

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

Initial response to the final report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry in the Abuse in Care

Date of issue: 24 September 2024

These documents have been proactively released:

- Initial response to the final report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care, Cabinet Paper;
- SOU-24-MIN-0068, Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee Minute, 26 June 2024; and
- CAB-24-MIN-0234, Cabinet Minute, 1 July 2024

Any information redacted in this document is labelled with the reason for redaction. This may include information that would be redacted if this information was requested under Official Information Act 1982. Where this is the case, the reasons for withholding information are listed below. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Summary of redactions:

- Section 9(2)(f)(iv) – to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials:
 - Parts of paragraphs 8, 19, and 34, 39, 46, 62p – Cabinet Paper – Initial response to the final report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care
 - Part of paragraph 16 – SOU-24-MIN-0068, Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee Minute, 26 June 2024
- Section 9(2)(g)(i) – to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions by or between or to Minister of the Crown or members of an organisation or officers and employees of any public service agency or organisation in the course of their duty:
 - Parts of paragraphs 7 – Cabinet Paper – Initial response to the final report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care
- Section 9(2)h – to maintain legal professional privilege:
 - Paragraph 14 – Cabinet Paper – Initial response to the final report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care
- Not relevant to the work of the Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry
 - Report of the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee: Period Ended 28 June 2024 minutes from Cabinet Minute CAB-24-MIN-0234

Office of the Minister of Internal Affairs

Office of the Minister Responsible for Co-ordinating the Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry

Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee

Initial response to the final report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care

Proposal

- 1 This paper advises Cabinet of the actions to be taken once the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions (the Royal Commission) provides its final report, due by 26 June 2024. It also briefly discusses the likely themes of the final report, identified through the hearings and other evidence provided to the Royal Commission, and the recommendations which were received on 30 May 2024.

Executive summary

- 2 Consistent with its terms of reference, the Royal Commission provided its recommendations to the Minister of Internal Affairs on 30 May and it is required to provide its final report to the Governor-General by 26 June 2024.
- 3 We anticipate the final report will include a wide-ranging account of the history of care in New Zealand across many different care contexts through to the present day. It will likely be highly critical of past care services and systems, and the people who had oversight of them, as well as identifying ongoing issues and concerns within current care settings.
- 4 The Minister of Internal Affairs is responsible for presenting the final report to Parliament as soon as practicable after receiving it. Due to the long Parliamentary recess in July, this is expected to take place the week of 22 July. The report will then become public. We consider that tabling the report while the House is sitting is critical to ensuring the gravitas and importance of the report is acknowledged. At the tabling of the report there will be an opportunity for the Prime Minister or senior Ministers to speak, as well as the leaders or senior MPs of all parties in Parliament.
- 5 We intend to issue a press release after the final report is received by the Governor-General thanking the Royal Commission for their work, providing details for the timing of its presentation to the House, outlining the Crown Response work programme, and announcing that the Prime Minister will be making a public apology to survivors of abuse in care in November.

- 6 Once the report is tabled the role of the Minister of Internal Affairs ceases and responsibility for the co-ordination of the Crown Response sits with the Ministerial Group that was established in April.
- 7 The Crown Response Unit is co-ordinating a cross-agency group to review and analyse the recommendations received on 30 May and to summarise and provide advice on the findings set out in the final report. The Royal Commission has recommended Government publish a response to each of the Inquiry's findings and recommendations, within two and four months respectively. 9(2)(g)(i)
- 8 The Minister Responsible for Co-ordinating the Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry therefore intends to report back to Cabinet 9(2)(f)iv with further proposals on how and when we publicly respond to the findings and recommendations in the final report.

The Royal Commission is required to provide its final report to the Governor-General by 26 June 2024

- 9 The Royal Commission was established on 30 January 2018 to investigate children, young people, and vulnerable adults' experiences of abuse and neglect in State care in New Zealand between the years of 1950-1999. It was then expanded to cover care by Faith-based institutions on 12 November 2018. As allowed by its terms of reference, the Royal Commission has also heard about abuse that has occurred since 2000 and has made some effort to consider current care settings as well.
- 10 As required by its terms of reference, the Royal Commission provided its recommendations to the Minister for Internal Affairs on 30 May 2024. It is required to provide its final report to the Governor-General by 26 June 2024.
- 11 At the time of lodging this paper the Royal Commission had indicated to officials that they intend to deliver their final report to the Governor-General on Tuesday, 25 June.

[Legally privileged] Litigation relating to the Royal Commission's report

- 12 Natural justice processes in relation to any adverse findings contained in the final report will be completed by the Royal Commission before the final report is presented to the Governor-General. Any challenge to the processes adopted by the Royal Commission, or to the content of its report, would normally be by way of judicial review.
- 13 The Christian Congregational of Jehovah's Witnesses (Australasia) Ltd (the Jehovah's Witnesses) have been and continue to be engaged in litigation relating to the Royal Commission and its report. To date, the Courts have dismissed the Jehovah's Witness' judicial review claims and although leave to appeal to the Supreme Court has been sought, this has not yet been granted.

14

9(2)(h)

The final report is expected to provide a historically significant and detailed account of the experiences of thousands of abuse survivors

15 We anticipate the final report will include a wide-ranging account of the history of care in New Zealand across many different care contexts through to the present day. It will likely:

- include detailed stories of horrific abuse in state and faith-based settings, particularly between the 1960s to 1980s, and analysis of significant failures of governance, management and monitoring;
- have an emphasis on Māori, Pacific peoples, and Deaf and disabled people, consistent with their over-representation in care populations; and
- include further case studies into specific institutions (case studies have already been published on Marylands and Lake Alice) and survivor profiles detailing the experiences of individual survivors while in care.

16 We also expect the final report to contain commentary on present-day care settings from 2000 to 2024 and on the implementation of the Royal Commission's 2021 redress report (*He Purapura Ora, he Māra Tipu, from Redress to Puretumu Torowhānui*).

17 The report will be highly critical of past care services and systems, and the people who had oversight of them, as well as identifying ongoing issues and concerns within current care settings. Based on the matters raised in previous reports by the Royal Commission and by survivors and with agencies through the public hearings, we anticipate the following areas will likely be covered and the subject of findings in the final report:

- individual and institutional accountability for abuse in care;
- monitoring and oversight of care settings;
- employment issues such as resourcing, training, vetting and discipline of staff;
- data collection, record-keeping and information sharing;

- Treaty of Waitangi and human rights-related matters, including potential breaches of domestic human rights and international law such as the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; and
 - contracting, and the accountability of government agencies for the actions of contracted 3rd party providers.
- 18 The Royal Commission has recommended that Government should publish a response indicating whether we accept each of the Inquiry's findings in whole or in part, and the reasons for any disagreement, within two months of the report being presented to Parliament. It recommends the same for the recommendations within four months. At this stage and based on advice on the likely breadth and depth of the report, this timeframe is not feasible.
- 19 The Minister Responsible for Co-ordinating the Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry therefore intends to report back to Cabinet 9(2)(f)(iv) with a summary of the key findings and themes in the final report of the Royal Commission and a recommended approach to if and how we publicly respond to the findings and recommendations or otherwise.

Presentation of the report to Parliament and associated communications

- 20 The Minister of Internal Affairs is responsible for presentation of the final report to Parliament as soon as practicable after its receipt. The report will become public when it is presented to the House. This will take place in the next sitting week which is the week of 22 July (pending agreement from the Business Committee for the accompanying debate to also take place the same day as tabling).
- 21 We recognise the importance to survivors of the report being made public in a timely manner while also ensuring the report receives the gravitas and importance it deserves. We consider the appropriate time to table the report is in the first week of the July sitting block.
- 22 This will give survivors certainty about when the report will be made public and enable them to make plans to be present at Parliament on that day should they wish to be. This will also allow additional time for relevant Ministers to be briefed on the contents of the report related to their portfolios and agencies.
- 23 Given the delays that survivors have experienced waiting for the Royal Commission's final report, after the Governor-General has received the final report we intend to issue a joint press release. It will provide details for the timing of the presentation of the report to the House, outline the Crown Response work programme, and announce that the Prime Minister will be making a public apology to survivors of abuse in care later in November.
- 24 The presentation of the report to Parliament will largely follow the same House processes and procedures as with the tabling of the report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Terrorist Attack on Christchurch Mosques on 15 March 2019. This includes the opportunity for the Prime Minister or senior

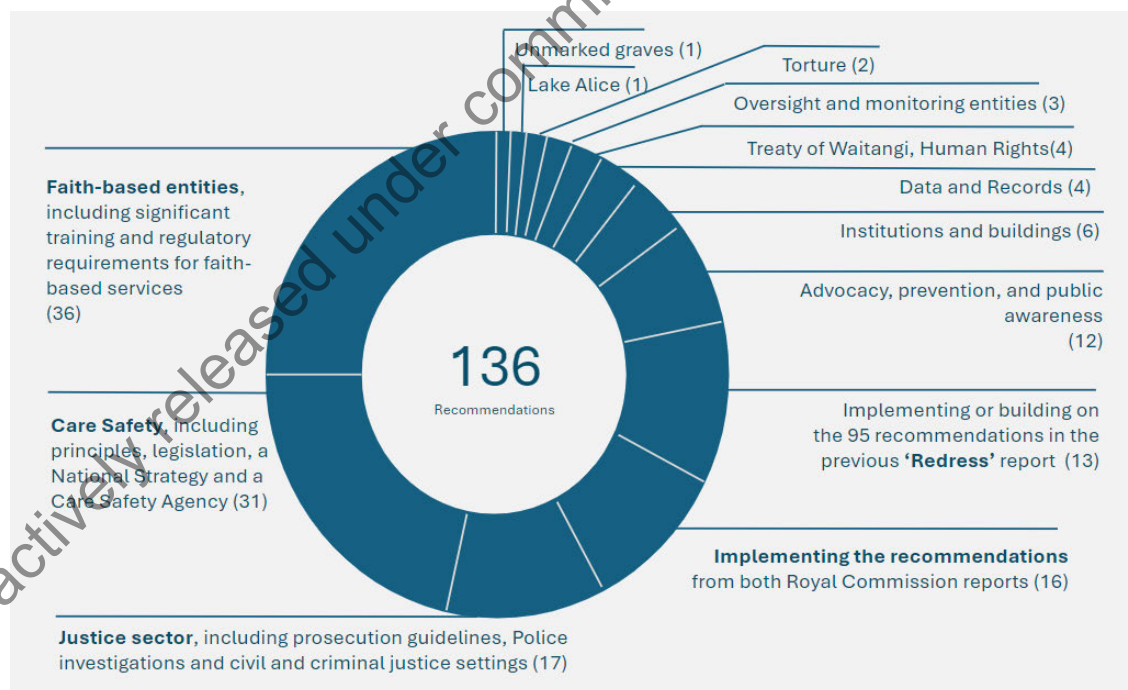
Ministers to speak, as well as the leaders or senior MPs of all parties in Parliament. We are advised by officials that the standard process is for the leaders of opposition political parties to be provided with an embargoed copy of the report prior to its presentation to Parliament, usually on the same day. Given the likely size of the report the Minister of Internal Affairs may provide embargoed copies of the report earlier where appropriate.

- 25 Once the report is tabled the role of the Minister of Internal Affairs ceases and responsibility for the co-ordination of the Crown Response sits with the Ministerial Group that was established in March.
- 26 We propose the following approach to key messages for speeches by members of the coalition Government in the House:
- Acknowledge the significant contribution of nearly 3000 survivors who shared their experiences of abuse and neglect with the Royal Commission over the last five years (noting the focus of the Royal Commission on Māori, Pacific peoples and Deaf and disabled people)
 - Note that these experiences were gathered through private sessions and written accounts, along with witness statements at 14 public hearings held between October 2019 and October 2022. The inquiry was the largest and most complex public inquiry ever held in New Zealand.
 - Personally thank survivors for their bravery and fortitude in sharing their stories of horrific abuse in state and faith-based settings, particularly between the 1960s to 1980s and will acknowledge that since the Commission began, some survivors are no longer with us. [If a speech is delivered in Parliament and survivors are in the gallery, acknowledge their presence and address them directly].
 - Describe the Royal Commission's investigation: why people were taken into care; what abuse happened and why; the effects of abuse; what has been learned; and how things have been and can continue to be done better. This will provide important context as to why the final report (estimated at 10 volumes and over 2000 pages) requires careful consideration.
 - Outline the approach the Government will take to do justice to the report and its content.
 - Formally acknowledge that some survivors of the Lake Alice Psychiatric Hospital Child and Adolescent Unit experienced torture (subject to separate Cabinet decisions)
 - Commit that the Crown Response into Abuse in State Care Ministerial Group will read the report thoroughly, and our expectation is officials will work across government to provide analysis and advice back to Cabinet before decisions can be made. Indicating this is likely to take a couple of months.

- Reiterate the Government's careful consideration of the Royal Commission's December 2021 redress report (*He Purapura Ora, he Māra Tipu, From Redress to Puretumu Torowhānui*).

We have received the final recommendations and there are significant implications from these across multiple portfolio areas

- 27 Ahead of receiving the final report, on 30 May, and as per the requirements in its Terms of Reference, the Royal Commission provided the Minister of Internal Affairs with the recommendations to be included in the final report. These have been distributed by the Minister responsible for co-ordinating the Crown Response to the members of the Ministerial Group as well as the Office of the Prime Minister, and Minister of Finance.
- 28 There are 136 recommendations in total, in addition to the 95 recommendations in the interim redress report. The recommendations are broad-ranging and have a particular emphasis on machinery of government matters, care safety standards, workforce, complaints processes, enforcement and the justice sector. Most of the recommendations are designed to apply across all care settings (state and non-state) rather than being specific to a particular context such as youth justice, disability-related care etc.
- 29 An overview of the range and volume of the recommendations is provided in the figure below.



- 30 The recommendations, if adopted, would have a particular impact on the work of the Ministries of Health, Education, Social Development and Justice, Oranga Tamariki, Whaikaha (the Ministry of Disabled People), Health New Zealand, the New Zealand Police, Crown Law and the Public Service Commission.
- 31 There are also implications, particularly in terms of the analysis of the recommendations, for the Department of Corrections, Archives New Zealand,

Te Arawhiti, Te Puni Kōkiri, the Ministry for Pacific Peoples, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (ACC policy), the Education Review Office and the Independent Children's Monitor.

- 32 These recommendations also carry significant implications for third party providers, faith-based groups, and schools.
- 33 In addition, in response to the Royal Commission's interim report on redress, the previous Government established a Redress Design Group that delivered an additional report on establishing an independent redress system *Pūtahi te mauri, he wai ora e: Connected we find vitality*. This report contains a further 97 recommendations.

The Crown Response Unit and relevant government agencies are working through these recommendations and will report back to Cabinet 9(2)(f)iv for initial decisions

- 34 The Crown Response Unit is co-ordinating an initial cross-agency analysis of these recommendations. This work will be reported back to Cabinet 9(2)(f)iv
- 35 Recommendations are being considered against the following matters:
- An initial assessment of the extent to which they support the prevention, detection and/or response to abuse in care;
 - Significance of level of change, potential timeframe, and a high level indication of potential cost for implementation; and
 - Alignment with the current policy direction or work already underway.
- 36 The Crown Response Unit will undertake engagement with the main faith based institutions to inform this advice. This will be particularly important given many of the recommendations are predicated on the establishment of a common set of standards, processes, enforcement mechanisms, monitoring, information sharing processes etc that sit across both state and non-state agencies.
- 37 From this work it is anticipated that we will be able to identify some recommendations to progress immediately and others we do not wish to progress. However, many recommendations will require further work before we can take final decisions. The recommendations are complex, and do not on their own provide a step by step "blueprint" that can be simply implemented.
- 38 This work will also need to be weighed up against other existing portfolio and Government priorities and we anticipate that Ministers and agencies may need to consider re-prioritisation in some areas to enable this work to progress at pace. Collaboration and commitment across the Crown will be needed to ensure an effective response that delivers further change for survivors and for children, young people and vulnerable adults in care.

- 39 We note that the Royal Commission has recommended that the government should issue formal public responses about whether each recommendation is accepted, accepted in principle, rejected or subject to further consideration. It further recommends that each response should include a plan for how the accepted recommendations will be implemented, the reasons for rejecting any recommendations, and a timeframe for any further consideration required. They also recommend that each response should be published within four months of this report being tabled in the House of Representatives. The 9(2)(f)(iv) report back will provide further advice on how and when we make public statements regarding our response to each of the recommendations.
- 40 The Ministerial Group will also need to consider options for what type of monitoring and reporting regime is warranted for the implementation of the report itself. This will be developed alongside any work programme and tailored to support its implementation. It will also respond to recommendations the Royal Commission makes about implementation.
- 41 Oversight and advice on the work programme, themes and analysis will be sought from the Ministerial group, which includes the Ministers of Health, Education, Social Development and Employment, Justice, Corrections, Police, Māori Development, Māori Crown relations, the Ministers for Children, Youth, Disability Issues, Pacific Peoples, ACC, Mental Health and the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence. Since its establishment the Hon Judith Collins KC, Attorney-General, and Hon Casey Costello, Associate Minister of Health and of Police have also been added to the group.

Previous reports and other work responding to the Royal Commission

- 42 The Royal Commission has already released five interim reports, of which one has included recommendations (the 2021 redress report *He Purapura Ora, he Māra Tipu, from Redress to Puretumu Torowhānui*). There is a significant cross agency programme of work already underway to make improvements to redress systems informed by the findings and recommendations in this report. This includes changes to redress for survivors of abuse in care; additional support for those survivors; and the delivery of a public apology.
- 43 This existing work will continue alongside the work to analyse the final report recommendations, and any new work programmes that may fall from that, and other Cabinet decisions will be sought from that as detailed in [CBC-24-MIN-0050 refers].

Cost-of-living implications

- 44 The proposals in this paper have no cost-of-living implications.

Financial implications

- 45 Because of the complexity of the recommendations and the level of analysis required, there will be cost implications for both the analysis and implementation of the recommendations of the final report. Some analysis will be achievable under agency baselines, but some may require internal reprioritisation. More detail on potential costs is not available until further

analysis of the recommendations can be completed after the final report and its findings have been received.

- 46 The implementation costs will need to be worked through in the development of any work programmes as described in paragraphs 30-33. If there are any new initiatives that fall from this work, costings will be indicated in the Cabinet report-back 9(2)(f)(iv) and detailed for further discussion as part of the usual annual budget process.

Legislative implications

- 47 There are no immediate legislative changes proposed in this paper, but the Royal Commission's recommendations propose specific changes to at least six different pieces of legislation, reviews of two further pieces of legislation, and a review of New Zealand's Human Rights framework (which is largely legislative). Significant further analysis will be required to determine whether these changes should be progressed.
- 48 Decisions will be taken in due course as to whether, when, and how, any work on legislative changes should be progressed.

Impact analysis

- 49 Impact analysis is not required, since there is no proposal to amend, repeal or introduce new legislation at this time. Any future legislative proposals arising from the response to the Royal Commission will be accompanied by impact analysis.

Population implications

- 50 Māori, Pacific, Deaf, and disabled peoples have been over-represented in care, and therefore are over-represented as survivors of abuse in care. Many survivors of abuse in care, experience lifelong socio-economic and health impacts. These in turn have significant impacts on survivors as they become elderly. It is important for the Crown response to consider the specific culture, context, and needs, of these groups.

Human rights

- 51 The proposals in this paper are not inconsistent with the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and Human Rights Act 1993.
- 52 Human rights issues have been raised through the inquiry process, and in the Royal Commission's case studies and interim report, and this is reflected in the recommendations. Therefore, it is likely that the final report will identify potential breaches of human rights in state and faith-based care settings.

Use of external resources

- 53 No external resources have been used in the preparation of the advice in this paper.

Consultation

- 54 This paper was developed by the Crown Response Unit. The following agencies were consulted: the Ministries of Health, Education, Social Development, Justice, Oranga Tamariki, Whaikaha (the Ministry of Disabled People), the New Zealand Police, the Departments of Corrections and Internal Affairs, Archives New Zealand, the Education Review Office, the Public Service Commission, Crown Law, Te Arawhiti, Te Puni Kōkiri and the Ministry for Pacific Peoples.

Communications and publication

- 55 The delivery of the final report to the Governor General is a milestone that will generate significant survivor, media, and public attention. There will be immediate questions around when the report and the recommendations will be publicly available and interest in the Government's response.
- 56 The Royal Commission has already communicated to survivors about the process, noting that it will hand over the report to the Governor General by 26 June and 'soon after' the Government will table it in Parliament, at which time it will enter the public domain.
- 57 After the Governor-General receives the final report we intend to issue a joint press release providing details for the timing of the presentation of the report to the House, outlining the Crown Response work programme, and announce that the Prime Minister will be making a public apology to survivors of abuse in care later in November.

Support for survivors on the release of the report

- 58 There are a number of survivors who have an existing commitment for further wellbeing support for up to three months after the final report is released. These survivors include individuals whose names or stories feature in the report. The Department of Internal Affairs has funding available for this purpose.
- 59 The Survivor Experiences Service can also provide some support for survivors who engage with its processes, noting the service is currently primarily aimed at and only funded for people who did not engage with the Royal Commission. The Survivor Experiences Services will be advised of the date of the release of the final report in advance so they can prepare for a potential increase in survivor accessing their services around that time.
- 60 Claims agencies will also be advised in case the media activity at the time the report is released results in an increase in the number of people filing claims.

Proactive release

- 61 We intend to proactively release this paper with appropriate withholdings under the Official Information Act 1982 as soon as practicable after the Royal Commission's final report has been publicly released. The paper will be published on the Crown Response Unit's website.

Recommendations

62 It is recommended that the Committee:

- a. **note** the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care commenced in 2018 and is due to provide its final report to the Governor General by 26 June 2024;
- b. **note** that the Minister of Internal Affairs received 136 recommendations from the Royal Commission on 30 May, as required by the terms of reference and in advance of receiving the final report in June;
- c. **note** that in addition to these 136 recommendations, the Royal Commission has also re-recommended the 95 recommendations in their earlier interim report on redress, for a total of 231 recommendations;
- d. **note** that the Redress Design Group report *Pūtahi te mauri, he wai ora e: Connected we find vitality* also contains a further 97 recommendations;
- e. **note** that the Minister of Internal Affairs is required to present the final report in Parliament as soon as practicable after it has been received, and at that point it will become public;
- f. **note** that due to the upcoming three week recess the Minister of Internal Affairs expects to present the final report in Parliament the week of 22 July;
- g. **note** that the report will be a broad, detailed and historically significant report describing the abuse of children, young people and vulnerable adults across a wide range of State and non-state care settings, and making recommendations for change that, if work is progressed on them, would impact on many government agencies;
- h. **note** the key messages set out in this paper that we propose to use in responding to the Final Report;
- i. **note** that when the report is presented to the House the involvement of the Minister of Internal Affairs ceases and responsibility for the co-ordinating the Crown's response resides with the Ministerial Group;
- j. **note** that the Ministerial group (including the Ministers of Health, Education, Social Development and Employment, Justice, Corrections, Police, Māori Development, Māori Crown relations, the Ministers for Children, Youth, Disability Issues, Pacific Peoples, ACC, Mental Health, Associate Health and Police, and the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence and the Attorney General), is meeting monthly to oversee and co-ordinate the Crown's response;
- k. **note** that the Crown Response Unit is working with more than 15 other government agencies to ensure the Crown response is coordinated;

- l. **note** that the Crown Response Unit's interagency group will triage the recommendations to identify which ones can be implemented in the short, term, which will require significant further work, which may not be able to be implemented, and which are consistent with work already underway;
- m. **note** that the Royal Commission has recommended that Government should publish their responses to this report and the Inquiry's previous interim reports on whether they accept each of the Inquiry's findings in whole or in part, and the reasons for any disagreement within two months of the report being tabled in the House of Representatives;
- n. **note** that the Royal Commission has also recommended that Government should issue formal public responses about whether each recommendation is accepted, accepted in principle, rejected or subject to further consideration within four months of this report being tabled in the House of Representatives ;
- o. **note** that officials have been notified that the final report is likely to be over 1,000 pages and that given the size, significance, and complexity of the final report and its recommendations, the timeline recommended by the Royal Commission is not feasible and that expectations around the timeframe for Cabinet decision making will need to be carefully managed;
- p. **note** that the Minister Responsible for Co-ordinating the Crown Response will report back to Cabinet 9(2)(f)(iv) with a summary and initial assessment of the key findings, themes and recommendations in the final report and a proposed approach to if and how we publicly accept the findings and recommendations and a work programme for further work on analysis of the recommendations and/or implementation; and
- q. **note** that other work responding to the earlier reports from the Royal Commission including: changes to redress for survivors of abuse in care; additional support for those survivors; and the delivery of a public apology, continues and Cabinet has previously agreed for decisions on those matters to be taken through a series of papers later this year.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Brooke van Velden

Minister of Internal Affairs

Hon Erica Stanford

Minister Responsible for Coordinating the Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry



Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care: Initial Response to the Final Report

Portfolios **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 / Internal Affairs**

On 26 June 2024, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee:

- 1 **noted** that the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions (the Royal Commission) commenced in 2018 and is due to provide its final report (the final report) to the Governor-General by 26 June 2024;
- 2 **noted** that the Minister of Internal Affairs received 136 recommendations from the Royal Commission on 30 May 2024, as required by the terms of reference and in advance of receiving the final report in June 2024;
- 3 **noted** that in addition to these 136 recommendations, the Royal Commission has also re-recommended the 95 recommendations in their earlier interim report on redress, for a total of 231 recommendations;
- 4 **noted** that the Redress Design Group report *Pūtahi te Mauri, He Wai Ora e: Connected We Find Vitality* also contains a further 97 recommendations;
- 5 **noted** that the Minister of Internal Affairs is required to present the final report in Parliament as soon as practicable after it has been received, and at that point it will become public;
- 6 **noted** that, due to the three-week recess in early July 2024, the Minister of Internal Affairs expects to present the final report in Parliament the week of 22 July 2024;
- 7 **noted** that the final report will be a broad, detailed, and historically significant report describing the abuse of children, young people, and vulnerable adults across a wide range of State and non-state care settings, and making recommendations for change that, if work is progressed on them, would impact on many government agencies;
- 8 **noted** the key messages set out in the paper under SOU-24-SUB-0068 that the Minister of Internal Affairs and the Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions propose to use in responding to the final report;

- 9 **noted** that when the report is presented to the House, the involvement of the Minister of Internal Affairs ceases and responsibility for the co-ordinating the Crown's response resides with the Ministerial Group;
- 10 **noted** that the Ministerial group (including the Ministers of Health, Education, Social Development and Employment, Justice, Corrections, Police, Māori Development, Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti, and the Ministers for Children, Youth, Disability Issues, Pacific Peoples, ACC, Mental Health, Associate Health (Hon Casey Costello), Police, the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence, and the Attorney General), is meeting monthly to oversee and co-ordinate the Crown's response;
- 11 **noted** that the Crown Response Unit is working with more than 15 other government agencies to ensure the Crown response is coordinated;
- 12 **noted** that the Crown Response Unit's interagency group will triage the recommendations to identify which ones can be implemented in the short term, which will require significant further work, which may not be able to be implemented, and which are consistent with work already underway;
- 13 **noted** that the Royal Commission has recommended that the Government should publish their responses to the final report and the Inquiry's previous interim reports on whether they accept each of the Inquiry's findings in whole or in part, and the reasons for any disagreement, within two months of the final report being tabled in the House of Representatives;
- 14 **noted** that the Royal Commission has also recommended that the Government should issue formal public responses about whether each recommendation is accepted, accepted in principle, rejected, or subject to further consideration, within four months of the final report being tabled in the House of Representatives;
- 15 **noted** that officials have been notified that the final report is likely to be over 1,000 pages, and that given the size, significance, and complexity of the final report and its recommendations, the timeline recommended by the Royal Commission is not feasible and that expectations around the timeframe for Cabinet decision making will need to be carefully managed;
- 16 **noted** that the Lead Coordination Minister for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions will report back to the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee in 9(2)(f)(iv) with:
- 16.1 a summary and initial assessment of the key findings, themes, and recommendations in the final report;
 - 16.2 a proposed approach to if and how the Government publicly accepts the findings and recommendations;
 - 16.3 a work programme for further work on analysis of the recommendations and/or implementation;

17 **noted that:**

- 17.1 other work responding to the earlier reports from the Royal Commission, including changes to redress for survivors of abuse in care, additional support for those survivors, and the delivery of a public apology, continues;
- 17.2 Cabinet has previously agreed that decisions on those matters be taken through a series of papers later in 2024 [CAB-24-MIN-0019].

Janine Harvey
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Christopher Luxon
Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon David Seymour
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)
Hon Chris Bishop
Hon Brooke van Velden
Hon Dr Shane Reti
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Mark Mitchell
Hon Matt Doocey
Hon Melissa Lee
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Chris Penk

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Officials Committee for SOU



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Report of the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee: Period Ended 28 June 2024

On 1 July 2024, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee for the period ended 28 June 2024:

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| SOU-24-MIN-0068 | Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care: Initial Response to the Final Report
Portfolios: 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 / Internal Affairs | CONFIRMED |
| SOU-24-MIN-0072 | Acknowledgement of Torture at the Lake Alice Psychiatric Hospital Child and Adolescent Unit
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 | CONFIRMED |

Withheld as not part of Crown Response to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care

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Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively released under commitment t