in Christchurch.

I'm sure you are all wondering how our Neighbourhood Support whanau in Christchurch are doing. We have checked in with Dave, the Christchurch NS Manager and can report that all the staff there are safe and well. But it is with sadness that we report that some of the families affected by the attack are members of Neighbourhood Support groups. Dave, Barbara and Elissa are busy connecting and supporting their local community, and National Office is in regular contact with them to offer any help if and when it is needed.

Our thoughts are also with our Police partners, who have done an outstanding job over the weekend. Officers from throughout the country have been called in to assist. Some have worked all weekend around the clock, which is certainly the case here at Police National HQ.

There is definitely a role for Neighbourhood Support in supporting our neighbours and communities. This is a distressing time and it's important to look after ourselves and each other. It's what we do best.

Some of the things that you might want to do could include:

- Checking in with people, especially those who live alone or who may be feeling unsafe and vulnerable, including the Muslim and migrant communities.
- Remind your communities that if they need to talk to someone they can free call or text 1737 any time to speak to a trained counsellor.
- Make morning tea for our Police partners.

We'll be posting regular messages on our Facebook page so feel free to share these on your own page or with your networks.

Take care, everybody.

Arohanui, Tess, Kelsey and Alivia