



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

Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry

COVERSHEET

Minister	Hon Erica Stanford	Portfolio	Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions
Date of meeting	19 May 2025	Date to be published	17 February 2026

List of documents that have been proactively released		
Date	Title	Author
19 May 2025	Agenda and items for discussion	Crown Response Office
13 May 2025	Crown Response Work Programme and Summary of Budget '25 Package	Crown Response Office
15 May 2025	Briefing to establish parameters for the National Day of Reflection	Crown Response Office
19 May 2025	Interim approach on access to redress for survivors of abuse in state care with convictions for serious violent and sexual offending	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

Notes:

- The appendix titled *Crown Response Budget '25 Summary of Initiatives* has been removed from this pack as it is already publicly available here: [Summary of Initiatives in Budget 2025 | The Treasury New Zealand](#)



Meeting pack – 19 May 2025

Ministerial Group – Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry

Membership:

- Hon Erica Stanford as 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 as Minister of Education;
- Hon Simeon Brown as Minister of Health;
- Hon Paul Goldsmith as Minister of Justice;
- Hon Louise Upston as Minister for Social Development and Employment and Minister for Disability Issues;
- Hon Judith Collins KC as Attorney-General;
- Hon Mark Mitchell as Minister of Corrections and Minister of Police;
- Hon Tama Potaka as Minister for Māori Development
- Hon Matt Doocey as Minister for Mental Health;
- Hon Scott Simpson as Minister of ACC;
- Hon Karen Chhour as Minister for Children and Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence; and
- Hon Casey Costello as Associate Minister of Health and Associate Minister of Police.

Meeting pack:

- Aide-memoire: agenda and items for discussion;
- Briefing – Crown Response Work Programme and Summary of Budget ‘25 Package; and
- Briefing – Briefing to establish parameters for the National Day of Reflection



Aide-memoire

Agenda and items for discussion

For: Ministerial Group – Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry

Date: 19 May 2025

Security level:

Purpose

1. This pack provides the Ministerial group for the Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry with an agenda and papers to support its discussion on 19 May 2025.

Agenda

	Item	Timing
1.	Update post 9 May announcements	10 minutes
2.	Decision Milestones to December 2025 <i>(Paper: Briefing – Crown Response Work Programme and Summary of Budget '25 Package)</i>	20 minutes
3.	National Day of Reflection <i>(Paper: Briefing – Briefing to establish parameters for the National Day of Reflection)</i>	10 minutes
4.	Interim approach to implementing Serious Offenders policy	10 minutes
5.	Other business	5 minutes



Briefing

Crown Response Work Programme and Summary of Budget '25 Package			
Date:	13 May 2025	Security level:	
Priority:	Low	Report number:	CRACI 25/051

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	For information and discussion with Officials and Joint Ministers on the Crown Response work programme

Contact for discussion			
Name	Position	Telephone	1 st contact
Rajesh Chhana	Chief Executive, Crown Response Office	9(2)(a)	
Molly Elliott	Chief Advisor to Chief Executive, Crown Response Office	9(2)(a)	✓

Agencies consulted
The Public Service Commission, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, The Treasury, the Ministries of Education, Health, Justice, Social Development, Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children and Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People, Te Puni Kōkiri and Crown Law are aware of the content in this briefing (although have not been consulted on the briefing itself).

Minister's office to complete

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

Comments



Briefing

Crown Response Work Programme and Summary of Budget '25 Package

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

Cc: 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 KC, 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 Dooney, Minister for Mental Health
Hon Scott Simpson, Minister for ACC
Hon Karen Chhour, Minister for Children
Hon Casey Costello, Associate Minister of Health

Date: 13 May 2025

Security level:

Priority: Low

Report number: CRACI 25/051

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with view across the Crown Response work programme and highlights key upcoming milestones for your information. It has two attachments:
 - a. A Crown Response Work Programme Road Map (Appendix One) which provides an initial high-level view across the Crown Response work programme as it currently stands;
 - b. Crown Response Budget '25 Summary of Initiatives, which is due to be released on Budget Day (see Appendix Two).

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that you:
 - a. **note** there have been significant Cabinet decisions made across April and May, including Budget decisions, that enable the Crown's response;

- b. **note** that government agencies are organised and working together to implement the Crown's response and provide ongoing policy and other advice to Ministers;
- c. **note** that the first annual monitoring report on the Crown's Response is due to Cabinet in October 2025;
- d. **note** that future redress related Ministerial decisions will be the responsibility of redress portfolio Ministers;
- e. **note** that the full Crown response including oversight of progress towards budget initiatives will be the responsibility of this broader group of joint Ministers;
- f. **agree** that a smaller group of redress Ministers will meet separately as needed for redress specific decisions; **discuss** this briefing at your next meeting with Crown Response Joint Ministers. **YES / NO**



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

13 / 05 / 2025

/ /

Background

3. In April and May 2025 Cabinet made a significant number of decisions regarding the Crown's Response to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care. This includes:
 - a. *Delivering an enhanced redress system for survivors of abuse in State care* [CAB-25-MIN-0101 refers];
 - b. *Abuse in Care Inquiry: Crown Response (May 2025)* [ECO-25-MIN-0060 refers]; and
 - c. Budget '25 investments (Appendix Two)

Officials have governance structures in place to deliver on the Crown's Response

4. Officials are organised across government to oversee and deliver on the Crown's response. A Crown Response Chief Executives' Group and separate Deputy Chief Executives' Group have been operating for some time. Both have had their Terms of Reference recently refreshed to ensure it reflects this new phase of responding to the Royal Commission recommendations and supporting the Crown's response.
5. Member agencies on the CEs and DCEs groups include the Public Service Commission (including Crown Response Office), Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, The Treasury, The Ministries of Education, Health, Social Development, Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children and Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People.
6. Other agency officials also attend as needed including: Crown Law, Te Puni Kōkiri, Ministry of Justice, ACC, Police and the Department of Corrections.
7. In April 2025, a new Redress System Senior Officials Group was established to lead and oversee the operational implementation of redress system changes. Members of this group include all the State redress agencies (Ministries of Social Development, Health, Education, and Oranga Tamariki) as well as Te Puni Kōkiri, Department of Corrections and the Crown Response Office.
8. There are cross agency care system and redress focused working groups which are active in both implementation and policy development.

Implementation is underway, or soon to be, in key areas

9. **Survivor Support and Recognition Fund:** In October 2024 Cabinet agreed to establish a survivor-focused fund with \$1.5m ringfenced for initiatives delivered by non-governmental organisations providing direct support to survivors and \$0.5m for local authorities for projects to care for or memorialise unmarked graves associated with relevant sites. Since the fund opened on 19 February 2025, 22 applications have been granted for initiatives to support survivors. A further 11 applications are being processed and the application process for NGOs has been temporarily closed as the remaining funding is fully subscribed. Several local authorities have made enquiries regarding the fund and are progressing their plans ahead of making an application.

10. **State Redress:** Agencies have commenced implementation of the top-up for survivors with previously settled claims that enables them to apply for a top-up to their settlement, giving effect to the average payment increase Cabinet agreed to
11. **Ministerial Advisory Group:** Cabinet has agreed to establish a Ministerial Advisory Group which will provide relevant Ministers with advice on the Government's response, including implementation and the next phase of the wider response. Officials will be providing the Lead Coordinating Minister with initial advice by the end of May on the appointment process with a view to commence the appointment process in early June and an aim for the group to be in operational by October.
12. **Budget '25 investments:** In addition to redress, Budget '25 package invests in care system, prevention, and care records improvements (outlined in Appendix Two). Officials are currently working on implementation plans for these initiatives and will provide Ministers with an update on implementation in July 2025.
13. **National Day of Reflection:** During the National Public Apology to survivors in November 2024, the Prime Minister announced a "*National Day of Reflection*" on the 12 November 2025 to mark the one-year anniversary of the apology and provide an opportunity to stop and reflect on what survivors have endured and ensure measures are in place to prevent further abuse. Work is currently underway on a proposed approach for Ministers on how the day could be marked.
14. **Lake Alice Redress:** On 18 December 2024, the Government confirmed it would provide redress to survivors who were tortured at the Lake Alice Psychiatric Hospital Child and Adolescent Unit (the Lake Alice Unit). The Crown Response Office administers the Lake Alice Torture Redress which is due to conclude in September 2025.

...while further work and Ministerial decisions are needed to confirm the Crown's work programme in other areas

15. **Serious offenders and apologies:** Cabinet has directed the Lead Coordination Minister to provide further advice on outstanding policy matters related to access to redress for some serious offenders and potential legislative change to make it easier to provide more meaningful apologies without increasing liability risks. This work is on a tight timeframe and will go to Cabinet in June 2025, with a view to the introduction of legislation later in 2025.
16. **Redress system implementation.** Early decisions will be needed from Ministers around the interim approach to implementing the presumption against making redress payments to new claimants who have been convicted of a qualifying offence under Schedule 1AB of the Sentencing Act 2002 and were sentenced to five years or more in prison for that offence, further advice on key policy areas will be considered by Cabinet in June 2025. A full implementation plan of all the agreed redress system changes and initial advice on the common payments framework will be delivered to Joint Ministers in July 2025.
17. **Care system leadership:** Officials are developing advice for Ministers on structural and other system level changes that were recommended by the Royal Commission, notably recommendation 41 for the establishment of a new Care Safe Agency. This advice is due in November 2025 [ECO-25-MIN-0060 refers]. This project, known as "Care System Leadership", will also develop a framework to scope and prioritise further work to respond to other

recommendations. Decisions on this project will be sought from joint Ministers as it develops in the lead-up to the November report-back mentioned above.

18. **Non-State redress system integration:** Cabinet invited the Lead Coordination Minister to report back to Cabinet in late 2025 on coverage and funding mechanisms for redress claims managed by non-State care providers, school Boards and Health New Zealand [CAB-25-MIN-0101]. Now that Budget announcements have been made, officials will begin engaging openly with non-state redress providers and develop options available for Ministers to consider. Ministers can expect to get initial advice in August 2025.
19. **Crown response monitoring** The first annual monitoring report on the Crown's Response is due to Cabinet in October 2025.

Next steps

20. The roadmap in Appendix One outlines key milestones for the Crown response through to the end of the year. It identifies key decisions that will be required from joint Ministers across this period.

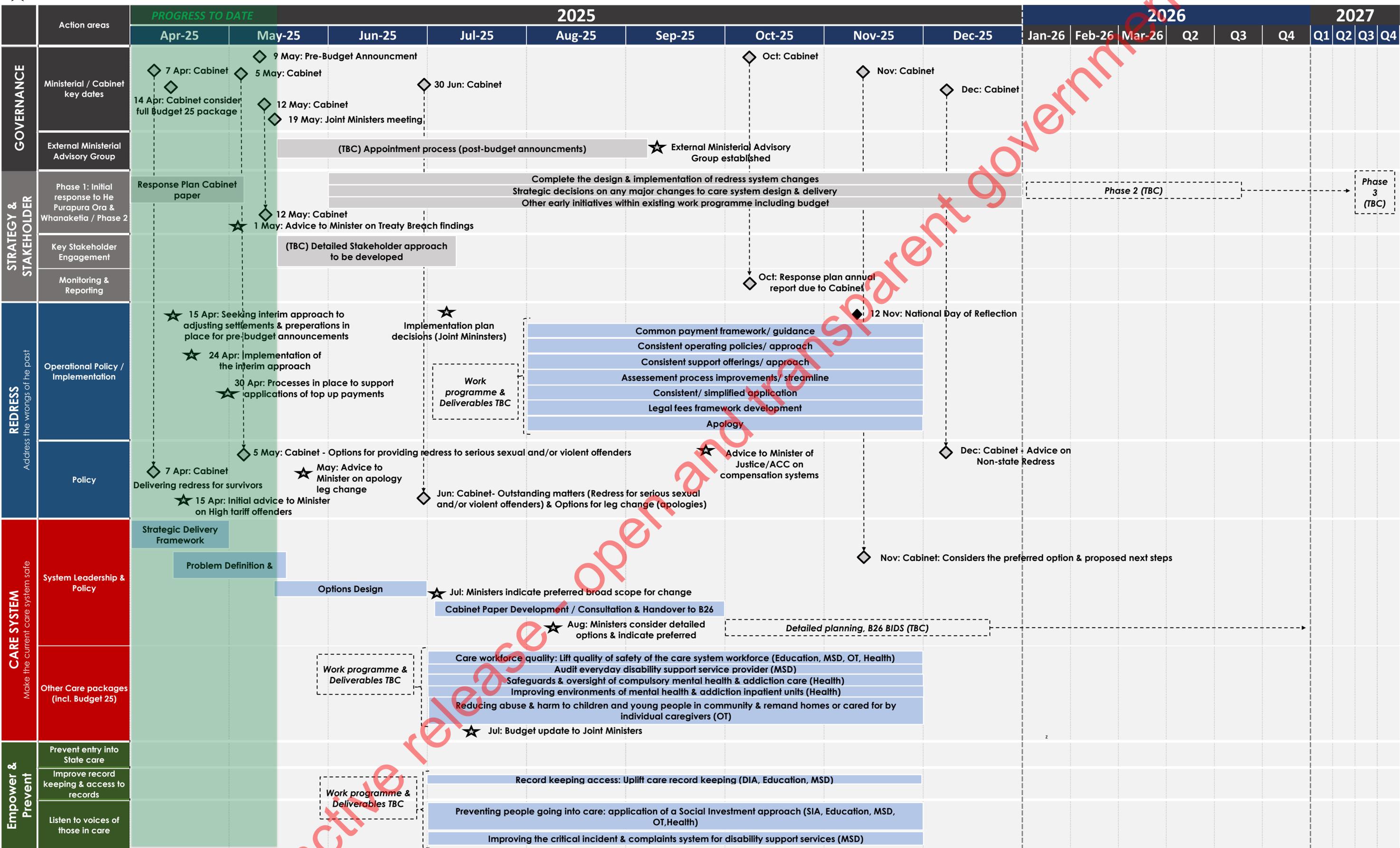
Proactive release - open and transparent government

Appendix One: Crown response roadmap

Proactive release - open and transparent government

CROWN RESPONSE ROADMAP 2025/27 - (Live document)

◆ Ministerial Committees / Cabinet ◆ Stakeholder engagement
★ Ministerial Aide Memoires/ Briefings



Proactive release - open and transparent government



Briefing

Briefing to establish parameters for the National Day of Reflection			
Date:	15 May 2025	Security level:	
Priority:	Low	Report number:	CRACI 25/052

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	For information and discussion with Officials and Joint Ministers on the National Day of Reflection

Contact for discussion			
Name	Position	Telephone	1 st contact
Rajesh Chhana	Chief Executive, Crown Response Office		
Delwyn Abraham	Head of Treaty Partnerships & Head of Redress, Crown Response Office	9(2)(a)	✓

Agencies consulted
Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Education, Whaikaha, Ministry of Health

Minister’s office to complete

- Noted
- Seen
- See Minister’s notes
- Needs change
- Overtaken by events
- Declined
- Referred to (specify)

Comments



Briefing

Briefing to establish parameters for the National Day of Reflection

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

Cc: 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 KC, 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 Karen Chhour, Minister for Children
Hon Casey Costello, Associate Minister of Health

Date: 15 May 2025

Security level:

Priority: Low

Report number: CRACI 25/052

Purpose

1. This briefing provides you with advice on the initial approach to progressing the National Day of Reflection (NDR).
2. It also seeks your agreement and direction on how to progress any next steps for the NDR.

Recommendations

3. It is recommended that you:
 - a. **endorse** the purpose and intended outcomes for the NDR:
 - i. the purpose of the day is to "call the country to reflect on abuse in care, survivors of abuse, and those who have passed away".
 - ii. intended outcomes for the day are that:
 - a. survivors of abuse in care are acknowledged and remembered;

- b. awareness is raised about historic abuse in care and the story of care in Aotearoa New Zealand;
 - c. awareness is raised about contemporary care in New Zealand and the steps being taken to prevent abuse; and/or
 - d. survivors and others who have been, or are currently in care, are informed about progress on the Royal Commission's recommendations.
- b. **agree** the proposed approach to the day should involve a combination of:
- i. community-led events that are supported and funded in-part by the Crown; and
 - ii. activities by government to demonstrate progress, accountability and transparency.
- c. **note** the CRO will progress design work for the day, including:
- i. engagements with survivors about the name, identity, purpose, and outcomes for the day;
 - ii. engagements with government agencies, non-State care organisations, and mana whenua regarding the day; and
 - iii. providing further advice to you on important aspects of the day such as the recurrence of the day and connections to other relevant work.
- d. **discuss** this briefing at your next meeting with Crown Response Joint Ministers.

YES / NO



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

15 / 05 / 2025

/ /

Context on the National Day of Reflection

A National Day of Reflection was proposed as part of the overall response to the Royal Commission's recommendations

4. In October 2024, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee agreed to a National Day of Reflection (NDR) on the first anniversary after the apology (12 November 2025) [SOU-24-MIN-0129 refers]. This decision was in response to Recommendation 71 in the RC's interim redress report, He Purapura Ora, he Māra Tipu.
5. Cabinet agreed on four points relevant to the day, including that:
 - a. the day would not be a public holiday but a call to reflect;
 - b. survivor input into the day would be sought;
 - c. any administrative processes to support the day would be simple and use existing platforms; and
 - d. the Lead Coordination Minister would provide a public update on the progress to responding to the Royal Commission's final report on the anniversary of the national apology.

Announcement of the National Day of Reflection at the National Public Apology

6. On 12 November 2024, during the National Public Apology to survivors, the Prime Minister announced a "National Remembrance Day" on 12 November 2025 to not only mark the one-year anniversary of the apology, but to provide an opportunity to stop and reflect on what survivors have endured and ensure measures are in place to prevent further abuse.

Budget for the National Day of Reflection

7. As part of the Budget 25, the CRO proposed that the underspend on the public apology and immediate actions would be carried forward to the 2025/26 financial year and used to fund the National Day of Reflection. The amount confirmed through the Budget 25 process was \$1.6m, of which \$0.3m was for kaimahi costs. Our planning will assume that all CRO costs will be met within the agreed CRO operating budget. Further funding may be required from within agency budgets if other agencies become involved in the day, this is yet to be determined.

National and international examples of similar events

8. Similar jurisdictions overseas have established annual days of reflection and remembrance. For example, Canada and Australia provide government funding to community groups to celebrate similar days. Examples are included in Appendix 1.
9. Domestically, New Zealand has other remembrance and reflection events supported by government to various degrees. Examples include Māori Language Week, Unity Week, Police

Remembrance Day, Rā Maumahara, Remembrance Day, and more. Examples are also included in Appendix 1.

10. While the topics and purposes of these days are consistent, the approach taken by governments differs. In particular, whether events on the day are government-led or community-/survivor-led, and whether events are government or survivor funded. The overall approach the government wishes to take regarding the NDR is a key decision for the work to progress.

Other events occurring at the proposed date of the National Day of Reflection

11. It should be noted that several other days and events occur at the proposed time for the National Day of Reflection, notably:
 - a. Armistice Day, 11 November;
 - b. World day for the Prevention of Abuse and Violence Against Children, 19 November; and
 - c. White Ribbon Day (for the Elimination of Violence against Women), 25 November.

Lessons learnt from the National Public Apology can be applied to the National Day of Reflection

12. Following the National Apology in 2024, CRO has managed internal and external feedback on the Apology. This feedback has been analysed with the intention of best delivering a National Day of Reflection.
13. Key feedback included the need for more survivor involvement in the day, clearer governance and decision-making structures, clear and stated purpose and outcomes, and early involvement from key stakeholder groups. These insights have formed the basis of CRO's design work to date and of the decisions to be made in this paper.

Purpose and potential outcomes of the National Day of Reflection

14. Drawing together wording from the Royal Commission's redress report He Purapura Ora, he Māra Tipu, the Royal Commission's final report Whanaketia, and appropriate wording for comparable days, it is proposed that the initial purpose statement for the National Day of Reflection is:

"to call the country to reflect on abuse in care, survivors of abuse, and those who have passed away".

15. This purpose statement is accompanied by four outcomes for the day, each based on the recommendations of the Royal Commission and provide direction for the approach and design of the day. These outcomes are:
 - a. survivors of abuse in care are acknowledged and remembered;

- b. awareness is raised about historic abuse in care and the story of care in Aotearoa New Zealand;
- c. awareness is raised about contemporary care in New Zealand and the steps being taken to prevent abuse; and/or
- d. survivors and others who have been, or are currently in care, are informed about progress on the Royal Commission's recommendations.

16. Subject to Ministers' approval, we will begin engaging with survivors and organisations using these statements as starting points for determining the way the day is represented and shaped.

Decisions needed to progress further work on the National Day of Reflection

Overall approach from the Crown regarding the day

17. The primary decision required is how the Government would like to be involved in the National Day of Reflection. We consider that there are four high-level approaches that describe how Government could be involved:

- a. **All of government activities**, such as major events planned and run by Government, or significant regional events led by Government;
- b. **Individual agency activities**, such as apology events, agency reporting against recommendations, or agency specific events aligned to their work areas;
- c. **Government supported events**, such as community-led events funded by Government, allowing survivors to reflect in the way that suits them best; and/or
- d. **Community-led and funded events**, where the Government takes not active role.

18. While all-of -Government events may have the highest impact, they will also be the most complex and costly to administer, including ensuring meaningful survivor involvement.

19. Individual agency activities may be more practical to organise separately but will require an element of coordination and oversight to align, and may also be more challenging to involve survivors in a meaningful way.

20. Community-led and funded events will provide greater opportunity for survivors to shape and influences the events on the day but will be very challenging for survivor groups to deliver without financial support and therefore may not achieve broad nation-wide focus across the proposed outcomes.

21. We propose that, on balance, the approach of Government-supported, community-led events, not unlike the Survivor Support and Recognition Fund (SSRF), accompanied by government activities with a focus on reporting progress.

Government-supported, community-led events

22. This approach would show commitment from the Government to the day and to survivors, while allowing survivors to reflect in the way they see fit. It also aligns to several international models and would involve distributing funding for the project through existing funding administration mechanisms that are already in use for other funds. The option would be funded from within the Budget 25 decisions, as discussed in paragraph 4. Utilising the existing SSRF mechanism, may present an option to streamline the operational effort and also has the advantage of building on the awareness of the fund within the survivor community. This option would require testing with the Department of Internal Affairs who administer the SSRF.

Reporting of progress against the Royal Commission recommendations

23. As agreed, in by Cabinet in November 2024, the Lead Coordination Minister is to use the day to report on progress against the recommendations of the Royal Commission. Design work will consider how this is to occur, including what is to be reported on, in what format this may occur, and the potential role of individual agencies in doing this.

Potential roles for Crown agencies in reflecting

2. Consideration of the role of individual agencies in the day will explore whether agencies will have individual or collective responsibilities for the day and what alignment is appropriate, what role CRO can play in facilitating agency reflection activities, and what support agencies may give outside of reflection events such as publicising the day.

Use of existing administrative processes

3. As agreed by Ministers in November 2024, the day should be supported by existing administrative processes. Design will explore the extent of this, but it is expected to include such processes as those used for survivor engagement, communications and information systems, and potential fund distributions.

Governance of the day going forward

4. We propose the existing CEs group be the main oversight body for this work, with relevant decisions made by Joint Ministers. Both these groups already exist and are familiar with the context, we consider that this will enable clear and timely decisions to progress the work.

Design work will determine key aspects of the day

5. Based on decisions by Joint Ministers on the purpose, outcomes and approach, the next step would be for further work on the design and engagement for the day, including:
 - a. The name and identity for the day;
 - b. How survivors wish to be involved in the day;

- c. How Ministers, agencies, non-state care organisations and mana whenua wish to be involved in the day;
- d. Proposals for events and activities for the day, and how there can be managed within the time and budget available;
- e. Proposals for Ministerial announcements on the day in line with progress on the Crown Response, and including whether Ministers wish to indicate commitment to the recurrence of the day in some way; and
- f. How practical health and wellbeing supports and accessibility requirements for survivors and others are included.

Proactive release - open and transparent government

Appendix A: Examples of similar Days

Remembrance Days –international examples of similar events	
Reason for remembrance	How it is celebrated
 National Sorry Day Remembers and acknowledges the mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people forcibly removed from their families and communities, now known as 'The Stolen Generations'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26 May annually, first held in 1998 • Not an official national holiday • Events organised by communities • Media statement from Politicians • Community organised and funded, no government input
 National Apology Day Commemorates the day that a national apology was given to The Stolen Generations. It is the government's response to one recommendation from the total 54 recommendations included in The Bringing Them Home report.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 February annually, from 2008 • Not an official national holiday • Events organised by communities • Speeches in Parliament by MPs to commemorate the day • Community organised and funded, no government input
 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation Honours the children who never returned home and Survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 September, first held 2013 • Annual official public holiday • Government funding available for communities and organisations running activities • Indigenous-led where possible
 Global World Day for the Prevention of and Healing From Child Sexual Exploitation, Abuse and Violence Affirms need for elimination and prevention of all child sexual exploitation, abuse and violence; promotes the dignity and rights of those who experience child sexual exploitation, abuse and violence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 November, annually, first held 2022 • Not an official national holiday • Led by the United Nations • Events encouraged by resolution
 National Day of Prayer for survivors & victims of abuse Encourages churches to pray and show respect for survivors of abuse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • February, launched in 2017 • Not an official national holiday • Led by various churches • Local community organised

Remembrance Days – National examples of similar events	
Reason for remembrance	How it is celebrated
<p>ANZAC Honours the sacrifices made by New Zealanders in service of their country.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 25 April, annually • Annual official public holiday • Centrally promoted through the Returned and Serviced Association (RSA) • Community organised and funded, no formal government input
<p>Remembrance Day Held on the anniversary of the Armistice that ended the fighting with Germany in WWI as a prelude to peace negotiations. The Armistice began at 11am on 11 November 1918.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 November, annually • Not an official national holiday • Community organised and funded, no formal government input
<p>Māori Language Week Remembers and promotes the use of te reo Māori.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A week in September, annually • Not an official national holiday • Centrally promoted through Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori, The Māori Language Commission • Events organised by communities
<p>Unity Week This is a community led initiative designed to strengthen connections with one another following the Christchurch Mosque attacks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • W/o 15 March annually, first held 2022 • Not an official national holiday • Events organised by communities • Community organised and funded, no government input
<p>Police Remembrance Day Remembers and honours Police in New Zealand, Australia and the Pacific who have passed away in the line of duty in the last 12 months.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29 September annually, the feast day of the Archangel Michael, the Patron Saint of Police • Not an official national holiday • Event organised by the New Zealand Police • The national service is held at The Royal New Zealand Police College with local services held across the country.
<p>Rā Maumahara (New Zealand Wars Remembrance Day) Commemorates the New Zealand Wars. It honours those who made sacrifices in wars and conflicts within Aotearoa New Zealand. The day marks the anniversary of the signing of 'He Whakaputanga o te Rangatiratanga o Niu Tīreni, The Declaration of the Independence of the United Tribes of New Zealand'.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28 October annually • Not an official national holiday • Government funding available for communities and organisations running activities



Interim approach on access to redress for survivors of abuse in state care with convictions for serious violent and sexual offending

Joint Ministers Meeting – Monday 19 May 2025

Proactive release - open and transparent government



Background

- On Monday 5 May 2025, Cabinet agreed to introduce a presumption against making redress payments to new claimants who:
 - make a claim for redress following redress announcements; and
 - have been convicted of a qualifying offence under Schedule 1AB of the Sentencing Act 2002; and
 - were sentenced to five years or more in prison for that offence.
- Immediate decisions are needed to ensure necessary processes are in place to allow redress agencies to continue progressing claims whilst implementation of the presumption is in progress.
- The proposed interim approach to implementation of the presumption has been developed by the Crown Response Office and redress agencies collectively.
- This discussion is to inform a briefing seeking your decisions on the proposed interim approach to implementation of the presumption.

Proactive release - open and transparent government



Two immediate decisions are needed

1. Who will be asked if they have any criminal convictions and to complete a consent form for a Ministry of Justice criminal conviction history check.
2. Confirming who will undergo a criminal conviction history check.

Proactive release - open and transparent government



Decision 1: Who will be asked to complete a criminal conviction history check

Decisions are needed to determine who will be asked if they have any criminal convictions.

Proposed approach: Ask survivors if they have any criminal convictions

If a survivor answers yes, they have a criminal conviction, they will be asked to complete a form declaring the following:

- ***Whether they have been convicted for one or more of the qualifying offences?***
 - The full list or a summary of the qualifying offences under Schedule 1AB of the Sentencing Act 2002 will be provided for survivors' reference.
 - An 'I'm not sure' option will be made available.
- ***Whether they give consent to undergo a criminal conviction history check?***
 - Survivors will be informed that if they do not give consent for a criminal conviction history check, they will not be able to receive a financial payment for redress.
 - Note: Agencies could have the option to complete a check if they hold information that suggests the survivor may have been convicted of a qualifying offence.



Rationale and risks of proposed approach

Rationale:

- This is a trust-based approach, allowing survivors to answer whether they have any criminal conviction. Survivors will be informed of any repercussions of answering dishonestly.
- This is a trauma-informed approach, minimising the number of survivors providing consent will reduce the risk of re-traumatising survivors by reading the list of qualifying offences.
- This approach targets those who will most likely be a serious offender.

Risks:

- There is a risk that survivors do not disclose that they have a criminal conviction, resulting in some serious offenders being missed.

Proactive release - Open and transparent government



Alternative approach: All survivors to complete form and consent to Justice criminal conviction history check

- All survivors will be asked to complete a form indicating whether they have a qualifying criminal conviction and giving consent to undergo a criminal conviction history check.
- This option mitigates the risk of survivors wrongly disclosing whether or not they have a criminal conviction history and/or meet the presumption criteria.

Proactive release - open and transparent government



Decision 2: Completion of criminal conviction history checks

Decisions are needed on when criminal conviction history checks will be completed.

Proposed approach: Only those survivors who have disclosed they do have a qualifying criminal conviction will undergo a check.

- Agencies could have the option to complete a check if they hold information that suggests the survivor may have been convicted of a qualifying offence.
- Those who have disclosed they do have a qualifying conviction and were sentenced to five or more years in prison for that offence, will not be checked. As this will be a declaration made by the survivor, there may not be reason to undergo a check.

Rationale:

- This approach will be cost-effective and lessen the administration needed to complete checks by only checking a particular cohort of survivors.

Risks:

- There is a risk that survivors wrongly disclose whether or not they have a qualifying criminal conviction and meet the presumption criteria, resulting in some serious offenders being missed or survivors being wrongly framed as a serious offender.

Mitigating factor:

- Spot checks could be completed to provide assurance that the risk of missing disclosures is low.



Alternative approach: Criminal conviction history checks are completed for all survivors who provide consent

- This option may mitigate the risk of survivors wrongly disclosing whether or not they have a qualifying criminal conviction and meet the presumption criteria.
- This option will result in additional operational and financial costs for implementation of the interim approach.

Proactive release - open and transparent government



Implementation

- Further work is required to confirm how criminal conviction history checks will be completed and by whom. This includes identifying any costs and operational processes needed associated with implementation of the interim approach.
- In the interim, survivors will be able to apply for claims but assessment of any claims that require a criminal conviction history check would be placed on hold.

Proactive release - open and transparent government



Next steps

- CRO will continue to work with redress agencies to provide you with a briefing seeking your decisions on the proposed interim approach to implementation of the presumption.

Proactive release - open and transparent government