



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
Title of Cabinet paper	Crown Response Annual Report 2024 - 2025	Date to be published	17 December 2025

List of documents that have been proactively released		
Date	Title	Author
22 October 2025	Crown Response Annual Report 2024 - 2025	Crown Response Office
22 October 2025	Crown Response Annual Report 2024 – 2025 SOU-25-MIN-0145	Cabinet Office
24 October 2025	Report of the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee: Period Ended 24 October 2025 CAB-25-MIN-0378	Cabinet Office

Withholding grounds

Documents have been released in full.

Notes

- An associated briefing titled *Crown Response Office Annual report 2024 - 2025* has been proactively released and can be found [here](#).

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

Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee

Crown Response Annual Report 2024 - 2025

Proposal

- 1 This paper provides the inaugural Crown Response's Annual Report 2024-2025 in response to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions.

Relation to government priorities

- 2 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

- 3 In May 2025 Cabinet invited me to report back by 30 October 2025 with the first annual monitoring report on the Crown's Response to the Royal Commission (ECO-25-MIN-0060 refers).
- 4 The inaugural Crown Response Annual Report from July 2024 to 30 June 2025 provides a high-level overview of progress made since the Royal Commission delivered its final report and is a baseline for future updates as the Crown's response continues.

Annual Monitoring Report

- 5 During its tenure the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in State Care released two comprehensive reports *He Purapura Ora, he Māra Tipu* (2021) and *Whanaketia – Through Pain and Trauma, From Darkness to Light* (2024).
- 6 These reports provided a comprehensive account of survivor experiences of abuse and neglect in care. They revealed decades of systemic abuse and neglect of children, young people and adults in State and faith-based care, exposing deep institutional failures. The Royal Commission provided significant recommendations on systemic changes to prevent such harm from recurring.
- 7 In Budget 2025, the Government committed \$774 million to improve the redress system and strengthening the care system. This investment supports a whole-of-government approach and is coordinated by the Crown Response Office across eight agencies. The Government also established the Crown Response Office in September 2024, led by a functional Chief Executive and reporting to the Lead Coordination Minister.

- 8 Budget 2025 funding will enable improvements in safeguarding, workforce capability, mental health and addiction services, and targeted social investment initiatives to prevent entry into care. It also supports enhancements to complaints systems to ensure timely and effective responses.
- 9 The Crown Response Office's Annual Report 2024-2025 is attached (Appendix One). It provides an update on progress implementing the Crown Response Plan and builds off the baseline report dated May 2025 (Appendix Two). It was developed through agencies self-reporting against the Royal Commission's recommendations.
- 10 The key activities covered in the annual report include:
- 10.1 the public apology on 12 November 2024 for abuse and neglect in care;
 - 10.2 a range of initiatives in relation to survivors of torture at the Lake Alice Psychiatric Hospital Child and Adolescent Unit, including the reimbursement of legal fees for round one claimants and the establishment of torture specific redress;
 - 10.3 the establishment of a Child Protection Investigation Unit to identify systemic failures and improve safety within Oranga Tamariki;
 - 10.4 the establishment of a survivor support fund for organisations supporting survivors of abuse in care as well as for local authorities to undertake work connected with unmarked graves;
 - 10.5 funding in Budget 2025 to improve the redress system for abuse in state care, including increasing average payments and top up payments for survivors with previously settled claims; and
 - 10.6 investment in Budget 2025 in multi-year initiatives to prevent, identify, and respond to abuse and neglect in care, including \$70.9 million in time-limited contingency funding to support workforce safety and capability, alongside \$41.251 million for professionalising the workforce in Oranga Tamariki residences.
- 11 Related initiatives from the Ministry for Social Development, Oranga Tamariki, Health New Zealand, the judiciary, Social Workers Registration Board, Archives New Zealand, Citizens Advice Bureau, Survivor Experiences Service and others are also included.

Financial Implications

- 12 Budget 2025 set aside \$70.9 million over four years in tagged contingency funding for the Making the Care System safe – Building a Diverse, Capable and Safe Care Workforce initiative. Care agencies are working together to scope and design workforce safety and capability measures. Initiatives are subject to significant Budget 2025 spending decisions. This includes

publishing additional reporting on departmental webpages and in Annual Reports

Legislative Implications

- 13 The proposals in this paper have no legislative implications.

Population Implications

- 14 Several population groups are over-represented, as both survivors of abuse in care and in the current care system. The Annual Report outlines the progress made in responding to the Royal Commission's recommendations for all survivors, including the population groups identified in the Royal Commission's report.

Human Rights Implications

- 15 None.

Use of External Resources

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

Consultation

- 17 The Crown Response Office worked with the following agencies to develop the Annual Report: Archives New Zealand, the Departments of Corrections and Internal Affairs, Ministries of Business, Innovation and Employment, Education, Health, Justice, Social Development, Oranga Tamariki, Police, Whaikaha and WorkSafe.

Communications

- 18 The annual report will be publicly released on the Crown Response website.

Proactive Release

- 19 The annual report will be proactively published on the Crown Response Office's website.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1 **note** that, in May 2025, I was invited to report back to Cabinet by 30 October 2025 with the first annual monitoring report on the Crown's Response to the Royal Commission into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions (ECO-25-MIN-0060 refers);
- 2 **note** the Annual Report (attached as Appendix One) on the Crown's response to the Royal Commission covering the period from July 2024 to 30 June 2025;

- 3 **note** that the report provides a high-level overview of implementation progress, including redress, survivor engagement, system reform, and workforce development;
- 4 **authorise** 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 to make any minor and technical changes to the annual report, including approving the final formatted design version;
- 5 **note** that future Annual Reports will be tabled in the House of Representatives and will not require Cabinet consideration.

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



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.

Crown Response Annual Report 2024 - 2025

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 22 October 2025, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee:

- 1 **noted** that in May 2025, 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 (the Minister) was invited to report back to Cabinet by 30 October 2025 with the first annual monitoring report on the Crown's Response to the Royal Commission into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions (the Royal Commission) [ECO-25-MIN-0060];
- 2 **noted** the Annual Report (the report), attached to the submission under SOU-25-SUB-0145, on the Crown's response to the Royal Commission covering the period from July 2024 to 30 June 2025;
- 3 **noted** that the report provides a high-level overview of implementation progress, including redress, survivor engagement, system reform, and workforce development;
- 4 **authorised** the Minister to make any minor and technical changes to the report, including approving the final formatted design version;
- 5 **noted** that future annual reports will be tabled in the House of Representatives and will not require Cabinet consideration.

Tom Kelly
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon Louise Upston (Chair)
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Karen Chhour
Hon Scott Simpson

Officials present from:

Officials Committee for SOU
Office of the Prime Minister
Office of Hon Casey Costello



Cabinet

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Report of the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee: Period Ended 24 October 2025

On 28 October 2025, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee for the period ended 24 October 2025:

SOU-25-MIN-0145

Crown Response Annual Report 2024 - 2025

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

Rachel Hayward
Secretary of the Cabinet