



Listening, learning, changing Mā Whakarongo me Ako ka huri te tai

Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry

COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Erica Stanford	Portfolio	Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions
Title of briefing	Updated draft Cabinet papers on meaningful apologies and on further decisions regarding serious offenders' access to financial redress	Date to be published	13 March 2026

Withholding grounds

Information within this document has been withheld as if it had been requested under the Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding have been listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

- section 9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons

Notes

- Draft Cabinet papers have been removed from this release as the final papers are publicly available at the following links:
 1. [Access to Redress for Survivors of Abuse in Care with Convictions for Serious Violent and Sexual Offending](#)
 2. [introducing legislation to underpin changes to redress for abuse in care](#)

Cover note



Updated draft Cabinet papers on meaningful apologies and on further decisions regarding serious offenders' access to financial redress

Date:	5 June 2025	Security level:	
Priority:	High	Report number:	CRACI 25/061

Actions sought

Hon Erica Stanford Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Following feedback from your office, review and approve for Ministerial consultation the two appended draft Cabinet papers due for consideration at Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee on 25 June 2025.
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Contact for discussion

Name	Position	Telephone	1 st contact
Rajesh Chhana	Chief Executive, Crown Response Office		
Rebecca Martin	Head of Policy, Crown Response Office	9(2)(a)	✓

Agencies consulted

N/A

Minister's office to complete

<input type="checkbox"/> Noted <input type="checkbox"/> Seen <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's notes <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by events <input type="checkbox"/> Declined <input type="checkbox"/> Referred to (specify)	Comments
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Cover note

Updated draft Cabinet papers on meaningful apologies and on further decisions regarding serious offenders access to financial redress

For: Hon Erica Stanford, Lead Coordination Minister for the Government’s Response to the Royal Commission’s Report into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions

Date: 5 June 2025

Security level:

Priority: High

Report number: CRACI 25/061

Purpose

1. Following feedback from your office, this briefing provides two draft Cabinet papers for your review:
 - a. Report back – introducing additional scrutiny of redress for abuse in State care for serious sexual and violent offenders; and
 - b. Delivering more meaningful personal apologies to survivors of abuse and neglect in care.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that you:

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| a) approve for Ministerial consultation the two appended draft Cabinet papers due for consideration at Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee on 25 June 2025 | Yes / No |
|---|-----------------|

Rebecca Martin
 Head of Policy, Crown Response Office
 Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry

Hon Erica Stanford
 Lead Coordination Minister for the Crown
 Response to the Royal Commission’s Report into
 Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of
 Faith-based Institutions

05 / 06 / 2025

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Papers on personal apologies and further decisions relating to redress for serious offenders are due to be considered by the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee on 25 June

3. We provided papers for your review on Thursday 29 May and, following feedback, the papers have been revised and are ready to be sent for Ministerial consultation. A suggested timeline for consulting and finalising the two Cabinet papers is as follows:

Milestone	Timeframe
Ministerial Consultation	5 June – 17 June
Finalise papers to address Ministerial feedback	18 June
Papers lodged	19 June
Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee	25 June
Cabinet	30 June

4. Following feedback from your office, the key substantive changes to the papers are:

Apologies paper

- a. We have amended the decision on the common apologies policy to noting that relevant Ministers will direct redress agencies to create the policy. A report back to these Ministers, which outlines the overall approach to the policy and the timeframe for its introduction, is proposed to ensure the policy will deliver on Cabinet’s expectations.
- b. We have removed advice on responding to the four Royal Commission apology recommendations which are currently under consideration. The paper now notes that the response to these recommendations will be decided by redress Ministers after the common apology policy has been developed. This will ensure the responses accurately reflect the improvements delivered through the common policy. Appendix Two (previously Three) has been revised to simply detail the recommendations and their current response status.
- c. We have removed content that is not necessary to support Cabinet decisions, including the Appendix with international examples of apology legislation and the discussion of apologies for torture and Treaty of Waitangi breaches.
- d. We have drafted an Executive Summary and revised the recommendations in line with these changes.

Serious offenders’ paper

- e. We have clarified that reporting will be published annually on the outcome of the Redress Commissioner’s decisions relating to the presumption.
- f. We have clarified and shortened the information sharing and verification section. The section now highlights the key issues and clarifies that any legislative changes needed will be sought through this legislative regime.
- g. We have not defined elderly to enable responsive case-by-case decision-making, however, have expanded to ill (previously terminally ill) as this aligns with redress agencies’ policies.

- h. We have clarified that existing and new offences would only apply to giving false or misleading information about criminal history and identified the relevant offences that would be utilised under the Crimes Act 1961 (sections 111 and 241).
 - i. Regarding the new offence and reasonable excuse element, an example of a person with a cognitive impairment who is unable to recall the details of their offending has been included.
 - j. We have clarified that serious offenders will be referred to the Redress Commissioner and can choose whether they would like to apply to have the presumption overturned.
 - k. We have reduced the overheads associated with the secretariat supporting the Redress Commissioner (now \$0.376 million, previously \$0.396 million). Our recommendation is still that two FTE are required to support the redress commissioner. The FTE would support information requests, develop cover briefings which summarises material relating to the test, support referrals, communicate with applicants (including receiving and clarifying submissions), schedule meetings, develop annual reports, and share relevant information with redress agencies.
 - l. We have removed the Treaty of Waitangi implications section as it simply repeated information in the previous Cabinet paper's Treaty implications section.
5. We have also made some minor changes to the papers to improve clarity and flow, noting that some sections have been shortened. Minor grammatical changes have not been tracked.

Next steps

6. We recommend you review and approve for Ministerial consultation the appended draft Cabinet papers. We will update the papers to address Ministerial feedback, with a view to lodging on 19 June 2025.