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
Date of meeting	3 August 2026	**Date to be published**	6 November 2026

List of documents that have been proactively released		
Date	**Title**	**Author**
3 August 2026	Aide-memoire – Agenda and items for discussion	Crown Response Office
22 July 2026	Briefing – Further advice on a process for responding to allegations of torture in care settings other than Lake Alice	Crown Response Office
27 July 2026	Briefing – Approach to managing increased redress demand	Crown Response Office
3 August 2026	A3 – Budget 2025 Care and Redress Initiatives (June 2026)	Crown Response Office

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
- section 9(2)(f)(iv) to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers and officials.
- section 9(2)(h) to maintain legal professional privilege

Notes

- The draft Cabinet paper titled *Implementing a cross-system care safety framework* was included in this meeting pack but has been removed from this release as the final Cabinet paper is already publicly available here.

Meeting pack – 3 August 2026

Redress and care Ministers – Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry

Membership:

- 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 (Chair) and Minister of Education;
- Hon Louise Upston, Minister for Social Development and Employment and Minister for Disability Issues;
- Hon Matt Doocey, Associate Minister of Health; and
- Hon Karen Chhour, Minister for Children and Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence.

Other Ministers in attendance:

- Hon Mark Mitchell, Minister of Corrections and Minister of Police – for item 1; and
- Hon Casey Costello, Associate Minister of Health and Associate Minister of Police.

Meeting pack:

- Aide-memoire: agenda and items for discussion
- Further advice on a process for responding to allegations of torture in care settings other than Lake Alice (CRACI 26/074)
- Approach to managing increased redress demand (CRACI 26/078)
- A3 Progress against Crown Response Budget 2025 initiatives
- Cabinet paper – Implementing a cross-system care safety framework
    - Appendix One – Cross-system care safety framework
    - Appendix Two – Options for Implementing Cross-System Care Safety Framework

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Mā Whakarongo me Ako ka huri te tai
Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry

Aide-memoire

Agenda and items for discussion

For: Redress and care Ministers – Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry

Venue: Ministerial Meeting Room 2.1, Executive Wing, Parliament Buildings

Date: 3 August 2026 **Security level:**

Purpose

1. This pack provides the redress and care Ministers for the Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry with an agenda and papers to support its discussion on 3 August 2026.

Agenda

	Item	Timing
1.	**Process for responding to allegations of torture in care settings other than Lake Alice** *(Paper: Further advice on a process for responding to allegations of torture in care settings other than Lake Alice - CRACI 26/074)* At the 23 June Care and Redress Ministers meeting, Ministers considered advice on a common policy for State redress agencies on responding torture allegations in care settings [CRACI 26/058 refers]. At that meeting, Ministers requested more information and advice about independent oversight and assurance of the process, support and safeguarding of survivors who make allegations of torture, and the Royal Commission recommendations on the response to torture. This paper contains a new outline of the proposed process for responding to torture allegations, as well as responses to the information and advice requested at the 23 June meeting. This item seeks your agreement that, if there is a credible allegation of torture in care that cannot be investigated or prosecuted by Police, the common policy will require an impartial civil investigation of those allegations. The item also seeks your agreement that under the common policy the standard approach to an impartial civil investigation will be to appoint an independent senior lawyer to undertake the investigation, noting redress agencies, with the support of Crown Law, will advise relevant Ministers and the Attorney-General of the approach to the	20 minutes

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	investigation if the circumstances require stronger investigative powers.	
2.	**Approach to managing increased redress demand** *(Paper: Approach to managing increased redress demand - CRACI 26/078)* This item seeks your agreement to the Crown Response Office working with redress agencies to develop a funding request to address State redress demand pressures. The demand on redress claim intake services has proven significantly higher than forecast. Claims demand for FY25/26 is tracking 63 percent higher than was forecast in the Budget 2025 bid. This discrepancy between the resourcing to process claims and the number of claims being received means timeliness of claims handling is decreasing, while the claims backlog is increasing. This is despite best efforts from redress agencies which are expected to complete 1725 settlement offers in 2025/26 (175 more than funded). Impacts on claims processing and access to care records are emerging, and these will become more pronounced during 2026/27 and beyond (including delays in service response times, confirmation of eligibility, and access to care records). This paper seeks your agreement for agencies to develop a request to bring forward outyears funding from the Redress Multi-Category Appropriation, 9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted] 9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted]	15 minutes
3.	**Proposed response to Recommendation 28 of Whanaketia, the final report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care** Lead: Hon Karen Chhour, Minister for Children Oral Item Recommendation 28 proposes amending section 284 of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 to ensure that offending by young people abused and/or neglected in care, where that offending occurred in response to that abuse or neglect, is not given undue weight as an aggravating factor at sentencing for later unrelated offending. The intent of the recommendation is to ensure that offending linked to abuse or neglect in care is not treated as evidence of inherent	10 minutes

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	criminality, nor contributes to greater consequences for later unrelated offending. Oranga Tamariki's preliminary view is that existing safeguards already address these concerns, including that: • the Youth Court can take previous abuse or neglect into account; • the Youth Court must impose the least restrictive outcome; and • the Youth Court must avoid giving undue weight to any matter it considers. The Government has previously declined a similar recommendation relating to the adult jurisdiction (Recommendation 27(c)). This item provides Ministers with an opportunity to discuss the proposed response and share views before a final decision is made.	
4.	**Other business** • (Paper: A3 – Progress against Crown Response Budget 2025 initiatives) • Cabinet paper – Implementing a cross-system care safety framework proposed for consideration at Social Outcomes Committee on 19 August.	10 minutes

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Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry

Briefing

Further advice on a process for responding to allegations of torture in care settings other than Lake Alice

Date:	22 July 2026	**Priority:**	Medium
Security classification:		**Tracking number:**	CRACI 26/074

	Action sought	**Deadline**
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** **Minister of Education**	Decisions relating to a common policy for the State redress system to improve the response to allegations of torture in care settings other than the Lake Alice Psychiatric Hospital Child and Adolescent Unit.	3 August 2026
Hon Chris Bishop **Attorney-General**		
Hon Louise Upston **Minister for Social Development and Employment**		
Hon Matt Doocey **Associate Minister of Health**		
Hon Karen Chhour **Minister for Children**		

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	**Position**	**Telephone**	**1st contact**
Rebecca Martin	General Manager Strategy and Policy, Crown Response Office	9(2)(a)	✓
Regan Nathan	Policy Manager, Crown Response Office	9(2)(a)	

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Briefing

The following departments/agencies have been consulted
Crown Law Office, Department of Corrections, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Social Development, New Zealand Police, Oranga Tamariki, Public Service Commission, Te Puni Kōkiri.

Minister's office to complete:

- ☐ Approved
- ☐ Noted
- ☐ Seen
- ☐ See Minister's Notes
- ☐ Declined
- ☐ Needs change
- ☐ Overtaken by Events
- ☐ Withdrawn

Comments

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Briefing

Further advice on a process for responding to allegations of torture in care settings other than Lake Alice

Date:	22 July 2026	**Priority:**	Medium
Security classification:		**Tracking number:**	CRACI 26/074

Purpose and Executive Summary

1. The Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care (the Royal Commission) made two recommendations for how the State should improve its response to allegations of torture in care. The intent of both recommendations has been accepted and the work outlined in this paper progresses that response.
2. The paper provides further advice to Ministers on the development of a common policy for the State redress system that will improve the response to allegations of torture in care settings other than the Lake Alice Psychiatric Hospital Child and Adolescent Unit (Lake Alice). This follows consideration of a previous paper at the 23 June Care and Redress Ministers' meeting [CRACI 26/058 refers].
3. We have revised the proposed process for responding to torture allegations to address Ministerial feedback about the independence of the process and greater clarity about agency roles and responsibilities.
4. Under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (the Convention) the State is obliged to ensure credible allegations of torture are promptly, impartially, and effectively investigated by competent authorities.
5. The purpose of these investigations is to determine whether torture occurred and who was responsible for it. While a criminal investigation is the preferred course of action for investigating credible allegations, it will not always be possible and so the key decisions we are seeking from Ministers are how to respond in the situation where investigation by an entity other than the New Zealand Police is needed.
6. If this situation eventuates, we propose the common policy require an impartial civil investigation to be undertaken where it is necessary to establish whether torture occurred.
7. We propose the standard approach to impartial civil investigations should be to appoint an independent senior lawyer to undertake the investigation, but redress agencies, with the support of Crown Law, will be able to advise relevant Ministers and the Attorney-General if the circumstances require stronger investigative powers.
8. Ensuring the support and safeguarding of survivors through this process is paramount and the paper sets out what support, oversight and assurance currently exists (or is in development).

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Briefing

Recommendations

9. The Crown Response Office recommends you:

a. **note** that the Crown Response Office is working with redress agencies and other relevant agencies to develop a common policy and guidance for the State redress system which sets out how redress agencies respond to allegations of torture in care settings;

b. **note** that you considered advice on this work on 23 June 2026 [CRACI 26/058 refers] and requested more information and advice about independent oversight and assurance of the process, support and safeguarding of survivors who make allegations of torture, and the Royal Commission recommendations on the response to torture;

c. **note** that this paper contains a new outline of the proposed process for responding to torture allegations, as well as responses to the information and advice requested at the 23 June meeting;

d. **agree** that if there is a credible allegation of torture in care that cannot be investigated or prosecuted by New Zealand Police, the common policy will require an impartial civil investigation of those allegations;

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 and Minister of Education	Yes / No
Attorney-General	Yes / No
Minister for Social Development and Employment	Yes / No
Associate Minister of Health	Yes / No
Minister for Children	Yes / No

If you agree to recommendation d.

e. **agree** that under the common policy the standard approach to an impartial civil investigation will be to appoint an independent senior lawyer to undertake the investigation, noting redress agencies, with the support of Crown Law, will advise relevant Ministers and the Attorney-General of the approach to the investigation if the circumstances require stronger investigative powers;

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 and Minister of Education	Yes / No
Attorney-General	Yes / No

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Minister for Social Development and Employment Yes / No

Associate Minister of Health Yes / No

Minister for Children Yes / No

f. **note** the Crown Response Office will provide further advice to redress ministers and the Attorney-General on the time periods within scope of the common policy for the care and redress ministers' meeting in September; and

g. **note** the Crown Response Office will work with redress agencies and Crown Law to complete work on the common policy, with the timing for the completion to be confirmed through the next quarterly redress implementation update to redress ministers, and will seek any further decisions necessary to finalise the policy from redress ministers and the Attorney-General.

Rebecca Martin
General Manager Strategy and Policy, Crown Response Office

22 / 07 / 2026

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
Minister of Education

/ /

Hon Chris Bishop
Attorney-General

/ /

Hon Louise Upston
Minister for Social Development and Employment

/ /

Hon Matt Doocey
Associate Minister of Health

/ /

Hon Karen Chhour
Minister for Children

/ /

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Background

10. On 23 June 2026, Ministers considered advice on the response to torture allegations in care settings [CRACI 26/058 refers]. That paper provided an overview of the work to date on the response to torture allegations following the Royal Commission, set out the Crown's international obligations to investigate torture, and advised Ministers that redress agencies do not have a consistent process to follow if they receive or become aware of an allegation. This briefing builds on that advice.
11. At that meeting, Ministers requested further advice on:
    a. the Royal Commission recommendations regarding torture;
    b. how New Zealand Police (Police) are improving their response to torture allegations;
    c. how independent oversight, assurance and safeguarding would be built into the common policy; and
    d. further clarification on the roles and responsibilities of agencies in the proposed process.

The Royal Commission made two recommendations in its final report about how the Crown should respond to torture allegations

12. Recommendation 6 in *Whanaketia* is about ensuring Police conduct proper investigations into allegations of torture. Police has accepted the intent of this recommendation and have developed a training package for investigators on the offence of torture. The package will ensure investigators are familiar with the definition of torture and when to consider prosecution under the Crimes of Torture Act 1989. The training package will be rolled out to staff in August 2026.
13. Recommendation 7 in *Whanaketia* is directed at all State (and non-State) care agencies and sets out expectations for how agencies should support the response to allegations of torture. This includes providing reasonable assistance to any Police investigation, taking all reasonable steps to ensure an impartial and independent investigation is carried out by an appropriate investigator, and ensuring redress is provided to survivors if there is credible evidence torture has occurred. The Government has accepted the intent of this recommendation. The common policy, including the proposed approach set out in this paper, progresses the intent of both recommendations.
14. The full text of each recommendation is included in **Appendix One**.

We have revised the process for responding to torture allegations

15. The revised process addresses Ministerial feedback about the independence of the process and provides greater clarity about agency roles and responsibilities.

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16. The revised process has three key steps:

    Step One – Redress agency assesses the credibility[1] of a torture allegation;

    Step Two – Impartial investigation into credible allegation to determine whether torture occurred, with the investigation carried out by:

    a. Police and, where possible, prosecution by Police, and/or

    b. if Police cannot investigate or cannot prosecute, an impartial civil investigation by an independent senior lawyer (unless another form is determined to be appropriate); and

    Step Three – If torture is found to have occurred, decisions on acknowledgement of torture and provision of redress.

17. A visual on the next page sets out the three steps of the process, with the obligations and legal advice underpinning each step set out at the top, and the oversight, assurance and support for survivors available at each stage set out at the bottom.

18. The common policy will apply to new allegations of torture from the date of implementation, but we are also considering the approach to open claims.

19. All agencies will continue to assess and close claims while this policy is being finalised. Once the common policy is in effect, agencies would be able to use it when they came to assess a claim which had been registered prior to the common policy taking effect but had not yet been assessed. This is because the obligation to respond to torture if an agency becomes aware of allegation already applies, and the common policy sets out an appropriate way for agencies to manage this obligation.

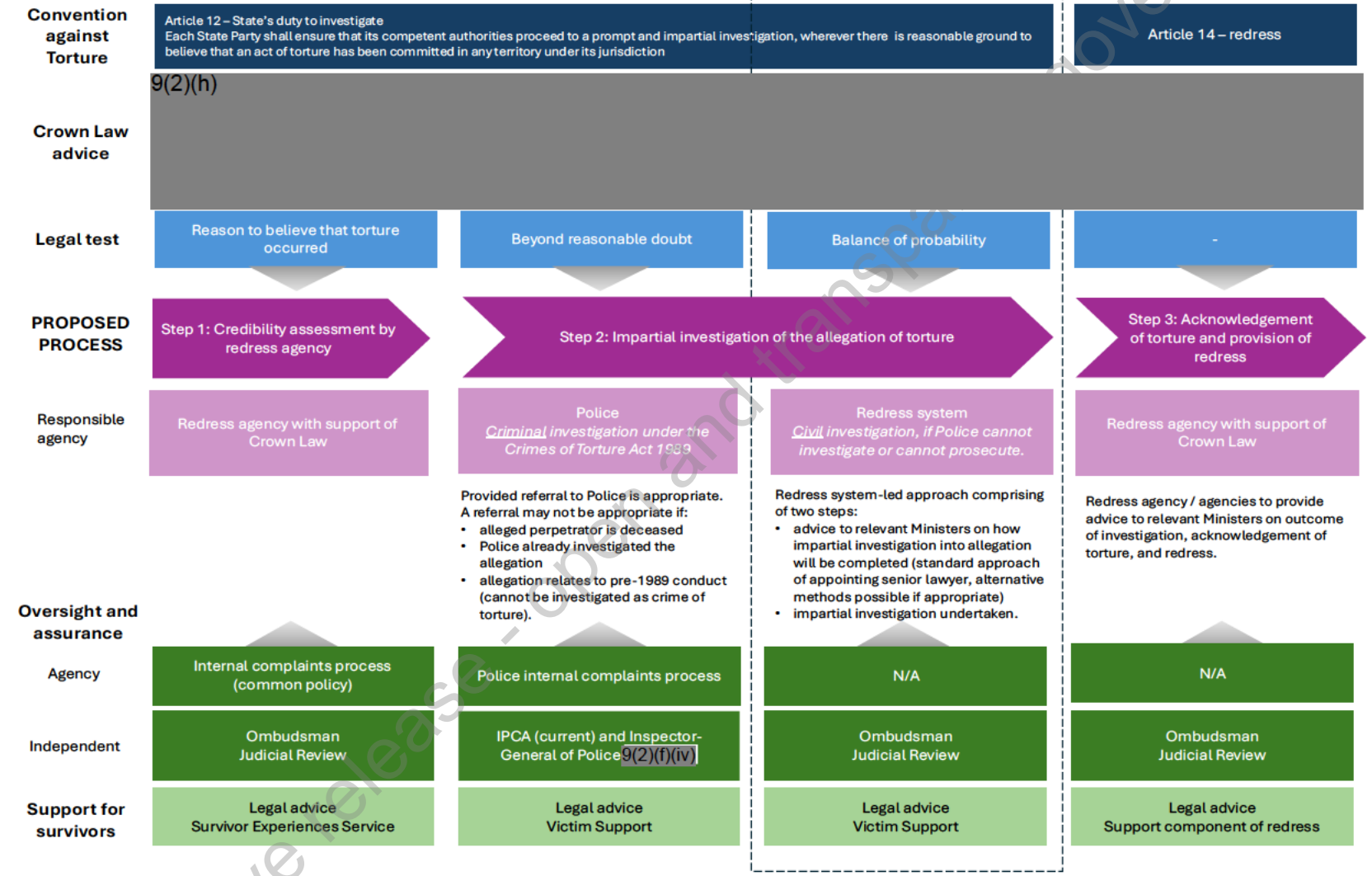
20. The common policy does not establish any obligation on agencies to revisit closed claims and assess them for possible torture. A survivor with a closed claim would need to contact a redress agency and make an allegation of torture for this to occur.

21. There are some distinct challenges when it comes to State redress claims that have been filed in court and are subject to a court order that prevents information sharing between agencies (including referrals to Police). The Crown Response Office will work with the Ministry of Social Development (which has the majority of filed claims) to determine how to approach these, as well as agree any transitional arrangements necessary for open claims received before the common policy is implemented.

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[1] We use the term 'credible' in this paper as a shorthand to describe allegations which give rise to a duty to investigate under Article 12 (e.g. because there is 'reasonable ground to believe that an act of torture has been committed').

Overview of proposed process for responding to allegations of torture in care



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Briefing

Step One – Redress agencies assess the credibility of an allegation

22. Assessing the credibility will involve determining whether an allegation appears to meet the definition of torture, and if it does, whether there is some information to support the allegation. The common policy will include guidance on the definition of torture and what kinds of information should be sought to enable the assessment of the credibility of allegations.[2]

23. Where possible, the assessment of an allegation would be undertaken alongside the assessment of the claim for ordinary redress, but the common policy would be clear that assessment of an allegation of torture should not delay the resolution of the survivor's abuse in care claim.

24. For allegations which appear to meet the definition of torture and have some information to support them, a decision needs to be taken on whether the allegation is credible, and there is a need to proceed to an impartial investigation. Crown Law's advice can be sought at this stage to confirm whether an allegation meets this threshold.

25. Whether the final decision on credibility is made by a single agency or by redress agencies collectively (reflecting a system approach) will be confirmed as part of finalising the common policy. The Crown Response Office will develop learning and training material to support agencies to do the assessment step.

26. The publication of the policy could result in an increase in new allegations of torture being made to redress agencies, including numerous unspecific allegations. To address this, the policy will need to contain clear information about how specific the allegation needs to be before it can be assessed.

27. As we advised in the previous paper, we expect the vast majority of torture allegations will not progress beyond the credibility assessment because of the highly specific nature of torture.[3]

Step Two – Impartial investigation of the allegation

28. If an allegation of torture is credible, the State is obliged under the Convention to ensure the allegation is promptly, impartially and effectively investigated by competent authorities. The Convention does not distinguish between criminal and civil proceedings, only requiring investigations to have sufficient power and adequate resources to make a finding of fact about what occurred, and if possible, to determine responsibility for torture.

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[2] The type of information needed to support allegation will be set out in more detail in the common policy, however, agencies would not need to identify care records clearly supportive of the allegation to consider it credible. If the three elements of torture were present in the allegation, a lack of supporting information in records would not be on its own a reason to discount an allegation.

[3] Noting that the common policy is about what allegations the State (through redress agencies) needs to escalate to impartial investigation, which is where there is a reason to believe torture occurred. Survivors will always have the ability to bypass the credibility assessment step and go straight to the Police if they want an independent body to respond to their allegation.

Briefing

29. Because an act of torture is a serious crime under international and domestic law, the most preferable course of action is for an allegation to be subject to a criminal investigation by Police, and if possible, prosecution. Nonetheless, in the case of historic torture allegations, the Police will often be unable to fully discharge the State's duty to establish the facts of and responsibility for torture. This step of the process therefore needs to consider alternative methods of impartial investigation.

30. It is proposed that the common policy set out the process for making referrals to Police, including guidance on the circumstances in which a referral to Police should be made. Police are considering appointing a key contact for referrals and from whom agencies can seek early guidance on whether a referral is appropriate or not. Agencies could also seek guidance from Crown Law at this stage if required. This will help to ensure that credible allegations are promptly escalated to the appropriate next step.

Criminal investigation and prosecution by Police

31. The Crimes of Torture Act 1989 is the only legal pathway for Police to prosecute an individual for torture. Under Section 12 of the Act, the Attorney-General's consent is required to prosecute torture. Beyond this, there are several constraints on the ability to sufficiently discharge the State's duty to investigate torture:

    a. Police can only conduct a criminal investigation into torture if the alleged act occurred after the Crimes of Torture Act came into effect on 13 November 1989. They could investigate and prosecute acts associated with possible torture as other crimes, but this would not result in a finding of whether torture occurred (though could assist in establishing the facts);

    b. even after 1989, Police may choose not to prosecute an act as torture if an alternative offence is available with a similar or higher penalty and which is more likely to succeed at trial;

    c. while it is possible for Police to investigate an allegation if the alleged perpetrator is deceased, they generally will not because prosecution requires a living perpetrator; and

    d. Police require sufficient evidence to support prosecution, as well as meeting the public interest test for prosecution, which can be difficult bars to clear for historic allegations.

If Police cannot investigate or prosecute, an impartial civil investigation into the credible allegation by another agency or body would be required

32. If Police cannot investigate a credible allegation of torture (to the point where the facts of the matter are clear) or cannot successfully prosecute an individual perpetrator under the Crimes of Torture Act, the Crown must still take steps to determine whether torture occurred and/or whether redress needs to be provided.

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33. In the absence of a criminal finding by the courts (beyond reasonable doubt), 9(2)(h) [redacted]

34. A civil investigation still consists of a rigorous fact-finding process and as discussed in the next step of the process, if a civil investigation found that torture occurred, a decision would still be needed from Ministers or Cabinet to formally acknowledge it.

35. As part of developing the common policy, redress agencies and Police will work together on information sharing processes to enable sharing of Police information with agencies where a criminal investigation or prosecution cannot be undertaken (e.g. survivor consent to share Police file with relevant agency). This is to avoid retraumatising survivors and duplication of effort if the civil investigation is unable to access work already done by Police.

If an allegation needs impartial civil investigation, the common policy would require that the investigation is independent of agencies, with the standard approach being an investigation by an independent senior lawyer, with other options available where required (e.g. Ministerial Inquiry)

36. To help ensure survivor trust and confidence in the investigation of their allegation by agencies or bodies other than Police, we recommend the common policy have a standard approach of appointing an independent senior lawyer (e.g. a King's Counsel, retired Judge or an experienced lawyer with the relevant knowledge and skills) to undertake an impartial civil investigation on behalf of the State.

37. An impartial civil investigation requires an investigator who is experienced in both fact-finding (through the analysis of documents and interviewing witnesses) and applying the law. King's Counsel, retired Judges and senior lawyers are likely to have the necessary skills and experience in these areas. The appointee would also need to have the appropriate skills and experience to engage with survivors and understand the abuse in care context. These matters would be tested through the appointment process. Provided the senior lawyer is adequately resourced, this approach would meet the expectations under the Convention for investigations to be prompt, effective and impartial.

38. It is important the common policy has the flexibility to respond to the particular circumstances of the allegation. There may be situations where a redress agency or agencies, in consultation with Crown Law, consider that another form of investigation is more appropriate, for because it is necessary for the investigator to have information-gathering powers. In this situation, an inquiry under the Inquiries Act, which has the power to compel witnesses or the provision of evidence, may be more suitable.

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The common policy will need to be clear that allegations of torture must be subject to a standard of investigation that is rigorous enough to provide a legal and factual basis on which Ministers/Cabinet can make decisions about whether torture occurred

39. Given the nature of torture, it will be important to ensure that allegations are subjected to an appropriate standard of investigation, including criminal investigation wherever possible. The common policy would need to be clear that if a criminal investigation into torture is possible it should be pursued (unless there are good reasons not to).

40. While the standard of proof for a civil investigation is lower than that of a criminal one, the civil investigation would still need to be rigorous enough to make findings of fact about what occurred. This is in contrast to the state redress system, whereby, to be trauma-informed, it does not subject claims for abuse in care to rigorous testing or make findings of fact.

Step Three – If torture is found to have occurred, decisions on acknowledgement and the provision of redress

41. If an impartial investigation finds that torture occurred, the common policy would require redress agencies with the support of Crown Law to brief the relevant portfolio minister(s) and the Attorney-General on the outcome of the investigation. While civil investigations can make findings of fact they are not binding on the Crown, and the decision to acknowledge torture would still need to be made by portfolio ministers and the Attorney-General, or potentially Cabinet.[4]

42. When providing advice on a decision to acknowledge torture, redress agencies and Crown Law will also need to provide advice on any redress that would then follow, including how redress would be funded. There are three core elements of redress set out in the Convention, namely financial redress, an apology, and access to rehabilitation and support services.

43. If a perpetrator was successfully prosecuted under the Crimes of Torture Act, the courts have made a finding of torture, so the Crown does not need to decide whether or not to acknowledge it. However, the matter of redress would need to be considered by the Attorney-General, as per New Zealand's reservation to Article 14 of the Convention and section 5 of the Crimes of Torture Act.

44. Cases of torture being acknowledged will be rare and exceptional and it is important that the provision of redress is based on the individual circumstances of the case. For this reason, we do not propose adopting a specific framework for financial redress (e.g. a payment framework) in the common policy.

45. While Lake Alice provides an example of torture redress that may be relevant, the unique and exceptional circumstances of Lake Alice (including the number of survivors, the contemporaneous complaints, and the delay in making an acknowledgement of torture) means it is likely to have little precedent value for any other acknowledgements that may be made.

[4] The decision to acknowledge torture at Lake Alice was made by Cabinet.

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46. The common policy would set out key considerations to guide agencies on how to approach the matter of financial redress. Key matters are likely to consider include New Zealand's international obligations, timeliness of the acknowledgement and provision of redress, treating like cases alike, and what redress (if any) has been provided for abuse in care relating to the same conduct.

Safeguarding and oversight

Support and safeguarding of survivors

47. Survivors would be supported through step one (credibility assessment) of this process by their legal counsel (if represented), wellbeing support offered by redress agencies (if they were making a redress claim at the same time) and could also access the Survivor Experiences Service (if the survivor wanted to share their experience with the service, in which case they would have access to wraparound wellbeing support).
48. The two main services to support survivors through the investigation step(s) would be their legal counsel (if represented) and Victim Support. Survivors could also be encouraged to contact the Victims Information Service which can connect victims of crime with relevant community support organisations.
49. If torture was found to have occurred, additional support for survivors at this step would be considered as part of a proposed redress package for survivors, which would need to include a wellbeing and rehabilitative component as per the Convention.

Oversight and assurance

50. The two primary oversight mechanisms for step one would be the redress agency's internal complaints process (governed by common complaints policy for the State redress system being developed), or the Ombudsman. Because this step involves the agency making a decision on credibility, the Ombudsman could assess whether the agency's decision was reasonable or unreasonable under the common policy.
51. Ensuring survivor trust and confidence in the Police's response to allegations of torture is critical and, as with redress agencies, will require effective and independent oversight. The Royal Commission made findings about survivors' distrust in Police and their record of responding to allegations, so for both a decision by Police not to investigate and for how they conduct their investigations, there needs to be appropriate levels of assurance.
52. The primary oversight mechanisms for the criminal investigation of torture by Police would be the internal Police complaints process and the Independent Police Conduct Authority (IPCA).
53. The IPCA has a primarily reactive, complaints-based focus, with limited powers to initiate own motion inquiries, meaning there are limitations in its ability to provide adequate oversight into Police's decisions in relation to investigating or prosecuting torture. For example, the IPCA cannot direct Police to investigate any matters, and

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it can only make recommendations based on a complaint or the currently very narrow own motion power.

54. In June 2026 Cabinet took policy decisions on establishing an Inspector-General of Police to enhance public confidence in the oversight of Police, which will include stronger oversight of Police's actions relating to allegations of torture. For example, the Inspector-General of Police will have the ability to direct Police to open an investigation and launch own motion inquiries. They will also be able to report publicly on the Police response to recommendations and provide reports direct to the Minister of Justice which must be tabled in the House.

55. The Minister of Justice intends for the Inspector-General of Police to be established 9(2)(f)(iv)

56. If a civil investigation of the allegation was required, the primary administrative oversight mechanism would be the Ombudsman, who could review agencies decisions about establishing the investigation as well as the investigation itself.

57. It would also be open to survivors to seek judicial review including of any decision by an agency to not refer a matter to a senior lawyer for independent investigation, a decision not to acknowledge torture, or a decision about redress.

58. Across all steps of the process is the United Nations Committee Against Torture, who can hear complaints from individuals who feel their rights under the Convention have been breached by a State party.

The Crown's legal obligations regarding torture mean the common policy may have a cut-off date in terms of which allegations need to be responded to

59. 9(2)(h)

60. The implication of this is that the Crown does not have a duty to investigate (or respond) to allegations of torture relating to acts which took place before 28 December 1978, however, there would likely be significant criticism from survivors if redress agencies declined to consider allegations of torture from before 1978.[5]

61. A decision will need to be taken on the time period for allegations covered by the common policy. This could be that an appropriate response (based on the credibility of the allegation) will be taken regardless of when it occurred. Because this would be a departure from the Crown's legal obligations, we consider that this would require Cabinet approval.

[5] An important piece of context here is that torture which the Crown acknowledged occurred at Lake Alice took place between 1972-1977, before the legal obligation to investigate torture. This was largely because the UN Committee found that the Crown had obligations relating to Lake Alice as there had been a contemporaneous complaint and (failed) attempt to investigate. This meant when New Zealand ratified Convention the obligation to respond to this backdated to when the complaint was made. Although this unique situation does not apply to allegations which are the focus of this advice, linking the State's response to future allegations of torture strictly to its treaty obligations would likely be seen negatively when the only example of torture the Crown has acknowledged happened before 28 December 1978.

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62. The Crown Response Office will provide further advice to redress ministers and the Attorney-General on the time periods within scope of the common policy for the planned redress ministers' meeting in September.

Next steps

63. Work is currently underway to consider and prioritise the outstanding components of the redress implementation plan. The timeframe for completion of the common policy discussed in this paper will be confirmed as part of thiswork.

64. When decisions on the redress implementation plan, system-level arrangements, and the common policy for responding to torture have been completed, an update will be provided to redress ministers and the Attorney-General on which agency or agencies will be responsible for providing advice to relevant ministers if there is a credible allegation of torture that the Police cannot sufficiently investigate or cannot prosecute under the Crimes of Torture Act.

65. At the same time, advice will be provided to redress ministers and the Attorney-General on the impact of the 28 December 1978 cut-off date on the policy (including options to amend or remove this, if this approach is preferred by ministers).

Appendices

Appendix One: Royal Commission recommendations regarding the State's response to torture allegations

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Briefing

Appendix One: Royal Commission recommendations regarding the State's response to torture allegations

From Whanaketia – Through pain and trauma, from darkness to light[6]

Recommendation 6

Where there are reasonable grounds to believe that torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment have occurred in care directly or indirectly on behalf of the State or faith based entities, and the relevant allegations have not been investigated by NZ Police or credible new information has arisen since the allegations were investigated, NZ Police should:

a) open or re-open independent and transparent criminal investigations into possible criminal offending
b) proactively and widely advertise the intent to investigate and ongoing investigations
c) provide appropriate assistance and support to survivors, their whānau and support networks who contact them in relation to the investigations.

Recommendation 7

Where there are reasonable grounds to believe that torture, or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment have occurred in care, the State, faith-based institutions and indirect care providers should:

a) provide reasonable assistance to any NZ Police investigation
b) take all reasonable steps to ensure an impartial and independent investigation is carried out by an appropriate investigator
c) if there is credible evidence of breaches of the law (including breaches of human rights), ensure that appropriate redress is provided to the survivors, consistent with applicable domestic and / or international obligations
d) use best endeavours to have the liability of every relevant institution in relation to such acts determined. This may include:
    i. seeking opinions from King's Counsel, which are then shared with relevant survivors, on the nature of the conduct and the liability of relevant institutions, including as applicable under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990. Consideration may also be given to seeking declaratory judgments from the courts. Survivors should be fully supported to take part in these initiatives, including with funding for legal and other expenses
    ii. not pleading limitation defences in cases brought by survivors, for as long as limitation defences remain available.

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[6] https://www.abuseincare.org.nz/reports/whanaketia

Briefing

Approach to managing increased redress demand

Date:	27 July 2026	**Priority:**	Medium
Security classification:		**Tracking number:**	CRACI 26/078

	Action sought	**Deadline**
Hon Erica Stanford Lead Coordination Minister of the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions Minister of Education	**Agree** approach for responding to increased redress demand. **Forward** this briefing to the Minister of Finance.	3 August 2026
Hon Louise Upston Minister for Social Development and Employment **Hon Matt Doocey** Associate Minister of Health **Hon Karen Chhour** Minister for Children	**Agree** approach for responding to increased redress demand.	

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	**Position**	**Telephone**	**1st contact**
Delwyn Clement	General Manager, Redress, Crown Response Office	9(2)(a)	✓
Rebecca Martin	General Manager, Policy and Strategy, Crown Response Office	9(2)(a)	

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The following departments/agencies have been consulted
Ministry of Social Development, Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education.

Minister's office to complete:

- ☐ Approved
- ☐ Noted
- ☐ Seen
- ☐ See Minister's Notes
- ☐ Declined
- ☐ Needs change
- ☐ Overtaken by Events
- ☐ Withdrawn

Comments

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Briefing

Approach to managing increased redress demand

Date:	27 July 2026	**Priority:**	Medium
Security classification:		**Tracking number:**	CRACI 26/078

Purpose

1. 9(2)(f)(iv) manage higher than forecast demand within the State redress system.

Recommendations

2. We recommend you:

   a. **note** the latest quarterly redress update for redress ministers shows redress demand is 60 percent higher than the Budget 2025 forecast;

   b. 9(2)(f)(iv)

Lead Coordination Minister of the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions	Yes / No
Minister of Education	
Minister for Social Development and Employment	Yes / No
Associate Minister of Health	Yes / No
Minister for Children	Yes / No

If you agree to recommendation b:

9(2)(f)(iv)

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d. 9(2)(f)(iv) [redacted]

e. **forward** this briefing to the Minister of Finance.

Lead Coordination Minister of the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions — Yes / No

Minister of Education

Delwyn Clement
General Manager, Redress, Crown Response Office
27 / 07 / 2026

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
Minister for Education
/ /2026

Hon Louise Upston
Minister for Social Development and Employment
/ /2026

Hon Matt Doocey
Associate Minister of Health
/ /2026

Hon Karen Chhour
Minister for Children
/ /2026

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Background

3. Redress funding has unique arrangements. Given redress payments will discharge any legal liability in respect of a claim for abuse in State care and the inherent difficulties in estimating claim numbers, Cabinet made the decision to ring-fence redress funding and treat it as a common funding pool. This means that regardless of the funding allocations made to redress agencies during Budget 2025, Cabinet decided to:
    a. establish a dedicated redress Multi-Category Appropriation (MCA) for each redress agency and ring-fence redress funding within that MCA by applying transfer restrictions for funding from non-departmental categories to departmental categories unless jointly agreed by the Minister of Finance, relevant appropriation Minister and the Lead Coordination Minister; and
    b. delegate decision-making authority to the Minister of Finance and relevant appropriation Ministers to bring funding forward to earlier years or transfer funding to later years as necessary.
4. Redress funding was split across eight votes (Social Development, Education, Health, Oranga Tamariki, Māori Development, Corrections, Public Service, and Internal Affairs) as a mix of appropriated and tagged contingency funding.
5. In April 2026, the Lead Coordination Minister directed an independent review of redress costs. The review will provide an independent, robust, and system-wide assessment of the administrative and operational costs associated with delivering redress. The final report is expected in mid-August 2026.

The State redress system has exceeded the capacity that was built into the system through Budget 2025

6. In Budget 2025, $533 million over four years was invested into improving the State redress system. Of this $533 million, $31.6 million was invested into records provision and $92.2 million into case management personnel costs.
7. This funding was intended to translate into a timely and responsive redress system through increasing system capacity. This was to be achieved through increasing the completion of settlement offers gradually over 2025/26 – 2027/8, as well as increasing the capacity of the system to provide survivors with timely access to their care records (noting that there are legislated timeframes under the Privacy Act 2020).
8. Given the uncertainties for calculating overall claims numbers and predicting redress volume, departmental funding was calculated based on increasing system capacity to complete a minimum of:
    - 1550 settlement offers in 2025/26
    - 2000 settlement offers in 2026/27
    - 2150 settlement offers in 2027/28.
9. The completion of settlement offers has tracked at a higher rate than forecast with redress agencies completing 1,707 offers in 2025/26, which is 157 (around 10 percent) more than the 1550 settlement offers they were funded to progress for 2025/26.

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10. The demand on redress claim intake services has proven significantly higher than anticipated. The Budget 2025 bid projection was based on 2,195 forecast eligible claims in 2025/26 and 2,671 in 2026/27, with the State redress system resourced to process 1,550 claims in 2025/26. The data shows that 3,517 eligible claims were received in 2025/26. This is 60 percent higher (1,322 more claims) than forecast in the bid projection.

Impacts on backlogs, claims processing and access to care records are emerging and will become more pronounced during 2026/27 and beyond

11. The discrepancy between resource to process claims and the number of claims being received means the timeliness of the redress system in responding to claims is decreasing, while the claims backlog is gradually but steadily increasing.

12. There are limited indicators available to reliably predict the number of survivors who may come forward in future years, meaning recent demand trends remain the best available basis for estimation. As a result, the significant increase in demand experienced over the past 12 months was not reflected in earlier forecasts.

13. The increase in claim registrations has required agencies to carefully balance resources across different parts of the redress system. Agencies have needed to ensure sufficient frontline capacity to provide survivors with a timely, empathetic and trauma-informed response, while also maintaining enough assessment and case management capability to progress existing claims through the system.

14. Impacts of the demand pressure on the State redress system are starting to emerge, including:

    - Delays in the responsiveness of survivor servicing (e.g. the time it takes for a survivor's phone call to be answered) resulting in increasing numbers of calls being abandoned before they are answered resulting in survivor frustrations and poor experience for survivors.
    - Delays in confirming eligibility for redress claims due to priority being given to a growing backlog of new registrations and limited capacity to undertake this work.
    - A reduction in agencies' ability to provide support to survivors awaiting allocation of their claim for assessment due to the need to prioritise responding to new registrations.
    - Delays in agencies' ability to provide survivors with timely access to their care records. Demand remained high throughout 2025/26, with agencies receiving 2,141 requests and fulfilling 1,701. Incoming requests exceeded fulfilled requests in every month, contributing to an increase in requests in progress from 266 at the end of July 2025 to 396 at the end of June 2026. This is placing sustained pressure on agency record retrieval and disclosure functions and increasing the risk of longer wait times for survivors.

15. The claims backlog has increased from 4344 at the end of June 2025 to 6,654 at the end of June 2026, indicating a 53 percent increase in backlogged cases. This means there is an increase in the number of survivors who experience prolonged waits for settlement offers. This indicates that, despite progress in increasing settlement

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activity, claims demand continues to outpace this progress. As a result, the number of claims on hand is increasing, presenting a key pressure point for the system.

16. While agencies have largely managed these competing pressures during 2025/26, this has been challenging. As demand is forecast to continue to grow at current rates in 2026/27 and there is inherent uncertainty about future demand, these pressures are expected to become more pronounced during 2026/27 and beyond. Without additional resource, it is likely the timeliness and responsiveness of the State redress system will be impacted significantly. Longer wait times are likely to create frustration among survivors who will expect an improved service given the Government's April 2025 decisions to improve the State redress system. This could reduce public and survivor confidence in the State redress system.

The increasing claims demand is requiring agencies to choose between the intake of claims versus the assessment of claims

17. In April 2025, Cabinet agreed to introduce a single point of entry to ensure survivors receive a joined-up response and consistent service irrespective of which State agency was responsible for their care. This means survivors will not have to seek redress from multiple agencies and will have their claim managed through one point of contact.

18. In Budget 2025, $92.2 million across four years was invested into case management personnel costs, including staff to receive claims.

19. The establishment and operation of the Single Point of Entry into the redress system has highlighted the impact demand pressures are having on the processing of redress claims. Agencies have had to manage a difficult balance between sufficiently resourcing the intake of claims with the need to progress the assessment and conclusion of claims.

9(2)(f)(iv)

20. 9(2)(f)(iv)

21.

22.

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- 9(2)(f)(iv)
-
-

23. 9(2)(f)(iv)
9(2)(f)(iv)

24. 9(2)(f)(iv) This advice will also take into account the findings of the independent review of redress costs (due in mid-August 2026, and to be considered at the 15 September redress and care ministers meeting).

25. Longer-term funding requirements for delivering state redress can be considered through the 2027 independent review and any subsequent Budget 2028 bids (if invited).

[1] The Single Point of Entry team is a centralised team hosted by the Ministry of Social Development on behalf of participating agencies that provides a single point of contact for people seeking State redress. The service answers questions, helps people register a claim, explains what happens next, and connects them with the appropriate redress agency or agencies. It remains the person's main point of contact while eligibility is assessed and until the claim is allocated to an agency, providing updates and helping coordinate communication where more than one agency is involved. Participating agencies remain responsible for assessing claims and delivering redress in their areas of responsibility.

Page 9 withheld in full under s 9(2)(f)(iv).

Budget 2025 Care and Redress Initiatives (June 2026)

Budget 2025 approved funding and drawdown status by Budget category

Addressing the wrongs of the past

$533.450m

OPEX $500.859m
Tagged contingency $32.591m
($14.257m drawn down)

Making the Care System Safe, recordkeeping and access

$188.176m

OPEX $42.296m
Tagged contingency $145.880m
($49.614m operating + $5m capital drawn down)

Implementing the Govt's response to the RCOI

$28.375m

OPEX $-
Tagged contingency $28.375m
($7.203m net drawn down)

Crown Response Office – time limited funding $26.564m

Budget component	Progress since Budget 2025	Vote	Budget
Addressing the wrongs of the past *Top-up payments, increased average redress payment level, common payments framework*	Legislation supporting the new redress system commenced on 1 July 2026, establishing the framework for the State Redress Service and associated reforms. During June, implementation activity focused on operational readiness for the Single Point of Entry and Integrated Operating Model, including Train-the-Trainer delivery, approval of a simplified application form, development of operational guidance and progression of privacy and information-sharing arrangements. Work also continued on Health NZ integration, development of supporting technology, common policy settings, the legal fees framework and implementation of the Common Payments Framework, including increased payment levels and top-up payments. The programme has moved from policy and legislative development into implementation, although several enabling activities remain underway before the full operating model is in place. **Next steps:** Launch the State Redress Service and Single Point of Entry, complete privacy and information-sharing arrangements, finalise legal fee settings, progress Health NZ integration and continue implementation of supporting technology, streamlined assessment processes and broader operating model changes.	Public Service. Social Development, Education, Health, Oranga Tamariki, Internal Affairs	**OPEX**: $500.859m baseline funding over the forecast period Year / Funding ($m) FY24/25 52.456 FY25/26 30.113 FY26/27 136.871 FY27/28 140.803 FY28/29 140.616
Addressing the wrongs of the past *Kōnae (Care Records Website)*	Care records access improvements continued through development of the care records website and supporting recordkeeping initiatives. During June, user-needs analysis for website improvements was completed, planning commenced for digitisation activities and implementation planning progressed for the Care Records Framework. These activities strengthen access pathways and supporting infrastructure, although delivery remains dependent on implementation across participating agencies and providers. **Next steps:** Publish and implement the Care Records Framework, progress website phase two improvements and commence planned digitisation activities.	Public Service	**Tagged contingency:** $1.423m Year / Funding ($m) / Drawn down ($m) FY25/26 - - FY26/27 0.481 0.481 FY27/28 0.461 - FY28/29 0.481 -
Addressing the wrongs of the past *Survivor Experiences Service*	The initial phase of SES Inform has concluded and operational responsibility has transitioned to DIA. Delivery focused on establishing and testing approaches to supporting survivors navigating redress processes, with closure reporting completed during June. The programme has delivered its initial scope and future implementation activity will depend on decisions regarding longer-term service delivery arrangements. **Next step:** Progress prototype and proof-of-concept work and consider future implementation options, subject to funding and Ministerial decisions.	Internal Affairs	**Tagged contingency:** $20.382m Year / Funding ($m) / Drawn down ($m) FY25/26 - - FY26/27 6.794 6.794 FY27/28 6.794 6.794 FY28/29 6.794 -

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Budget 2025 Care and Redress Initiatives (June 2026)

Budget 2025 approved funding and drawdown status by Budget category

Addressing the wrongs of the past

$533.450m

OPEX $500.859m
Tagged contingency $32.591m
($14.257m drawn down)

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($7.203m net drawn down)

Crown Response Office – time limited funding $26.564m

Budget component	Progress since Budget 2025	Vote	Budget
Addressing the wrongs of the past *Integration of TPK and Corrections Claims*	Eligibility criteria and supporting information for TPK and Corrections claims have been incorporated into redress system planning and communications. Assessment of current claims is ongoing and work has progressed to incorporate these pathways into broader implementation activities, including privacy, information-sharing and operating model development. The programme remains focused on integration and administration arrangements rather than direct expansion of services. **Next step:** Complete integration activities, confirm administration arrangements and incorporate TPK and Corrections claims into operational delivery and communications processes.	Māori Development. Corrections	**Tagged contingency:** $10.786m Year / Funding ($m) / Drawn down ($m) FY25/26 / 3.644 / 0.188 FY26/27 / 3.508 / - FY27/28 / 1.796 / - FY28/29 / 1.838 / -
Make the current care system safe *Improving Mental Health Inpatient Unit Environments*	Funding has supported planning, coordination and implementation activities associated with improving inpatient mental health environments. During June, work continued to monitor delivery of Tranche One initiatives and inform future investment planning through analysis of facility and service information. More than 40 Tranche One initiatives have been completed or substantially completed. A small number of projects continue because of procurement lead times. Approximately 80 inpatient unit self-assessments have been analysed to support prioritisation of future investments. Timelines for diagnostics and Approval to Deliver work have been adjusted to align with Health NZ governance schedules, while the March 2027 investment decision remains the key decision point. Resourcing for the next phase remains an active risk. The programme is transitioning from delivery of immediate improvements toward planning and prioritisation of larger-scale infrastructure investment. **Next steps:** Continue supporting implementation of approved initiatives and prepare for future investment decisions informed by site assessments and prioritisation activity. Commence site visits during July and August, finalise prioritisation activities and develop future investment proposals for Ministerial consideration in March 2027.	Health	**OPEX:** $0.734m baseline funding over two years Year / Funding ($m) FY25/26 / 0.367 FY26/27 / 0.367
		Health	**Tagged capital contingency:** $50.000m Year / Funding ($m) / Drawn down ($m) FY25/26 / 5.000 / 5.000 FY26/27 / 10.000 / - FY27/28 / 17.500 / - FY28/29 / 17.500 / -
Make the current care system safe *Bolstering Safeguards and Oversight of Compulsory Mental Health and Addiction Care*	District Inspector activity increased compared with previous years and 40 District Inspectors were appointed or reappointed from 1 July 2026. Updated statutory guidance has been issued and oversight activity continues across districts. While monitoring and safeguarding capability has increased, workforce, advisory and regulatory capacity pressures remain in some locations and continue to require management. **Next steps:** Recruit additional District Inspectors in priority regions and address identified clinical advisory and regulatory resourcing challenges.	Health	**OPEX:** $9.360m baseline funding over the forecast period Year / Funding ($m) FY25/26 / 1.584 FY26/27 / 1.808 FY27/28 / 2.984 FY28/29 / 2.984

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Budget 2025 Care and Redress Initiatives (June 2026)

Budget 2025 approved funding and drawdown status by Budget category

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($7.203m net drawn down)

Crown Response Office – time limited funding $26.564m

Budget component	Progress since Budget 2025	Vote	Drawdown ($m)
Make the current care system safe *Recognising and Responding to Abuse in Care*	Programme governance and implementation arrangements have been established through the Integrated Safe Care Response programme, including approval of the Programme Management Plan and development of programme controls and delivery artefacts. Early implementation activity has commenced through regional engagement, rollout of the Emergency Care Availability Tool and distribution of respite care information resources. Related DSS quality and assurance work has also progressed: Quality Management System requirements have been established and provider engagement has supported implementation readiness, although further progress is dependent on onboarding the Platform Delivery Partner. Enhanced Audit activity has increased, with improved data governance and strengthened reporting capability. The Budget component is therefore moving into implementation, but key elements remain dependent on procurement, testing, programme baselines and agency delivery capacity. **Next step:** Complete programme baselines, progress pilot readiness, onboard the Platform Delivery Partner for the DSS Quality Management System, commence targeted testing and engagement, and continue scaling Enhanced Audit activity.	Oranga Tamariki, DSS (MSD)	**OPEX:** $24.800m baseline funding over the forecast period FY25/26: 10.900 FY26/27: 5.500 FY27/28: 5.200 FY28/29: 3.200
Make the current care system safe *Building a Diverse, Capable and Safe Care Workforce*	Ministers endorsed the workforce roadmap and approved initial implementation initiatives in June. Strategic direction has now been agreed across participating agencies, and implementation planning has commenced. While programme foundations are in place, delivery remains at an early stage and several initiatives are dependent on subsequent drawdown decisions and agency implementation readiness. The drawdown of funding has been agreed by appropriation Ministers for a first set of care workforce initiatives, including activity arising from the Dame Karen Poutasi review response, a workforce capability framework and training content for targeted workforces. Care ministers approved a second round of initiatives in June and requested further information on the Health New Zealand proposal and indicative costs of safety-checking and vetting future options. The programme is transitioning from design into staged implementation, although several initiatives remain subject to future decisions and agency capacity. **Next steps:** Progress approved initiatives, prepare further implementation advice and support future workforce development activities across participating agencies. Submit the second workforce drawdown package to delegated Ministers and progress delivery of approved workforce initiatives.	Education, Health, Oranga Tamariki, DSS (MSD)	**OPEX:** $0.620m baseline funding over one year FY25/26: 0.620
		Public Service	**Tagged contingency:** $70.880m FY25/26: 6.380; 7.893 (4.293 DKP. 3.6 workforce) FY26/27: 21.500; 9.891 (3.561 DKP, 6.33 workforce) FY27/28: 21.500; 6.830 (workforce) FY28/29: 21.500; -
Make the current care system safe *Empowering Families, Whanau and Communities to Prevent Entry into Care*	Twenty proposals were assessed through the Social Investment Fund process and four initiatives were identified as recommended investments. Assessment and prioritisation activities have now concluded and Ministers approved full draw down from the contingency fund. Delivery remains contingent on investment decisions and subsequent contracting arrangements. **Next steps:** Finalise contracting arrangements and commence implementation of approved initiatives.	Social Investment	FY25/26: 4.000; - FY26/27: 7.000; 6.250 FY27/28: 7.000; 6.250 FY28/29: 7.000; 6.250 FY29/30: -; 6.250

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Budget 2025 Care and Redress Initiatives (June 2026)

Budget 2025 approved funding and drawdown status by Budget category

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($7.203m net drawn down)

Crown Response Office – time limited funding $26.564m

Budget component	Progress since Budget 2025	Vote	Budget
Make the current care system safe *Recordkeeping to Improve Quality, Quantity, Capacity, Access and Whanau Connections* Recordkeeping and Access *Uplift Care Records Keeping to Support New Systems and Improve Management and Access*	Recordkeeping and access initiatives progressed during June, including approval of Disability Support Services provider guidance, engagement with the schools reference group and planning for improvements to care records access systems. Work is also underway to improve management of legacy records, strengthen recordkeeping practices and progress implementation of the Care Records Framework. The programme has established the foundations required for improved access and management, but implementation remains ongoing across agencies. **Next steps:** Publish and disseminate provider guidance, implement the Care Records Framework, progress website improvements and commence planned digitisation and recordkeeping improvements.	Internal Affairs, DSS (MSD), Education	**OPEX:** $6.782m baseline funding over the forecast period FY25/26: 2.077 FY26/27: 1.576 FY27/28: 1.556 FY28/29: 1.573
Implementing the Government's Response to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care	Delivery of historical commitments is nearing completion, with current effort focused on implementing ongoing redress arrangements and completing residual commitments. Most Lake Alice redress commitments funded through Budget 2025 have now been delivered, with one claim remaining. Funding has supported ongoing survivor support initiatives and development of arrangements required to implement the Serious Offender provisions of the Redress System for Abuse in Care legislation. Advice on a potential third round of the Survivor Support and Recognition Fund was provided to the Minister, and funding arrangements for the Serious Offender process are being progressed ahead of commencement on 1 August 2026. **Next steps:** Complete remaining Lake Alice activities, implement the Serious Offender process and continue advice on future survivor support and recognition initiatives.	Public Service	**Tagged contingency:** $28.375m FY24/25: - / 7.000 (Lake Alice) FY25/26: 7.094 / 2.000 SSRF, 0.164 serious offenders, 0.500 mental health, -2.460 Lake Alice returned FY26/27: 7.094 / - FY27/28: 7.094 / - FY28/29: 7.093 / -
Crown Response Office time limited funding	Established the foundations for delivery of the Government's Abuse in Care Budget 2025 package, including funding, governance, implementation planning, and cross-agency coordination. **Next steps**: Monitor delivery and outcomes, policy provision, provide regular ministerial reporting and assurance and decisions on transition of enduring functions to agencies best placed to sustain long-term implementation and accountability.	Public Service	**OPEX:** $26.564m baseline funding over two years FY25/26: 12.755 FY26/27: 13.809

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