

Crown Response to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care: Overview and upcoming decisions
Office of the Minister Responsible for the Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry

# Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee

This is a summary of a Cabinet paper from the Minister responsible for the Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry (Minister Erica Stanford). The Cabinet paper provides an overview of the Crown Response work programme and Cabinet decisions needed to support the programme. It also seeks Cabinet agreement to establish a joint-Ministerial group to help drive and coordinate the Crown’s response to the Abuse in Care Royal Commission of Inquiry and seeks agreement that planning of a public apology progresses.

You can see the full Cabinet Paper and other alternate formats here:

[Releases of information | Crown response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry (abuseinquiryresponse.govt.nz)](https://www.abuseinquiryresponse.govt.nz/information-releases/)

# Summary

The work on a public apology and accompanying tangible actions, new redress system, and response to the recommendations in the final report will cover a range of Ministerial portfolios. Collaboration and commitment across the Crown will be needed to ensure an effective response which delivers genuine change for survivors and for children, young people and vulnerable adults.

## Public apology

A public apology by the Prime Minister and Governor-General was recommended in the redress report and is a key part of the Crown’s response to the Royal Commission.

I (Minister Erica Stanford) am seeking agreement from Cabinet that the planning for a public apology progresses, with the intention for an apology event after the release of the Royal Commission report.

An apology cannot be delivered until at least three months after the release of the final report. If Cabinet agrees to an extension, the earliest the apology could be delivered would be towards the end of 2024.

## New redress system

The Royal Commission also recommended the establishment of a new redress system to replace existing settlement-based agency claims processes. I have received proposals from a Ministerially-appointed Design Group, comprised primarily of survivors, for the design of a new redress system.

I (Minister Erica Stanford) am currently considering these high-level proposals and intend to return to Cabinet with a series of papers through to August 2024 with options for progressing decisions on the design of a redress system. A staged decision-making approach to redress development will enable Cabinet to make informed choices on complex issues while also recognising that the work needs to continue at pace to help give survivors certainty about future redress.

Establishment of a Ministerial group to help drive the Crown’s response to the Royal Commission

I (Minister Erica Stanford) propose to establish a Ministerial group to help drive and co-ordinate the Crown’s response to the Royal Commission. I (Minister Erica Stanford) propose the group would be chaired by myself as Minister responsible for the Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry and membership would include Ministers whose work relates to the care and redress systems.

# Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. **note** the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care commenced in 2018 and is concluding with the release of its final report, due on 28 March 2024;
2. **note** the Minister of Internal Affairs is seeking Cabinet agreement to the extension of the Royal Commission’s final reporting timeframe to June 2024;
3. **note** that it will be a significant report and will contain details of abuse of children, young people and vulnerable adults across a wide range of State and non-state care settings, as well as recommendations for change that will impact a number of State agencies;
4. **note** I will bring options for Cabinet decisions on the direction of the Crown response to the report following its release;
5. **note** the Royal Commission has released five interim reports, including a report recommending wholesale changes to the way redress is provided to survivors of abuse in care and the delivery of a public apology to abuse survivors;
6. **note** the Crown Response Unit has begun preparation work on a public apology;
7. **agree** for the delivery of the public apology as soon as is practicable after the release of the final report;
8. **note** that, if Cabinet agrees to a public apology later in 2024, I will return to Cabinet for decisions on the content of the apology;
9. **note** I will return to Cabinet for decisions on proposals for a new redress system for survivors through a series of papers through to August 2024;
10. **note** the Crown Response has a significant work programme over 2024 that could benefit from a focused Ministerial group;
11. **note** that membership of the Ministerial group would consist of the Minister of Health and Minister for Pacific Peoples, Minister of Justice, Minister for Social Development and Employment, Minister of Corrections and Minister of Police, Minister for Māori Development, Minister for ACC, Minister for Mental Health and Minister for Youth, Minister for Disability Issues and Minister for Children and Minister for the Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence;
12. **endorse** the establishment of a Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry Ministerial group to assist in overseeing the Crown’s response to the findings and recommendations of the Royal Commission; and
13. **authorise** myself as the Minister responsible for the Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry as Chair of the Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry Ministerial group.

Hon Erica Stanford
**Minister Responsible for the Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry**

End of information | Crown Response to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care: Overview and upcoming decisions

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