

New Zealand Government

Cabinet paper:

How the New Zealand government should support the Royal Commission of inquiry into historical abuse in:

- state care
- faith-based institutions.



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What is this booklet about?



This is an **Easy Read** booklet.

It looks at how the government should support the:



Royal Commission of Inquiry into the historical abuse in state care and in the care of faith based institutions.



This means a group of people are looking into the abuse of people who were being cared for by:



- the government
- places run by churches.



The information in this booklet is from a **Cabinet paper** written by the **Minister of State Services**.

The **Minister of State Services** is **Chris Hipkins**.



The Cabinet Paper is for the **Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee**.



A **Cabinet Committee** is a group of New Zealand government ministers.



The Cabinet Committee meets weekly to talk about important things.



Cabinet papers are documents given to Cabinet to read.



The government is sharing this Cabinet paper with anyone who wants to read it.



The government is sharing this Cabinet paper to **show their support for the Royal Commission of Inquiry.**

Warning



There may be some things in this booklet that **upset** you.



If you become upset here are some things you can do to help with this:

- read it a few pages at a time
- have someone read it with you.



If you are worried after reading this document you can talk about it with your:

- family
- friends.



What is a Royal Commission?



A **Royal Commission** is a special group of people who look into things that are:

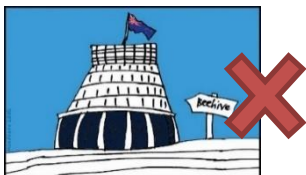


- very important
- might be hard for people to hear about



- can be hard for people to talk about.

A Royal Commission is **not part of**:



- the government



- faith based places like churches.

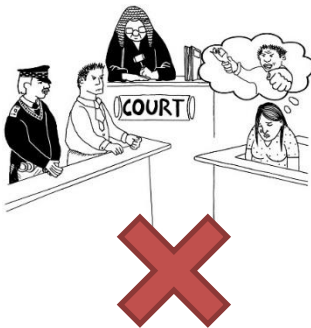


The Royal Commission makes up their own mind about the things they find out.



The Royal Commission finds out about:

- what happened
- why it happened.



A Royal Commission cannot decide legal things like a court can.

Why is there a Royal Commission?



A lot of people are angry about **abuse** that happened to people being cared for by:



- the government



- places run by churches.



Abuse is when people are:

- not been treated well
- hurt by others.





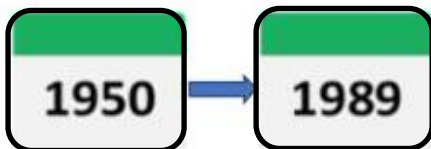
The **abuse** happened to:

- children
- **vulnerable adults.**



A **vulnerable adult** is a person who needed:

- more care than other people
- support to stay safe.

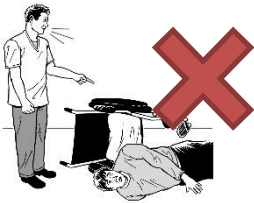


The **abuse** that people are angry about mostly happened from the nineteen fifties to the nineteen eighties.



People are **angry** because they feel little has been done to:

- **talk** about the abuse
- make sure that abuse like this **does not happen again**
- look after the **survivors** of the abuse.



Survivors are people who have had abuse happen to them.

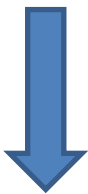
How will the Royal Commission work?



The Royal Commission will run for **4 years.**

This means they will work in the years of:

- 2019
- 2020
- 2021
- 2022.



In those 4 years the Royal Commission will keep telling the government about **what changes are needed.**



The Royal Commission will:

- **listen to:**
 - survivors
 - whānau.
- **ask questions** to find out more about what happened
- look at the things survivors **talk about a lot**
- **talk at meetings** about what they have found out
- look at how to **make things better.**





The Royal Commission write a **report** about all the things they find out.



The report will be done by **January 2023**.

Why does government support the Royal Commission?

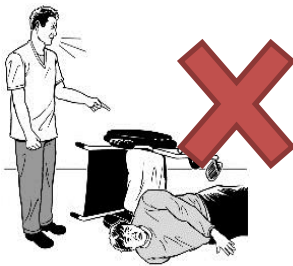


The **New Zealand Prime Minister** Jacinda Ardern said having a Royal Commission will help the government to:

- look at what has happened in the past



- make sure we do not do the same things again.



The government knows the Royal Commission is **very important** because **abuse of people in care is never ok.**



The government will support the **Royal Commission** inquiry by:



- **finding any information** that the Royal Commission asks for



- **answering any questions** that the Royal Commission has.



Different parts of government are **working together** to give the Royal Commission any information they ask for.

Looking after the survivors



The **government** knows it is very important to **look after all the survivors** who are part of the Royal Commission.



Many of the survivors are:



1. Māori people



2. Pacific people



3. disabled people.



Māori were more likely to be in care.



It is possible that half the **survivors** are Māori.



Te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi is important in this Royal Commission Inquiry.

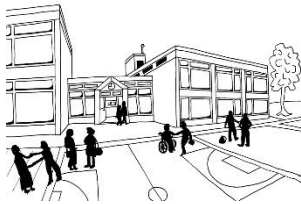


It is important to **work together** with Māori.



The government also knows it is important to understand what was happening to Māori people in places such as:

- health services like hospitals



- education services like schools

- justice services like:



- courts
- youth prisons.



Disabled people have said that they were kept away from their:



- families
- communities.

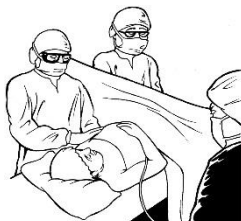


Disabled people said things happened to them like:

- physical abuse



- sexual abuse



- **medical experiments**

Medical experiments were when doctors did things to people that they did not agree to.

Some disabled people have also talked about having **sterilisation** they did not want.



Sterilisation is an operation that stops people from having babies.

Disabled people have also said they were put in **seclusion**.



Seclusion is when a person is put in a room by themselves that they cannot get out of.



Disabled people also told us that **restraint** was used.



Restraint is when people are stopped from moving around.

This may be by someone using:

- their hands
- medicine
- things that stop people moving.





The government wants to make sure that the Royal Commission **does the things that are important to survivors.**



This means **looking after survivors** so that:

- they can tell us about what happened

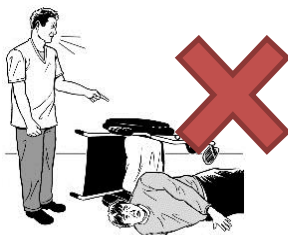


- they feel they have been listened to

- we talk about how the abuse has hurt people



- we have a better disability support system now



- this abuse cannot happen again.



The government also wants to **look after survivors** by making sure that:

- the experiences of Māori are talked about
- the experiences of disabled people are talked about.



How will the government support survivors and the Royal Commission?



The government has **6 principles** it will use when they support:



- the Royal Commission



- survivors.



A **principle** is a rule for how things should be done.

These **principles** are about how the government behaves.



The **6 principles** the government follow are:

1. Looking after people by:



- caring about how they are feeling
- showing them respect.



Respect means showing you care about their feelings.

2. listening carefully to what:



- people say
- ideas people have.



More of the **6 principles** that the government will follow are:

3. we will share information about what is happening with:

- Survivors
- the Royal Commission.



When **sharing information** the government will be **careful** not to share things that people do not want to share.



4. we will learn from

- the Royal Commission
- survivors.





The rest of the **6 principles** that the government will follow are:



5. all parts of government will work together to:

- have better support services
- make sure this abuse does not happen again.
- answer questions and give any information that is asked to the Royal Commission



6. to follow the Treaty of Waitangi by working together with Māori.



The **government** is looking at:

- what principles they are not doing



- **what needs to be done** to start following them.



**This information has been translated into Easy Read by the
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**The ideas in this document are not the ideas of
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