



Listening, learning, changing
Mā Whakarongo me Ako ka huri te tai
Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry



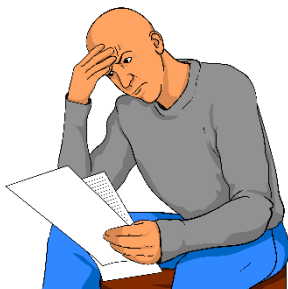
Crown Response Office

Pānui / Newsletter



Published: October 2025

Before you begin



This Easy Read talks about abuse.

This information may upset some people when they are reading it.



This information is not meant to scare anyone.



If you are upset after reading this document you can talk to your:

- whānau / family
- friends.



You can also contact Need to Talk by:

- calling 1737
- texting 1737



It does not cost any money to call / text 1737.



If you do not feel safe call the police on **111**

About this Easy Read



This Easy Read is a
pānui / newsletter from the **Crown
Response Office**.



The **Crown Response Office** is in
charge of the Government **response**
to the Royal Commission of Inquiry
into **Abuse and Neglect** in Care.



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Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry

It is sometimes called the **CRO**.



Here **response** means what the Government is doing because of what the Royal Commission of Inquiry found out about the abuse and neglect of:

- children
- young people
- vulnerable adults.



Abuse and neglect can be things like someone:

- hitting you
- calling you names
- taking your money
- not letting you have the things you need like food.





This pānui / newsletter is about a new:



- **Ministerial Advisory Group** to give the Government advice about the response to abuse in care



- person on the **Survivor Experience Board**.



A Ministerial Advisory Group:

- is made up of people who are not part of the Government
- gives advice to the Government.



The **Survivor Experiences Board**:

- is mostly made up of **survivors** from a lot of different backgrounds
- gives advice to the **Survivor Experiences Service**.

People who have been through abuse in care are called **survivors**.

The **Survivor Experiences Service** supports survivors to:

- talk about what happened when they were in care
- get records / information about their time in care.



You can find more Easy Read
pānui / newsletters from the CRO at
this **website**:

<https://tinyurl.com/25mt2z4n>

People in the Ministerial Advisory Group

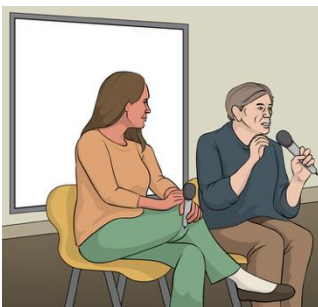
The people in the Ministerial Advisory group are:



- Alana Ruakere
- David Crichton



- Valerie Tan
- Gary Williams
- Paul Gibson



- Helen Leahy
- Frances Tagaloa
- Linda Surtees



Alana Ruakere

Alana Ruakere will be the chair of the Ministerial Advisory Group.



The **chair** is the person who leads meetings of the Ministerial Advisory Group.



Alana is the **Pou Tū Kūrae / Chief Executive** of Tui Ora which is a health service provider for Māori.



A **Pou Tū Kūrae / Chief Executive** is the person in charge of an organisation.



Alana has also been the director of the **Crown Response Unit**.



The **Crown Response Unit** was a group of people who worked for the government to look after:

- contact between the Government and the Royal Commission
- the Government response to what the Royal Commission finds out.



The Crown Response Unit was called the **CRU** for short.



She was in charge of the first part of the Government response to abuse in care.

David Crichton



David Crichton is a survivor.

David told the Royal Commission of Inquiry about his experiences in care.



He was also part of the Redress Advisory Group which worked with the Government to decide how to do **redress** for survivors.



Redress means someone:

- agrees that something bad has happened
- does something to try to put things right.

Valerie Tan



Valerie Tan is a **psychologist**.

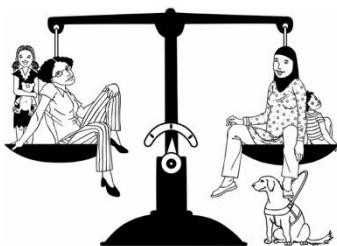
A **psychologist** supports people to deal with:

- their feelings
- things that have happened in their lives.



Valerie knows a lot about:

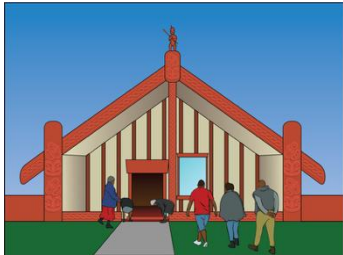
- trauma which is what happens when someone has been through something very bad
- mental health which is how people think / feel in their mind
- equity which is treating people fairly.





Gary Williams

Gary Williams is a tangata whaikaha / Māori disabled survivor.



He is part of the Ngāti Porou iwi.

Gary was part of the **Survivor Advisory Group of Experts**.



The **Survivor Advisory Group of Experts** supported the Royal Commission of Inquiry to find the right way to work with survivors.



The Survivor Advisory Group of Experts is called **SAGE** for short.



Gary is also part of the Survivor Experiences Board.



Gary has been given the **Honours**:

- King's Service Order
- Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit.



Honours are awards the Government gives to people who have done good things for Aotearoa New Zealand.



Paul Gibson

Paul Gibson was the first **Disability Rights Commissioner** in Aotearoa New Zealand.



The **Disability Rights Commissioner** speaks up for the **rights** of disabled people.



Rights are things the law says everyone should:

- have
- be able to do.

Rights are things like:

- speaking your own language
- going to school
- being safe from abuse.



Paul was 1 of the first people to tell the Government they needed an inquiry into abuse in care.



Paul has worked with a lot of human rights groups.



Paul had been given the Honour Queen's Service Order.

Helen Leahy



Helen Leahy leads Ngā Waihua o Paerangi which works to support Māori in the Ruapehu area.



She has worked to make life better for Māori in things like:

- health
- education / schools
- justice / the law.



Frances Tagaloa

Frances Tagaloa is a survivor.



She was the first survivor to talk to the Royal Commission about abuse in the Catholic Church.

Frances was also part of SAGE.



She is 1 of the chairs of the
Survivor Experiences Board.



Frances has been a leader in the
Christian groups:

- Campus Crusade for Christ
- Tandem Ministries.



She has been given the Honour
King's Service Order.



Linda Surtees

Linda Surtees leads **Caring Families
Aotearoa.**



Caring Families Aotearoa gives support to caregivers who are **fostering** children.



Fostering means taking care of children when their parents cannot look after them.



Linda knows a lot about:

- keeping children safe
- supporting children who are going through a hard time.



She has done a lot of work to speak up for children in foster care.

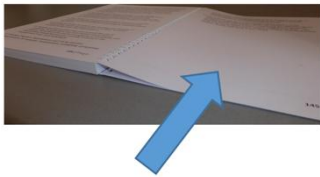


Linda has been given the Honour Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit.

New Survivor Experiences Service Board member



Gary Williams is the new member of the Survivor Experiences Service Board.



You can find more information about Gary on pages **13** to **14** of this Easy Read.

This information has been written by the Crown Response Office.



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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