

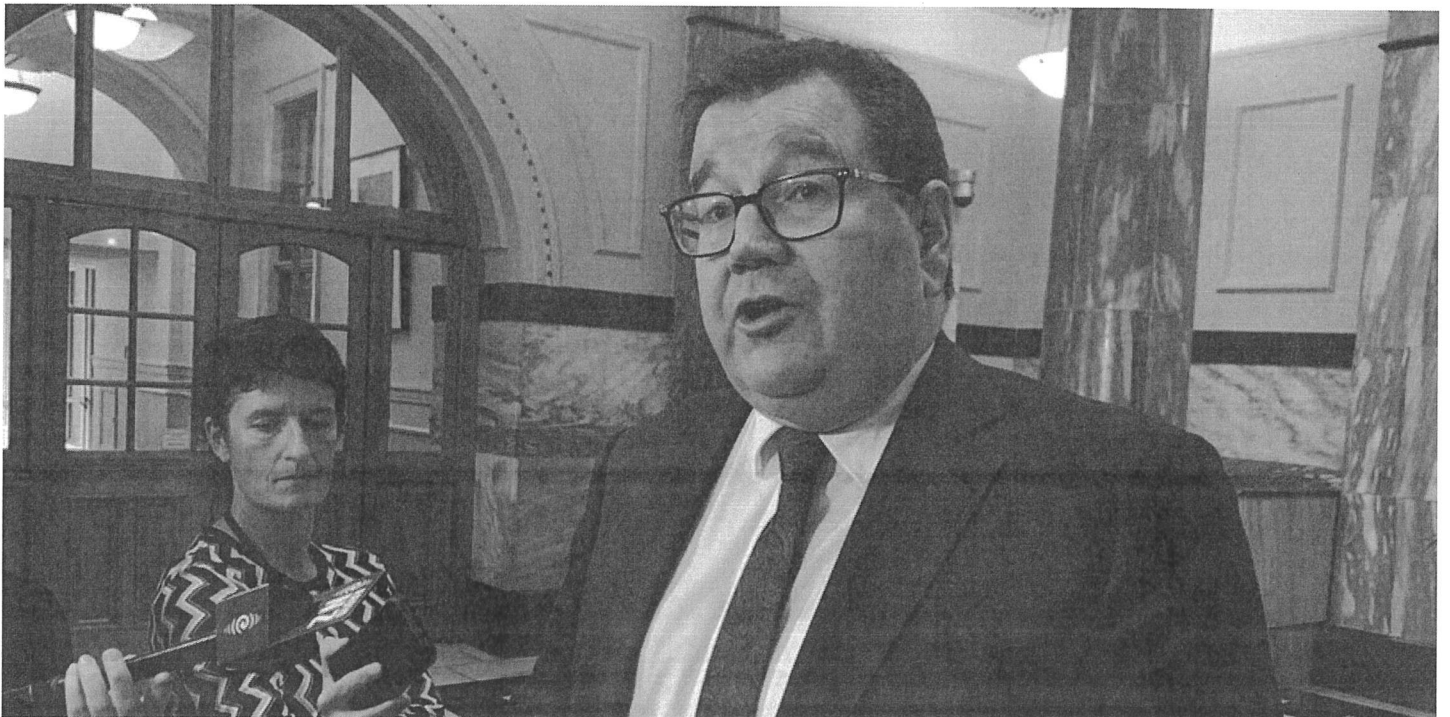
(Mishra, S., 2020)

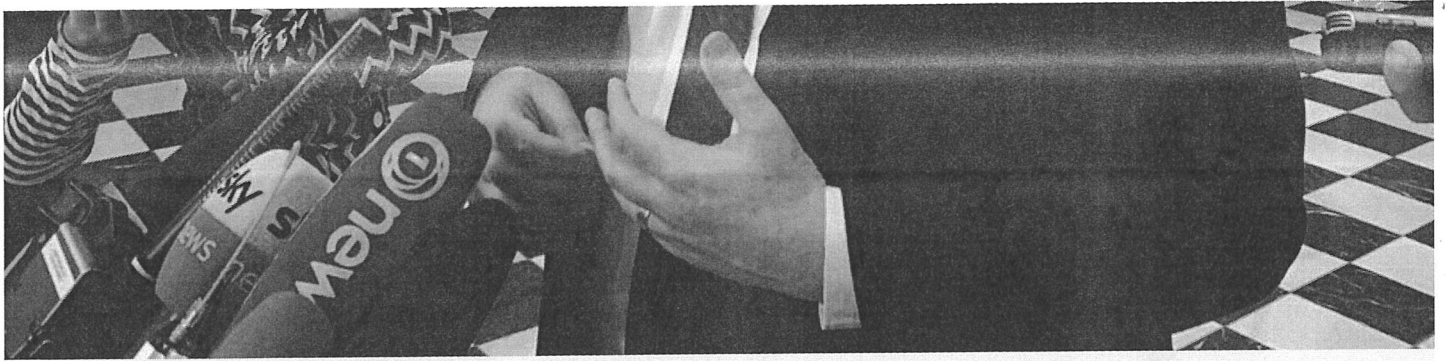
News > World > Australasia

Jacinda Ardern appoints first openly gay deputy PM and foreign minister with Maori face tattoo

Jacinda Ardern's new cabinet includes strong representation from ethnic and sexual minorities

Stuti Mishra | @StuteeMishra | 5 days ago





New Zealand's new deputy prime minister Grant Robertson interacts with the media

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aland's prime minister Jacinda Ardern has appointed the's first openly gay deputy prime minister after her landslide n general elections last month.

Finance Minister Grant Robertson was named deputy prime ; becoming the first openly gay politician to take the role, while he ining the finance portfolio.

v cabinet, Ms Arden said, was "incredibly diverse" and included epresentation from minorities and women.

ern has assigned several indigenous Maori lawmakers to top s, including Nanaia Mahuta, who has a moko kauae – a traditionalattoo on the chin – and will take on the role of foreign minister, vin Davis, who will be minister for children.

ertson has long been a close friend and political ally of Prime r Ardern and was the chief strategist of Ms Arden's election gn. He said he has tried to be a minister for all New Zealanders, thinks it's important for younger members of the LGBT+ nity to see people they identify with, taking on top roles.

et a lot of emails and messages from young gay, lesbian, bisexual isgender people who look towards us to provide that kind of role- ng," Mr Robertson said. "So, I'll keep doing my job the way that n doing it, but I'm very proud to have the role."

ertson replaces Winston Peters as deputy prime minister after nd his New Zealand First party failed to get re-elected. Kelvin

Most popular

as expected to take on the role but said he turned it down to focus on his other responsibilities.

Ern said all the positions were assigned on merit.

One of the amazing things about New Zealand is that we are often in a place now where all of these questions (about diversity) become very, very real," she said. "The representation is there. And that is not the first time."

Our Party won an outright majority in Parliament in the general election last month following the success of the government in managing the coronavirus pandemic. It was the first time any party had won a full majority since New Zealand implemented a proportional voting system 24 years ago.

Our Party nevertheless signed a "cooperation agreement" with the Labour Party on Sunday, which says the two parties will work together on environment and child-wellbeing issues. Two Green Party ministers have been given ministerial roles outside of cabinet.

Environment co-leader, James Shaw, will become climate change minister. Another, Marama Davidson, will have a portfolio focusing on managing family and sexual violence.

Ern demoted some ministers considered to have underperformed in their first term, including Phil Twyford, who lost his transport portfolio. He will remain a lower-ranked minister outside of cabinet.

The new government will be sworn in on Friday.

via reporting by agencies

NEW ZEALAND | GRANT ROBERTSON | DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER | MAORI | CABINET | ARDEN

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