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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	Crown response to the Royal Commission: draft Cabinet paper and response document for Ministerial consultation	Date to be published	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

All attachments to this briefing have been withheld under s 18(d) of the OIA as they are already publicly available at: [Abuse-in-Care-Inquiry-Crown-response.pdf](#)



Briefing

Crown response to the Royal Commission: draft Cabinet paper and response document for Ministerial consultation			
Date:	10 April 2025	Security level:	
Priority:	High	Report number:	CRACI 25/40
Actions for Minister			
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		Share the attached draft Cabinet paper and Crown response to the Royal Commission with the Ministers whose agencies are listed as leading or actively engaged in elements of the response, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, <i>Prime Minister</i>• Hon Nicola Willis, <i>Minister of Finance, and Minister for Social Investment</i>• Hon Simeon Brown, <i>Minister of Health</i>• Hon Paul Goldsmith, <i>Minister of Justice and Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage</i>• Hon Louise Upston, <i>Minister for Social Development and Employment, and Minister for Disability Issues</i>• Hon Judith Collin KC, <i>Attorney-General and Minister for the Public Service</i>• Hon Dr Shane Reti, <i>Minister for Pacific Peoples</i>• Hon Mark Mitchell, <i>Minister of Police, and Minister of Corrections</i>• Hon Tama Potaka, <i>Minister for Māori Development</i>• Hon Matt Doocey, <i>Minister for Mental Health</i>• Hon Scott Simpson, <i>Minister for ACC</i>• Hon Brooke van Velden, <i>Minister of Internal Affairs, and Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety</i>• Hon Karen Chhour, <i>Minister for Children</i>• Hon Casey Costello, <i>Associate Minister for Health</i>	

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

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)
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<p>Comments</p>
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Proactive release - open and transparent government



Briefing

Crown response to the Royal Commission: draft Cabinet paper and response document for Ministerial 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

Date: 9 April 2025

Security level:

Priority: High

Report number: CRACI 25/40

Purpose

1. To support Ministerial consultation prior to their submission to Cabinet Office by 10am on Thursday 1 May 2025, this briefing note provides you with:
 - a. a draft Cabinet paper covering the response to Royal Commission into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions (the Royal Commission);
 - b. the draft Crown response to the Royal Commission (at Appendix One of the Cabinet paper);
 - c. a decision table setting out decisions made on recommendations to date, the rationale for the decision and the decision-maker (at Appendix Two of the Cabinet paper); and
 - d. the draft terms of reference for the proposed Ministerial advisory group you are asking Cabinet to agree to (at Appendix Three of the Cabinet paper).

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that you:

3. **note** the Cabinet paper and appendices are due to be submitted to Cabinet Office by 10am on Thursday 1 May 2025 to enable their consideration by the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee on Wednesday 7 May 2025; and

4. **agree** to circulate the draft Cabinet paper and appendices to all Ministers leading or actively engaged in elements of the response including:

Agree / Discuss

- Rt Hon Christopher Luxon, *Prime Minister*
- Hon Nicola Willis, *Minister of Finance, and Minister for Social Investment*
- 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 Collin KC, *Attorney-General and Minister for the Public Service*
- Hon Dr Shane Reti, *Minister for Pacific Peoples*
- Hon Mark Mitchell, *Minister of Police, and Minister of 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 of Internal Affairs, and Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety*
- Hon Karen Chhour, *Minister for Children*
- Hon Casey Costello, *Associate Minister for Health.*



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

10 / 04 / 2025

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Cabinet directed Crown response agencies to prepare a response to the Royal Commission's recommendations

5. On 25 September 2024, Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee:

- a. directed officials from Crown response agencies, led by the Crown Response Unit, to develop a full response plan for joint Ministers by the end of 2024; and
- b. invited the Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission to report back to Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee with the plan by early 2025 [SOU-24 Min-0188 refers].

The draft Cabinet paper appended to this briefing describes the development of the Crown response and seeks decisions to support its finalisation

6. A draft Cabinet paper is at Appendix One to this briefing. It describes the background to the Royal Commission and the development of the Crown response. It seeks decisions on the proposed phasing of the response and on the approach to:
 - a. engagement and the response to the Royal Commission's recommendations on engagement;
 - b. human rights and the response to the Royal Commission's recommendations on human rights; and
 - c. public reporting and the response to the Royal Commission's recommendations on reporting and referral.
7. Since an earlier draft of the Response Plan and Cabinet paper were provided to your office, we have made several changes to reflect the feedback received and to ensure the Cabinet paper is aligned with the Crown response document. This includes:
 - a. renaming the Response Plan the "Crown response" to reflect that it is not a delivery plan in the usual sense;
 - b. renaming the work packages "recommendation groupings" to reflect that the work involved is analysis of the recommendations, not necessarily implementation of them;
 - c. clarifying that there are 207 recommendations directed at the State (rather than 208), as one recommendation directed at the courts has been removed from the response;
 - d. listing the range of actions that have been undertaken in response to He Purapura Ora, He Mara Tipu from Redress to Puretumu Torowhānui and Whanaketia – Through pain and trauma, from darkness to light (Whanaketia);
 - e. completing the summary table that provides the response and status of the 207 recommendations, showing 13 completed, 85 underway, 24 are ongoing and 85 are not started including 23 recommendations which have been declined; and
 - f. including examples of the actions underway to strengthen care safety and improve the justice system for survivors, including initiatives that are expected to receive Budget 2025 funding. This makes the paper and appendices budget sensitive.
8. The Cabinet paper has three appendices:
 - a. **Appendix One** is the draft the Crown response. The Cabinet paper includes a recommendation that you be authorised to approve the final response for publication;

- b. **Appendix Two** sets out all the decisions made on Royal Commission recommendations to date, the rationale for each decision and the decision-maker/decision making process; and
 - c. **Appendix Three** is the draft terms of reference for the proposed Ministerial advisory group you are asking Cabinet to agree to.
9. The responses to the redress recommendations in the draft Crown response (at Appendix one) and in the decision table (at Appendix two) are still subject to Ministerial consultation via the briefing, Responding to the Royal Commission's redress recommendations [CRACI 25/038 refers]. They may change when feedback is received from you and your Ministerial colleagues. The Crown response document will also be further refined and professionally edited.

The paper setting out the decisions on recommendations to date at Appendix Two of the Cabinet paper is intended to update and provide assurance to Cabinet

10. Appendix Two of the Cabinet paper summarising the decisions made on recommendations to date is intended to provide assurance to Cabinet of the process used to make each decision. It sets out where the decision on a recommendation has been made under the authority of an authorised person, a chief executive or a portfolio Minister. It also records the recommendation(s) that are being delivered as part of the existing strategy, policy or operation of an agency or agencies.

The draft terms of reference for the Ministerial advisory group at Appendix Three of the Cabinet paper is provided for Cabinet approval

11. The draft terms of reference for your proposed Ministerial advisory group at Appendix Three of the Cabinet paper has been consulted with key Crown response agencies. Some commented on the proposal to publish the group's advice. It is intended that the publication process will follow the proactive release guidelines and reduce the burden of Official Information Act 1982 requests.
12. The terms of reference was provided to your office on 14 March 2025 with earlier drafts of the other Response Plan papers. As a result of your feedback, the appointment process will not include public consultation. It will be initiated following the publication of the Crown response meaning that the group will likely be established by September 2025.

We recommend that you consult on the draft Cabinet paper, Crown response, and terms of reference

13. Feedback on the response to the redress recommendations will be incorporated into the Crown response and decision table as a result of Ministerial consultation on the Responding to the Royal Commission's redress recommendations briefing.
14. Officials will incorporate the feedback and produce a final draft Crown response document to be appended to the Cabinet paper and lodged with Cabinet Office by 10am on Thursday 1 May 2025 to enable consideration by the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee on Wednesday 7 May 2025. We will continue to work with your office on the timeframe for Cabinet and for the publication of the Crown response.