

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

Further Actions to Support the Public Apology to Survivors of Abuse in Care

Date of Issue: 27 November 2024

These documents have been proactively released:

- Cabinet paper – Further Actions to Support the Public Apology to Survivors of Abuse in Care;
- Appendix One: High-level summary of decisions responding to Royal Commission;
- Appendix Two: Royal Commission's recommended tangible actions;
- SOU-24-MIN-0129 Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee Minute of Decision, 23 October 2024; and
- CAB-24-MIN-0412 Cabinet Minute of Decision, 25 October 2024.

Summary of redactions:

- Section 9(2)(f)(iv) to enable the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials:
 - Appendix One: high level summary of decisions responding to Royal Commission; and
- Not relevant to the work of the Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry:
 - CAB-24-MIN-0412 Cabinet Minute of Decision, 25 October 2024.

Social Outcomes Committee

Further actions to support the public apology to survivors of abuse in care

Proposal

- 1 This paper seeks agreement to a set of proposed further actions to accompany or support the Prime Minister's public apology to survivors of abuse in care (survivors) on 12 November 2024.
- 2 This paper is one of a series of decisions that Cabinet has taken, or is expected to consider shortly, on a range of matters in response to the Royal Commission. These are summarised in Annex One.

Relation to government priorities

- 3 This paper progresses the Government's response to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions (the Royal Commission).

Executive Summary

- 4 The Royal Commission recommended in its December 2021 redress report, He Purapura Ora, He Māra Tipu – From Redress to Puretumu Torowhānui, the delivery of a public apology to survivors of abuse in care. It also recommended that the apology be accompanied by actions related to public awareness, remembrance, and memorials. These recommendations were reinforced and expanded upon in its final report that was tabled in Parliament on 24 July 2024.
- 5 In April 2023, the previous Cabinet agreed [CAB-23-MIN-0139 refers] to establish the tagged operating and capital contingency, Abuse in Care – Interim Response: Crown Apology and Accompanying Tangible Actions for Survivors of Abuse in Care, with funding up to \$6.58 million. Following drawdowns by the previous Government I am advised \$3.72 million now remains in the tagged contingency.
- 6 This paper seeks Cabinet agreement to progress the establishment of a survivor-focused fund (the fund) of \$2.00 million using some of this tagged contingency. The fund would have a two-part purpose that supports:
 - 6.1 initiatives by non-governmental organisations providing direct support to survivors, with a focus on survivor-led initiatives; and
 - 6.2 local authorities in their work on caring for or memorialising unmarked graves associated with psychiatric hospitals and psychopaedic sites or other relevant sites.

- 7 The fund would enable survivors to access a more innovative set of supports and services than are currently available, and address the Royal Commission's recommendations to investigate unmarked graves of survivors.
- 8 The establishment of the fund would be included as one of the actions announced in the Prime Minister's apology on 12 November, noting the Royal Commission and survivors have underlined the importance of meaningful actions in ensuring the apology is not considered hollow by survivors.
- 9 If Cabinet agrees, the Crown Response Office¹, in consultation with the Department of Internal Affairs, would complete the detailed design of the fund and seek decisions from the Minister for the Public Service, the Associate Minister of Finance, and the Lead Coordination Minister on the draw down of the funding by December 2024.
- 10 I also seek agreement to a one-off national day of reflection as part of the overall approach to redress for abuse in care and responding to recommendations relating to memorials and awareness of abuse in care. This would take place on 12 November 2025 to mark one year since the national apology. I propose that on that day the Lead Co-ordination be required to provide a report back on progress made in responding to the Royal Commission's final report.

Background

- 11 In its December 2021 interim redress report, He Purapura Ora, He Māra Tipu – From Redress to Puretumu Torowhānui, the Royal Commission recommended a public apology to survivors by the Governor-General, Prime Minister and heads of relevant faith-based institutions and indirect care providers. It also recommended that “acknowledgements and apologies should, where appropriate, be accompanied by tangible demonstrations of goodwill and reconciliation”.
- 12 The Royal Commission's final report, Whanaketia made further recommendations relating to tangible actions. The Royal Commission's recommended actions to accompany the public apology in its redress and final report are in Appendix One.
- 13 In April 2023, the previous Cabinet agreed [CAB-23-MIN-0139 refers] to establish a tagged operating and capital contingency, Abuse in Care – Interim Response: Crown Apology and Accompanying Tangible Actions for Survivors of Abuse in Care of up to \$6.568 million of which I am advised \$3.72 million remains.
- 14 The timing of the public apology was deferred twice due to the Royal Commission being extended to enable it to deliver its final report. On 27 March 2024, Cabinet agreed [SOU-24-MIN-0019 refers] that the public apology be delivered as soon as practicable after the release of the final report.
- 15 The remaining tagged contingency funding will be considered by joint Ministers authorised to draw down funding relating to the public apology, concurrent events, and further actions as required [CAB-23-MIN-0139 refers].

¹ This paper refers to the Crown Response Office which is in the process being established within PSC from the existing Crown Response Unit transitioning from being located in Oranga Tamariki.

Officials have engaged with survivors on actions that could accompany a public apology

- 16 The Crown Response Office has undertaken engagement with 94 survivors on aspects of the public apology and tangible actions across 2022, 2023, and 2024. This included Māori, Pacific, Deaf, disabled and LGBTQIA+ survivors.

Table One: survivor engagement on tangible actions to accompany apology.

Theme	Recommendations from survivors (non-exhaustive)
Support for survivors and their whānau	Initiatives which help survivors in their daily lives, for example scholarships, investing in initiatives which empower survivors, improved access to services, and independent redress.
Survivor leadership	Survivor leadership and participation in decisions which impact their lives and wellbeing.
Systemic change	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improving the outcomes of survivors and children, young people, and adults in care; and Addressing intergenerational issues faced by survivors, their whānau, and communities.
Raising awareness of abuse in care	Opportunities to remember abuse in care for example through memorials, days of remembrance, and initiatives to educate New Zealanders.
Monitoring and accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commitment to implementing and responding to the Royal Commission’s recommendations with yearly reporting on progress; and Changes to ensure harm does not happen to others.

Two recommendations for actions are progressing within existing funding

Recommendation 5 of the final report – removal of memorials to proven perpetrators

- 17 The recommendation for the removal of memorials (including street names, public amenities, and public honours) to proven perpetrators was directed at entities that provide care, or have provided care, directly or indirectly on behalf of the State, faith-based entities, and local authorities.
- 18 To progress this recommendation, I propose the Crown Response Office coordinates with relevant entities to raise awareness of the Royal Commission recommendations and that they consider undertaking a review of memorials within their jurisdictions. If memorials of proven perpetrators were identified, relevant entities would cover any costs associated with renaming/removal. The small amount of resource associated with this time limited work (roughly 0.2 FTE for 12 weeks) would be delivered within existing baselines.

Recommendation 71 of the redress report – memorials for abuse in care

- 19 In 2023, to progress a memorial in response to recommendation 71, previous joint Ministers agreed [CRACI 23/048 refers] to draw down funding in the 2023/24 financial year to develop commemorative pieces (taonga) to symbolise the public apology and memorialise survivors of abuse in care.

- 20 A survivor panel selected two survivors to design and create the pieces which comprises of a sculpture, canvas, and compilation of survivor writings and poetry. These will form part of the survivor voice during the public apology event. The pieces be displayed in Parliament until the end of 2024. The Crown Response Office are currently progressing discussions on a permanent location.

Other actions to accompany the public apology could be supported through the establishment of a survivor-focussed fund

Recommendation 20 of the final report – fund to support community healing and Recommendation 19 of the final report – unmarked graves

- 21 Recommendation 20 of the Royal Commission’s final report recommends that government and faith-based institutions should jointly establish a fund to provide contestable funding for projects that promote effective community healing from the collective impacts of abuse and neglect in care, like those established in Canada and Australia.
- 22 While I appreciate the intent of the recommendation, I think that the recommendation for a fund for projects that “promote effective community healing” is not clearly defined and could result in spending on initiatives that, while well intentioned, cannot demonstrate meaningful impacts or outcomes for survivors of abuse in care. Instead, I think that any fund should have a primary focus of supporting initiatives by non-governmental organisations that have a direct connection to survivors themselves.
- 23 There are existing survivor-led advocacy and peer support networks, examples of these networks, some of which are charitable trusts, include Te Roopu Toiora, New Zealand Collective of Abused in State Care, and Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests. We also know that some survivors continue to have a distrust of the government and are more comfortable accessing local survivor networks rather than approaching agencies and non-survivor focussed non-government organisations. I am also aware many of these organisations and networks find it difficult to access funding for the supports they offer survivors.
- 24 Examples of the kind of supports and services these groups offer include educational workshops, trauma informed wānanga, creative initiatives to promote awareness and prevention of abuse in care, navigation support, and individual and collective advocacy for survivors. Outcomes associated with these initiatives include survivors gaining knowledge and practical tools to support their wellbeing and increased connection to survivor communities, support to navigate or access redress processes and other services, access their care records, or reconnect with family and whānau.
- 25 There are also a large number of unmarked graves associated with psychiatric and psychopaedic sites and other sites that were places of care in Aotearoa New Zealand and are unmarked. There are at least 4,000 unmarked graves in cemeteries in Auckland, Waikato, Nelson, Rangitikei, Horowhenua, Porirua, Otago, Westland and Canterbury Councils are responsible for. There is an opportunity to address recommendation 19 of the final report by supporting local efforts/interest in honouring and respecting unmarked graves.

- 26 I recommend the establishment of the fund with an initial \$2.00 million from the tagged contingency on the basis that it addresses recommendations 19 and 20 and enables access to a more flexible and innovative set of supports and services than are currently available to survivors. The establishment of the fund would be included in the actions announced in the Prime Minister's apology on 12 November.
- 27 The fund's two-part purpose would support:
- 27.1 local authorities including in Auckland, Waikato, Nelson, Rangitikei, Horowhenua, Porirua, Otago, Westland and Canterbury in the work underway, or proposed new projects, to care for or memorialise unmarked graves associated with psychiatric hospitals and psychopaedic sites or other sites that were places of care; and
- 27.2 non-governmental organisations providing direct support to survivors, including survivor led initiatives.
- 28 The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) has indicated it could administer the fund as they are responsible for a large number of community funds and have expertise in this area. Subject to Cabinet agreement, detailed design of the fund could be agreed by joint Ministers in December, and the fund could be operationalised by February 2025.
- 29 DIA has advised the following administrative costs to cover the Fund distribution (estimated to be \$89,000 for 8 months and \$212,900 for two years). Publicity about the fund would be managed through relevant government and stakeholder channels. A panel to make recommendations about applications will also need to be considered. I have directed the Crown Response Office that they would need to operate the panel within existing baselines.
- 30 The Crown Response Office, in consultation with the Department of Internal Affairs, would complete the detailed design and provide a joint briefing to the Minister for the Public Service, and the Associate Minister of Finance for agreement to the detailed design and draw down the funding and enable the fund to open by February 2025. Officials would establish assurances around the assessment, selection, and decision-making process for the fund. Initial engagement with the Social Investment Agency has occurred regarding how the fund could appropriately measure outcomes achieved through the fund.
- 31 I also recommend that the Crown Response Office, in consultation with the Department of Internal Affairs, be required to provide an interim report to the Lead Co-ordination Minister on the initial establishment and utilisation of the fund by 30 May 2025.

National day of reflection on the one year anniversary of the apology

- 32 I also seek agreement to a national day of reflection on the first anniversary after the apology (12 November 2025) as part of the overall approach to responding to recommendations relating to memorials and awareness of abuse in care. I also propose that on that day the Lead Co-ordination Minister be required to provide a public report back on progress made in responding to the Royal Commission's final report.

- 33 The day and requirement on the Lead Co-ordination Minister to publicly report progress would respond to recommendations of the Royal Commission relating to public awareness of abuse in care, memorials and ceremonies to remember survivors, and annual public reporting on the implementation of recommendations.
- 34 Similar domestic days include days such as Police Remembrance Day which is traditionally observed on 29 September for serving and former police officers who died in the preceding 12 months.
- 35 Further work would be within the following parameters and intended outcomes:
- 35.1 it would not be a public holiday but a call to reflect;
 - 35.2 survivor input into the day would be sought;
 - 35.3 any administrative processes to support the day would be simple and use existing platforms.

Financial Implications

- 36 Existing funding of up to \$6.568 million was agreed to deliver a public apology, concurrent events, and accompanying tangible actions as part of Budget 2023. Following a draw down of funding in the 2023/24 financial year, \$5.557 million funding remains available, this includes \$3.727 million available in the capital and operating contingency and an expense transfer of \$1.830 million from the 2023/24 to 2024/25 financial year. This expense transfer was due to the Royal Commission's terms of reference being extended delaying the delivery of its final report which impacted the timing of the public apology.
- 37 Joint Ministers have recently extended the tagged contingency until December 2024 in order to allow the apology to be delivered and decisions taken about related actions.
- 38 There are significant costs associated with the national apology, currently estimated at between \$3.000 to 4.000 million. Some of these costs are associated with decisions taken by the previous Government, particularly the commissioning of a commemorative pieces (taonga) to memorialise survivors of abuse in care and survivor performances to support the public apology.
- 39 Major components of costs are:
- 39.1 reimbursing survivors and their support persons costs to travel to the public apology events including one night of accommodation for those travelling from outside of an event city, food costs, and travel assistance;
 - 39.2 the event at Parliament, which will have survivor involvement, including creative works to memorialise survivors of abuse in care and survivor performances informed by survivors' experiences of abuse in care;
 - 39.3 the concurrent events being held in Wellington (Shed 6), Auckland (Due Drop Events Centre) and Christchurch (Town Hall); and
 - 39.4 staffing and related costs for apology planning and organisation.

- 40 I have made clear to Crown Response officials of the importance of ensuring that the day is meaningful for survivors, their families, and supporters and also meets our expectations of financial prudence.

Legislative Implications

- 41 There are no legislative implications from this paper.

Population Implications

- 42 Māori, Pacific, Deaf, and disabled people have been over-represented in care, and are therefore over-represented as survivors of abuse in care. As a result of impacts of abuse in care, many survivors experience lifelong lower socio-economic status and poor health.
- 43 Engagement with Māori, Pacific, Deaf and disabled survivors, groups and organisations has occurred across 2022, 2023 and 2024 on the public apology and accompanying actions.

Human Rights

- 44 Human rights issues have been raised through the Royal Commission's case studies and reports. The Government has broadly accepted the findings of the Royal Commission, while seeking advice on findings with legal implications.

Use of External Resources

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

Consultation

- 46 This paper was developed by the Crown Response Office. The Departments of Corrections and Internal Affairs, Inland Revenue Department, the Ministries of and for of Business, Innovation and Employment, Education, Health, Justice, Pacific Peoples, Social Development, Women, and the New Zealand Police, Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children, Public Service Commission, Te Puni Kōkiri, and Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People, ACC, and Crown Law Office were consulted. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Treasury were informed.

Communications

- 47 Subject to Cabinet decisions, it is anticipated the Prime Minister will announce the confirmed actions at a high level in the public apology on 12 November 2024.

Proactive Release

- 48 I intend to proactively release this paper following the delivery of the public apology on 12 November, subject to redactions as appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982.

Recommendations

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 recommends that the Committee:

- 1 **note** that in its interim redress report and final report, the Royal Commission recommended:
 - 1.1 funding memorials, ceremonies, and preservation of survivor accounts/oral histories (recommendation 71 redress report);
 - 1.2 reviewing the appropriateness of relevant entities memorials to proven perpetrators (recommendation 5 final report);
 - 1.3 funding project to support unmarked graves (recommendation 72 redress report and recommendation 19 final report);
 - 1.4 raising awareness of abuse in care (recommendation 74 redress report);
 - 1.5 establishing a community healing fund (recommendation 20 final report);
- 2 **note** that in December 2022, the previous Cabinet agreed [SWC-22-MIN-0252 refers] to the delivery of a public apology in August 2023, with the option of concurrent regional events followed by, subject to Budget 2023 funding, a series of tangible actions to support reconciliation between the Crown and survivors;
- 3 **note** that in April 2023 the previous Cabinet agreed [CAB-23-MIN-0139 refers] to establish a tagged operating and capital contingency, Abuse in Care – Interim Response: Crown Apology and Accompanying Tangible Actions for Survivors of Abuse in Care of up to \$6.568 million;
- 4 **note** that following drawdowns by the previous Government \$3.72 million now remains in the tagged contingency and an expense transfer of \$1.830 million to the 2024/25 financial year;
- 5 **note** that the Crown Response Office will coordinate with relevant entities to raise awareness of recommendation 5 in the Royal Commission's final report to review memorials for proven perpetrators and that the relevant entity would cover any costs associated with renaming/removal;
- 6 **note** that in response to the Royal Commission's recommendation 71 to memorialise survivors, previous joint Ministers agreed [CRACI 23/048 refers] to draw down funding in the 2023/24 financial year to develop creative works/taonga;
- 7 **agree** with the intent of the Royal Commission's recommendation 20 from its final report (community healing fund) but with a refocus on the priority being on supports and services for survivors delivered by non-governmental organisations;
- 8 **agree** to progress recommendations 71, 72 and 74 from the Royal Commission's redress report and recommendation 19 of its final report by establishing a survivor-focussed fund which supports:
 - 8.1 initiatives delivered by non-governmental organisations providing direct support to survivors, including survivor-led initiatives; and

- 8.2 local authorities including in Auckland, Waikato, Nelson, Rangitikei, Horowhenua, Porirua, Otago, Westland and Canterbury in the work underway, or proposed new projects, to care for or memorialise unmarked graves associated with psychiatric hospitals and psychopaedic sites or other relevant sites;
- 9 **agree** that \$2.00 million be available for the fund through the Abuse in Care – Interim Response: Crown Apology and Accompanying Tangible Actions for Survivors of Abuse in Care tagged contingency;
- 10 **agree** that the fund would be administered by the Department of Internal Affairs;
- 11 **agree** that the Minister for the Public Service, Associate Minister of Finance, and Lead Co-ordination Minister for the Crown Response draw down funding from the tagged operating and capital contingency, Abuse in Care – Interim Response: Crown Apology and Accompanying Tangible Actions for Survivors of Abuse in Care for the fund once they are satisfied with the detailed design of the fund;
- 12 **note** that the detailed design of the fund would be completed by December 2024 for the fund to open to applications February 2025;
- 13 **note** the estimated cost of the public apology is between \$3 to \$4 million the major components of which are:
- 13.1 reimbursing survivors their support person to travel to the public apology events, which includes travel and reasonable food and accommodation costs;
- 13.2 the public apology event at Parliament and the associated costs of the taonga and survivor performances;
- 13.3 the concurrent events being held in Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch; and
- 13.4 staffing for planning the apology events.
- 14 **note** that some of these costs are associated with decisions taken by the previous Government, particularly the commissioning of a commemorative pieces (taonga) to memorialise survivors of abuse in care and survivor performances to support the public apology.
- 15 **note** that the Lead Co-ordination Minister for the Crown Response has made clear to Crown Response officials of the importance of ensuring that the apology is meaningful for survivors, their families, and supporters while also meeting Cabinet’s expectations of financial prudence.

National day of reflection

- 16 **note** that the Royal Commission has made a number of recommendations relating to public awareness of abuse in care, memorials and ceremonies to remember survivors, and annual public reporting on the implementation of recommendations.
- 17 **agree** to a national day of reflection on 12 November 2025 to mark the year anniversary of the apology;

- 18 **agree** that the Lead Co-ordination Minister for the Crown Response will provide a public update on the anniversary of the national apology of progress responding to the Royal Commission's final report
- 49 **note** that further work on the day would be within the following parameters and intended outcomes:
- 49.1 it would not be a public holiday but a call to reflect;
 - 49.2 survivor input into the day would be sought;
 - 49.3 any administrative processes to support the day would be simple and use existing platforms.

Authorised for lodgement

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

Proactively released under commitment to open government

Appendix One: High level summary of decisions responding to Royal Commission

Decisions related to core objectives for redress design	June 2024
Acknowledgement of torture at the Lake Alice Unit	June 2024
\$20,000 payment for terminally ill survivors of the Lake Alice Unit	August 2024
Establishment of Crown Response Office within PSC and funding for increased capacity and capability	September 2024
Omnibus Bill responding to Royal Commission	September 2024
Broadly accepted findings of Royal Commission	October 2024
Appointment of CE to Crown Response Office	October 2024
Resolving inequities of treatment of legal costs in relation to Lake Alice Unit	October 2024
Additional funding for Ministry of Health for Lake Alice Unit redress for abuse claims	October 2024

s9(2)(f)(iv)

Further decisions related to approach to redress	Expected at CBC 29 October
Agreement to introduce Omnibus Bill	Expected at Cabinet 11 November

Appendix Two: Royal Commission's recommended tangible actions

Recommendation	Description
Memorials and reconciliation (Recommendation 71, redress report)	Acknowledgements and apologies should be accompanied by tangible demonstrations of goodwill and reconciliation, with memorials, ceremonies, archives to preserve survivors' accounts, and removal of memorials to perpetrators.
Review the appropriateness of memorials to proven perpetrators (Recommendation 5, final report)	Entities that provide care, or have provided care, directly or indirectly on behalf of the State and faith-based entities, local authorities and any other relevant entities should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review streets, public amenities, public honours or any memorials named after, depicting, recognising or celebrating a proven perpetrator of abuse and neglect in care and/or an institution where proven abuse and neglect took place; and • consider what steps may be taken to change the memorialisation of proven perpetrators and/or institutions where abuse and neglect took place.
Unmarked graves (Recommendation 72, redress report and recommendation 19, final report)	Government should consider funding a national project to investigate unmarked graves and urupā at the Sites of former psychiatric and psychopaedic hospitals, social welfare institutions, or other relevant sites.
Raising awareness (Recommendation 73, redress report)	Government should actively raise awareness of abuse in care, effects, responses and how to seek help.
Funding ongoing awareness raising actions (Recommendation 74, redress report)	Government should fund ongoing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand-specific research on effects and causes of abuse • social campaigns on abuse in care • events to acknowledge abuse in care.
Community healing fund (Recommendation 20, final report)	The government and faith-based institutions should jointly establish a fund for projects that promote effective community healing from the collective impacts of abuse and neglect in care, like those established in Canada and Australia.

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Cabinet

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.

Report of the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee: Period Ended 25 October 2024

On 29 October 2024, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee for the period ended 25 October 2024:

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

SOU-24-MIN-0129 **Further Actions to Accompany Apology for Abuse in State Care** CONFIRMED
Portfolio: Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions

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

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

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet

Proactively released under commitment to open government



Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee

Minute of Decision

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Further Actions to Accompany Apology for Abuse in State Care

Portfolio **Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions**

On 23 October 2024, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee:

- 1 **noted** that in its interim redress report and final report, the Royal Commission into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions (the Royal Commission) recommended:
 - 1.1 funding memorials, ceremonies, and preservation of survivor accounts/oral histories (recommendation 71 in the redress report);
 - 1.2 reviewing the appropriateness of relevant entities' memorials to proven perpetrators (recommendation 5 in the final report);
 - 1.3 funding a project to support unmarked graves (recommendation 72 in the redress report and recommendation 19 in the final report);
 - 1.4 raising awareness of abuse in care (recommendation 74 in the redress report);
 - 1.5 establishing a community healing fund (recommendation 20 in the final report);
- 2 **noted** that in December 2022, the previous government agreed to the delivery of a public apology in August 2023, with the option of concurrent regional events followed by a series of tangible actions to support reconciliation between the Crown and survivors (subject to Budget 2023 funding) [SWC-22-MIN-0252];
- 3 **noted** that in Budget 2023, the previous government agreed to establish a tagged operating and capital contingency, 'Abuse in Care – Interim Response: Crown Apology and Accompanying Tangible Actions for Survivors of Abuse in Care' (the tagged contingency) of up to \$6.568 million [CAB-23-MIN-0139];
- 4 **noted** that following drawdowns by the previous government, \$3.72 million now remains in the tagged contingency and an expense transfer of \$1.830 million to the 2024/25 financial year;
- 5 **noted** that the Crown Response Office will coordinate with relevant entities to raise awareness of recommendation 5 in the Royal Commission's final report (to review memorials for proven perpetrators), and that the relevant entity would cover any costs associated with renaming/removal;

- 6 **noted** that, in response to the Royal Commission's redress report recommendation 71 (to memorialise survivors) Ministers from the previous government agreed to draw down funding in the 2023/24 financial year to develop creative works/taonga;
- 7 **agreed** with the intent of recommendation 20 from the Royal Commission's final report (community healing fund), but with a refocus on the priority being on supports and services for survivors delivered by non-governmental organisations;
- 8 **agreed** to progress recommendations 71, 72 and 74 from the Royal Commission's redress report and recommendation 19 of its final report by establishing a survivor-focussed fund which supports:
- 8.1 initiatives delivered by non-governmental organisations providing direct support to survivors, including survivor-led initiatives; and
 - 8.2 local authorities including in Auckland, Waikato, Nelson, Rangitikei, Horowhenua, Porirua, Otago, Westland, and Canterbury in the work underway, or proposed new projects, to care for or memorialise unmarked graves associated with psychiatric hospitals and psychopaedic sites or other relevant sites;
- 9 **agreed** that \$2.00 million be available for the fund through the tagged contingency;
- 10 **agreed** that the fund be administered by the Department of Internal Affairs;
- 11 **authorised** the Minister for the Public Service, Associate Minister of Finance (Hon Chris Bishop), 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 (the Minister) to draw down from the tagged contingency for the fund, once the Ministers are satisfied with the detailed design of the fund;
- 12 **noted** that the detailed design of the fund will be completed by December 2024, for the fund to open to applications February 2025;
- 13 **noted** that the estimated cost of the public apology is between \$3 to \$4 million, the major components of which are:
- 13.1 reimbursing survivors and their support person to travel to the public apology events, which includes travel and reasonable food and accommodation costs;
 - 13.2 the public apology event at Parliament and the associated costs of the taonga and survivor performances;
 - 13.3 the concurrent events being held in Auckland, Wellington, and Christchurch; and
 - 13.4 staffing for planning the apology events;
- 14 **noted** that some of these costs are associated with decisions taken by the previous government, particularly the commissioning of commemorative pieces (taonga) to memorialise survivors of abuse in care and survivor performances to support the public apology;
- 15 **noted** that the Minister has made clear to Crown Response officials the importance of ensuring that the apology is meaningful for survivors, their families, and supporters, while also meeting Cabinet's expectations of financial prudence;

National day of reflection

- 16 **noted** that the Royal Commission has made a number of recommendations relating to public awareness of abuse in care, memorials, and ceremonies to remember survivors, and annual public reporting on the implementation of recommendations;
- 17 **agreed** to a national day of reflection on 12 November 2025 to mark the one year anniversary of the apology;
- 18 **agreed** that the Minister will provide a public update on progress responding to the Royal Commission's final report on the anniversary of the national apology;
- 19 **noted** that further work towards a national day of reflection would be within the following parameters and intended outcomes:
- 19.1 it would not be a public holiday but a call to reflect;
- 19.2 survivor input into the day would be sought;
- 19.3 any administrative processes to support the day would be simple and use existing platforms.

Jenny Vickers
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Winston Peters
Hon David Seymour
Hon Nicola Willis (Chair)
Hon Erica Stanford
Hon Paul Goldsmith
Hon Louise Upston
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Matt Doocey
Hon Melissa Lee
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Nicola Grigg

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Office of the Officials Committee for SOU
Office of 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
Office of the Minister for Social Development and Employment