



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

Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry

## COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Erica Stanford	<b>Portfolio</b>	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
<b>Title of briefing</b>	Abuse in Care Inquiry Response Plan (April 2025) Cabinet Submission for Ministerial Consultation	<b>Date to be published</b>	30 September 2025

### 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

Some documents have been withheld in full under section 18(d) of the OIA as they are already publicly available:

- Cabinet paper titled 'Abuse in Care Inquiry: Full Response Plan' is available at: [Abuse-in-Care-Inquiry-Crown-response.pdf](#)
- Appendix two and three as the final Crown Response Plan is available at: [Response Plan - Abuse in Care Royal Commission of Inquiry | Crown response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry](#)
- Briefing titled 'Abuse in Care Inquiry: Response Plan Scope' is available at: [Ministerial briefings | Crown response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry](#)
- Appendix four and five as available at: [Abuse-in-Care-Inquiry-Crown-response.pdf](#)



## Briefing

Abuse in Care Inquiry Response Plan (April 2025) Cabinet Submission for Ministerial Consultation			
Date:	14 March 2025	Security level:	
Priority:	High	Report number:	CRACI 25/032
Actions for Minister			
<p>Hon Erica Stanford Minister of Education and 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</p> <p>Hon Simeon Brown Minister of Health</p> <p>Hon Paul Goldsmith Minister of Justice and Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage</p> <p>Hon Louise Upston Minister for Social Development and Employment and Minister for Disability Issues</p> <p>Hon Judith Collins Attorney-General and Minister for the Public Service</p> <p>Hon Mark Mitchell Minister of Police and Minister for Corrections</p> <p>Hon Tama Potaka Minister for Māori Development</p> <p>Hon Matt Doocey Minister for Mental Health</p> <p>Hon Scott Simpson Minister for ACC</p> <p>Hon Brooke van Velden Minister for Internal Affairs and Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety</p> <p>Hon Karen Chhour Minister for Children</p> <p>Hon Casey Costello Associate Minister of Health</p>		<p>Review the attached Cabinet paper and associated response plan papers and provide feedback to the 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, Hon Erica Stanford, by 26 March 2025.</p> <p>Sign the attached briefing on a proposed approach to making decisions on the scope of the Crown Response.</p>	





## Briefing

### Abuse in Care Inquiry Response Plan (April 2025) Cabinet Submission for Consultation

For: Hon Erica Stanford, Minister of Education and 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  
Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health  
Hon Paul Goldsmith, Minister of Justice and Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage  
Hon Louise Upston, Minister for Social Development and Employment and Minister for Disability Issues  
Hon Judith Collins, Attorney-General and Minister for the Public Service  
Hon Mark Mitchell, Minister of Police and Minister for Corrections  
Hon Tama Potaka, Minister for Māori Development  
Hon Matt Doocey, Minister for Mental Health  
Hon Scott Simpson, Minister for ACC  
Hon Brooke van Velden, Minister for Internal Affairs and Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety  
Hon Karen Chhour, Minister for Children  
Hon Casey Costello, Associate Minister of Health

**Date:** 14 March 2025

**Security level:**

**Priority:** High

**Report number:** CRACI 25/032

### Background and purpose

1. This briefing note:
  - a. conveys the Government's Abuse in Care Inquiry Response Plan documents for Ministerial consultation prior to their submission for discussion at Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee on 9 April 2025; and
  - b. briefly describes all the attachments to the Cabinet submission and provides information to help navigate some of the detail of this large volume of material.

### Recommendations

2. It is recommended that you:
  - a. **note** that the Government's Abuse in Care Inquiry Response Plan is due to be discussed at Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee (SOU) on 9 April;

b. **note** that this briefing conveys the following documents for your review or action:

- i. Cabinet submission entitled: *Abuse in Care Inquiry: Full Response Plan (April 2025)*;
- ii. Appendix one: Response plan background and context;
- iii. Appendix two: Detailed response plan;
- iv. Appendix three: Mock-up visual representation of the response plan;
- v. Appendix four: Summary table of decisions on Royal Commission recommendations made to date;
- vi. Appendix five: Terms of Reference: Abuse in Care Inquiry Response Ministerial Advisory Group; and
- vii. Briefing on scope entitled: *Abuse in Care Inquiry: Response Plan Scope*.

c. **review** the attached draft Abuse in Care Inquiry Response Plan documents and provide feedback to the 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, Hon Erica Stanford, by 27 March; and

YES/NO

d. **sign** the attached briefing entitled *Abuse in Care Inquiry: Response Plan Scope* which addresses issues raised at the joint Ministers meeting on 10 February 2025.

YES/NO

- Cabinet paper titled '*Abuse in Care Inquiry: Full Response Plan*' withheld under s 18(d) as this is already publicly available: <https://www.abuseinquiryresponse.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Cabinet-papers/Crown-response-plan/Abuse-in-Care-Inquiry-Crown-response.pdf>

- Appendix two and three withheld under s 18(d) as the final Crown Response Plan is publicly available on the Crown Response Office website: <https://www.abuseinquiryresponse.govt.nz/news/newsletter/crown-response-to-the-royal-commission-of-inquiry>

Rajesh Chhana  
Chief Executive, Crown Response Office

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

14 / 03 / 2025

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- Briefing titled '*Abuse in Care Inquiry: Response Plan Scope*' withheld under s 18(d) as this is already publicly available: <https://www.abuseinquiryresponse.govt.nz/about-us/official-information/information-releases/ministerial-briefings>

- Appendix four and five withheld under s 18(d) as this is already publicly available: <https://www.abuseinquiryresponse.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Cabinet-papers/Crown-response-plan/Abuse-in-Care-Inquiry-Crown-response.pdf>

Hon Simeon Brown  
**Minister of Health**

/ /

Hon Paul Goldsmith  
**Minister of Justice**

/ /

Hon Louise Upston  
**Minister for Social Development and  
Employment and Minister for Disability  
Issues**

/ /

Hon Judith Collins  
**Minister for the Public Service**

/ /

Hon Mark Mitchell  
**Minister of Police**

/ /

Hon Tama Potaka  
**Minister for Māori Development**

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Hon Matt Doocey  
**Minister for Mental Health**

/ /

Hon Scott Simpson  
**Minister for ACC**

/ /

Hon Karen Chhour  
**Minister for Children**

/ /

Hon Casey Costello  
**Associate Minister of Health**

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### **Background**

3. On 25 September 2024, Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee:
  - a. directed officials from Crown response agencies, led by the Crown Response Unit, to develop a plan to respond to the Royal Commission of inquiry into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the care of Faith-based Institutions (the Royal Commission) for joint Ministers by the end of 2024; and

- b. invited the 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 to report back to Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee with the plan by early 2025 [SOU-24 Min-0188 refers].
- 4. Crown response agencies have been working with the Crown Response Office to develop a plan that can respond to all 208 recommendations directed to Government from the Royal Commission.

**Crown response agencies have developed an approach to the response that will combine a strategic outcomes focus with recommendation-level reporting**

- 5. The Full Response Plan maps all 208 recommendations (that require Government action) across 38 work packages, which sit under eleven action areas and three high level objectives. The objectives are based on action areas identified by the Royal Commission in its final report, *Whanaketia*.
- 6. Grouping the recommendations into work packages is intended to help manage their complexity and number and will support the phasing of the Government response. Reporting will still be able to measure progress at a recommendation level.

**The papers attached to this briefing are multiple, complex and detailed**

- 7. The papers attached to this briefing are multiple, complex and detailed. This is representative of the complexity of the work to respond to the Royal Commission. They are the product of months of work across multiple agencies to consider both the broad issues and system shifts recommended by the Royal Commission, and its more detailed and highly specific recommendations. It is important that Government develop an approach that can do justice to both the years of work the Royal Commission put into developing its many reports and the thousands of survivors of abuse and neglect whose suffering is reflected in those reports.
- 8. The papers attached to this briefing are for your information, feedback and decision. The table at Appendix One is intended to help guide you through them and references the specific papers and paragraphs within them. All but the last of these papers are intended to be appended to the Cabinet paper. The papers are as follows:
  - a. a draft Cabinet paper - Abuse in Care Inquiry: Full Response Plan (April 2025) for discussion at SOU on 9 April 2025. This paper provides a working draft of the Abuse in Care Inquiry Response Plan (the Response Plan) and seeks decisions needed to finalise the plan, including approaches to engagement, monitoring and reporting.
  - b. a draft Response Plan Background and Context. This document contains information on the Royal Commission reports, the Government's response to date, initial priorities for the next phase of the response work and approaches to engagement, monitoring, oversight and reporting.
  - c. a draft Detailed Response Plan (working draft). This document groups all 208 recommendations that require Government action into 38 work packages that sit under 11 action areas and three high-level objectives: addressing the wrongs of the past, making the care system safe and empowering those in care, their families, whānau and communities.



- d. a summary of the decisions on recommendations made to date (to accept, accept intent, partially accept or decline), the decision processes involved in making those decisions and recording the response, and the decision makers (for example, Cabinet, Ministerial, Chief Executive or authorised person decisions).
- e. a separate briefing on the scope of the Response Plan. This briefing seeks agreement to issues of scope that were raised at the joint Ministers meeting on 10 February 2025.

### **Next steps**

- 9. Feedback received from Ministers will be incorporated into the papers. Further feedback will also be sought from agencies, and the paper will continue to be refined. They will also be edited, proofread and designed. Budget 2025 materials will be included when decided.
- 10. It is proposed to lodge the full Response Plan with Cabinet Office on 3 April 2025 for consideration by Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee at its meeting on 9 April 2025.

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## Appendix one: How to navigate the Response Plan

Key matters for your attention in the package of papers associated with the response plan are:

Matter	Why it is important	Where to find this information
What the Response Plan delivers	To ensure a shared understanding that the plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sets out three priorities</li> <li>• sets out the current response and status of recommendation</li> <li>• is <b>not</b> a delivery or implementation plan</li> </ul>	Cabinet paper, paras 14-18
The complexity of the response	To show the rationale for phasing the response	Appendix one, paras 31 - 36 Appendix two, paras 12 - 15
The three current priorities	To ensure a shared understanding the three priorities are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• redress implementation</li> <li>• strategic decisions on the structure of the care system</li> <li>• early actions to address known issues and gaps</li> </ul>	Cabinet paper, paras 19-26 Appendix one, paras 37 - 46
Decisions we need from you	To ensure there is proper consideration of key decisions, especially: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>noting</b> the decisions already made as necessary</li> <li>• <b>agreeing</b> the proposed approach to cross party consultation</li> </ul>	Cabinet paper recommendations
Decisions that have been made	To provide a summary of the recommends already decided	Appendix four
Responses that require further consideration	Some responses may require further consideration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandatory reporting</li> <li>• Gloriavale</li> </ul>	Appendix two: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mandatory reporting, paras 223 – 226</li> <li>• Gloriavale, paras 333 - 341</li> </ul>
Commitments to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• te Tiriti o Waitangi</li> <li>• human rights</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be transparent with stakeholders</li> <li>• There may be some dis-satisfaction with the proposed approach</li> </ul>	Appendix one, paras 55 - 57 Appendix two: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Te Tiriti, paras 347 – 349</li> <li>• Human rights, paras 353 - 354</li> </ul>
Engagement approaches: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faith-based</li> <li>• NGOs</li> <li>• Māori</li> <li>• Survivors</li> <li>• Communities of interest</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be transparent with stakeholders</li> <li>• The response is not currently meeting the Commission's intent</li> <li>• There may be dis-satisfaction with the proposed approach</li> </ul>	Cabinet paper, paras 27-31 Appendix one: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faith-based and NGOs, paras 47-49</li> <li>• Māori, paras 50 - 51</li> <li>• Survivors, paras 50 - 51</li> <li>• Communities of interest, paras 50 – 51</li> </ul> Appendix two: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Māori - paras 347 - 349</li> </ul>

Matter	Why it is important	Where to find this information
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Survivors - paras 350 - 352</li> <li>Communities of interest - paras 350 - 352</li> </ul>
Cross-party consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To draw attention to the proposed response: "partially accept"</li> </ul>	Cabinet paper, para 32 Appendix one, paras 64 – 65 Appendix two, paras 344 - 346
Reporting on the response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To draw your attention to the commitment to annual reporting</li> </ul>	Cabinet paper, paras 33 - 34 Appendix one, paras 66 - 70 Appendix two, paras 355 - 359
Independent reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To draw attention to the proposed response to defer the decision</li> </ul>	Appendix one, paras 71 - 73 Appendix two, paras 360 - 361
The overall status of the response	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To draw your attention to progress made to date</li> </ul>	Cabinet paper paras 11-13 Appendix two, para 18