History of the Ministry for Ethnic Communities

1995
- Ethnic Affairs Desk with 0.5 FTE set up at DIA

2001
- Office of Ethnic Affairs established with 6 FTE
- Offices in Auckland and Wellington

2002
- Christchurch office added along with one extra staff member
- Nominations Database set-up
- Website set-up
- First Ethnic Perspectives policy advice published

2003
- Two extra staff added
- Language Line established

2004
- First permanent Director of the Office joins
- Recruitment for extra staff

2011
- EPIC NZ launched – programme connecting New Zealand businesses with ethnic community members to strengthen language and cultural skills for overseas trade

2014
- Major restructure combining functions.
- More staff added

2015
- Organisation renamed Office of Ethnic Communities
- More staff added
- ECDF set-up

2016
- Second restructure – reverting to old model
- Intercultural e-learning programme launched

2019
- Christchurch terror attacks
- Extra engagement staff added
- ECDF funding increased
- Language Line replaced by Ezispeak – managed by MBIE

2020
- Extra staff added
- Multi-lingual Information Network set-up
- Executive Director reporting to DIA CE
- Creation of Ministry for Ethnic Communities announced.

2021
- New Ministry launches

Ministry for Ethnic Communities
Te Tari Mātāwaka