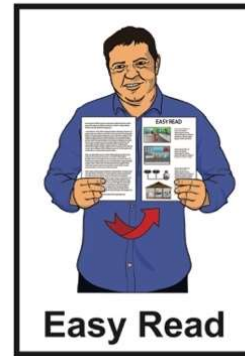




Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government



Cabinet paper summary: Projects for survivors seeking redress – what is happening now

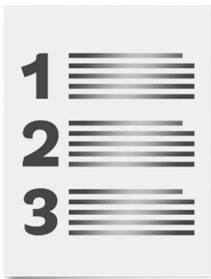


Published: August 2023

What is this document about?



This document is an Easy Read **summary** of a **Cabinet Paper**.



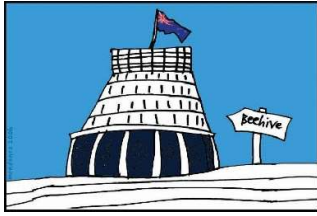
A **summary** is:

- shorter than the full report
- tells you the main ideas.



A **Cabinet Paper** has information in it that **Cabinet** needs to:

- know
- make a decision about.



Cabinet is a group of people called Ministers who work in Government.

These Ministers meet to make important political decisions.



This Cabinet paper is from Chris Hipkins who was the Minister for the Public Service when it was written.



Andrew Little is now the Minister for the Public Service.



The Cabinet Paper is about **immediate** projects for survivors who are seeking **redress**.



Immediate means the projects will happen right away.



We will explain what the word **redress** means on **pages 4 to 7** of this document.



This Easy Read document will tell you what is happening next with the projects.



You can find the full Cabinet Paper at:

<https://bit.ly/3qshlaR>



The full Cabinet Paper is **not** in Easy Read.



You can find more Easy Read information about the Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry at this **website** link:

<https://bit.ly/3qFqU6l>

What is a redress system?



Redress means someone:

- agrees that something bad has happened
- does something to try to:
 - put things right
 - make up for any harm that has been done.

Redress can be things like:

- saying sorry
- giving money as a way of saying sorry
- giving other kinds of support like counselling.

This paper is about people who:

- were **abused** while **living in care**
- and
- are wanting support.



Being **abused** means experiencing things like:

- **physical abuse** such as a person kicking / hitting you
- **sexual abuse** such as a person doing sexual things to you that you do not want them to
- **emotional abuse** such as a person yelling or saying things to you that are not nice
- **neglect** such as a person not giving you the things / care you need.



Living in care means that the **Government** or a **faith-based institution** was in charge of your care / looking after you.



Faith-based institutions are run by religious groups like churches.

Cabinet has already said yes to making a new redress system that is:



- not part of the Government
- is about **survivors**.



In this document we call people who have been though abuse in care **survivors**.



Cabinet has also said yes to some projects to make the way redress happens now better for survivors.

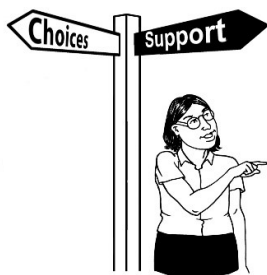


It is important to work out the best way for the new redress system to work.

What is happening now



The Royal Commission says that there needs to be changes to make it better for survivors who are wanting redress.



Cabinet says the Crown Response is to work quickly to make projects to support survivors.



The projects are:

- a listening service
- records improvements
- a public apology
- rapid payments.





These things will happen if Cabinet says yes to the **recommendations** made by the Minister for the Public Service.



Recommendations are things that the Minister for the Public Service tells Cabinet about that he thinks should happen next.

The listening service



The Minister for the Public Service recommends that a listening service is set up for:

- all survivors of State care
- all survivors of non-State care
- whānau / family of survivors.



The listening service will give survivors a way to share their experiences when the Royal Commission into Abuse in Care ends.



This service is meant to support survivors healing after the Royal Commission.



The listening service will be a place where survivors can talk about their experiences in a safe way.



The listening service would use the stories shared with them to teach:

- state agencies about abuse
- care institutions about abuse
- the general public about abuse.



The listening service would not:

- look into anything
- try to work out if what survivors say is true
- make any recommendations about redress
- be in charge of anything.





Te Tari Taiwhenua
Internal Affairs

The listening service should be part of the work done by the Department of Internal Affairs.



The listening service should be managed by an **independent** board that has a strong:

- Māori voice
- survivor voice.



Independent means that the members of the board will not be connected to the government.

Records improvements



Care records are important to survivors.



Care records can answer questions for survivors about:

- why they were in care
- what happened while they were in care.

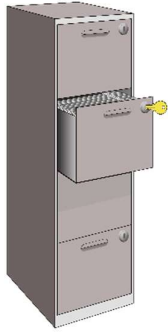


Filling in these gaps can support survivors to find out more about:



- who they are
- where they belong in the world
- information they can use to seek redress.





The Government will make it is easier for survivors to get their care records if they want to.



This includes:



- a website about care records so that survivors and their whānau / family know how they can:

- access / get their care records
- control what happens to their care records.



- a record support service for survivors to:

- request / get their care records
- understand their care records in a safe way.





The Government will also make it easier for survivors to get their care records by having some **records guidance principles**.



Records guidance principles are a set of ideas on how organisations should work with survivors and their whānau / family to:



- create / write care records
- look after care records
- make it easier for survivors to access / get their care records

There will also be some rules about:



- keeping care records
- what to do with care records when they are not needed anymore.



Public apology

A **public apology** is given by the Government.



A public apology:

- means everyone can hear the apology
- is saying sorry for what has happened.



A public apology to survivors will take place in Wellington.



To go with the public apology the Government is looking ways of:

- honouring / showing great respect to survivors
- remembering survivors who have passed.



Rapid payments

Rapid payments are money that is given to survivors quickly.



The Ministry of Social Development began offering rapid payments to survivors who have been waiting the longest.



Rapid payments have been given to survivors who are:

- seventy years old or older
- seriously ill.



You can find more information about rapid payments at:



<https://bit.ly/3Aa3zLz>

Where to find more information



There are Easy Read documents about what the Crown Response Unit is doing.



You can find these Easy Read Documents on the Crown Response Unit **website** at:

<https://bit.ly/3qFqU6l>



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

This information has been written by the New Zealand Government.



Make it Easy
Kia Māmā Mai

It has been translated into Easy Read by the Make it Easy Kia Māmā Mai service of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



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