

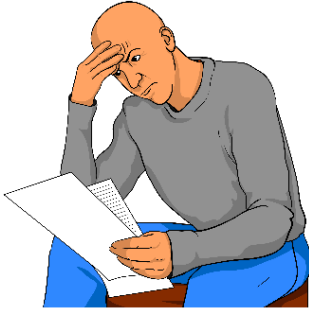


Abuse in care public apology: Survivor statement by Tu Chapman



Published: December 2024

Before you start



This Easy Read document 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 Easy Read document you can talk to your:

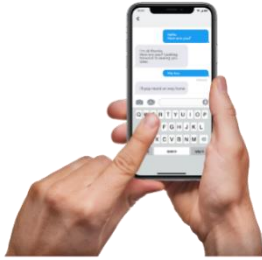


- whānau / family
- friends.



For more support you can contact a helpline called **Safe to talk**.

You can contact Safe to talk by:



Phone: 0800 044 334

Text: 4334



Email: support@safetotalk.nz

Website: www.safetotalk.nz

Safe to talk is open **24 / 7**.



24 / 7 means you can call these helplines any time:

- 24 hours a day which means at any time in the day or night
- 7 days a week.



You can also contact **the Survivor Experiences Service** to share your experiences of abuse in:

- State care
- faith-based care
- other forms of care.



In New Zealand you can:

Phone: 0800 456 090

Text: 8328

Email:

contact@survivorexperiences.govt.nz



It does not cost any money to call / text the Survivor Experiences Service.



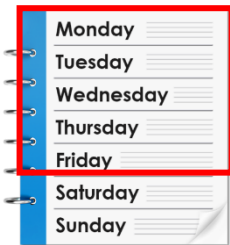
If you are calling from Australia you can **phone**:

1 800 456 032



You can call this number:

- between **8:30 am** and **4:30 pm**
- from **Monday** to **Friday**.



These times are for the New Zealand time zones.



You can also send a **text** to the Survivor Experiences Service on:

+61 438 384 957



It does not cost any money to call / text the Survivor Experiences Service.

About this document



On 12 November 2024 different parts of the Government made a **public apology** to people who had been abused while in:



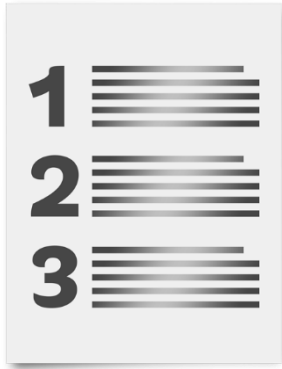
- state / government care
- faith-based care.



A **public apology** is when someone says sorry to a group of people in a way that means everyone can be a part of what is said.



This Easy Read is a **summary** of the statement Tu Chapman made in Parliament before the public apology.



A **summary**:

- is shorter than the original message
- tells you what you need to know.



Tu Chapman is a **survivor**.

Survivors are people who have been through abuse in care.

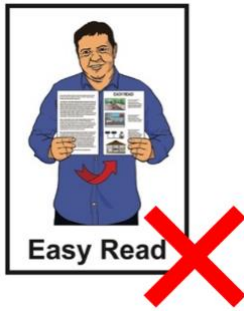


This document includes some **quotes** from Tu Chapman.



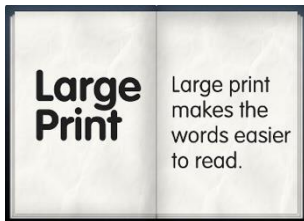
A **quote** is an exact copy in writing of what someone has said.

The quotes are in yellow boxes like this.

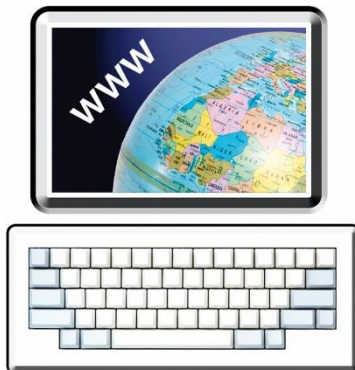


The quotes are **not** in Easy Read.

The full speech by Tu Chapman is in other formats including:



- Braille
- Large Print.



You can find these versions of the full speech at this **website**:

**[abuseinquiryresponse.govt.nz/
for-survivors/public-apology-to-
survivors-of/](http://abuseinquiryresponse.govt.nz/for-survivors/public-apology-to-survivors-of/)**



You can watch a **video** of the speech by Tu Chapman at:

<https://tinyurl.com/3u397he6>

The statement by Tu Chapman



Tu Chapman said:

“Kei aku rangatira, koutou o Te Whare Mōrehu nei rā tō rahi e tū whakahīhī, e tū whakaiti nei, e mōteatea e tangihakū tonu ki ngā pēhitanga kua pā nei ki te tuakiritanga o tō mātou nei āo.



Kei ngā kāwai hekenga koutou ngā morehu – tēnei te reo rāhiri, tēnei te reo aroha tēnei te ira o te tangata hāere ake nei.”



“Five minutes.

That’s what each of us have been given, to speak on behalf of tens of thousands of survivors in response to today’s apologies.”



“Five minutes – for decades of abuse, **neglect** and **torture** – by those running state, church and faith-based organisations.”



Neglect means not giving someone the care they need.



Torture means hurting someone very badly to:

- punish them
- make them do / say something.



“Five minutes is all this **regime** has afforded us to respond – to a Prime Minister’s apology we haven’t even heard yet!”



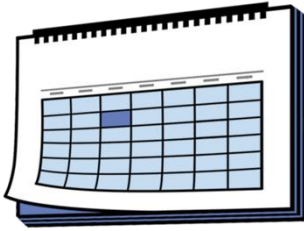
Here **regime** means the Government.



“It is a clear signal of how important the voices of survivors really are to this Government.”



It does not seem like the Government thinks that what survivors have to say is very important.



“We should not be celebrating.

This date and apology has been decades in the making.”

“But Prime Minister – you only confirmed your attendance to listen to us yesterday!

That tells us something.”



The Prime Minister did not say if he would be in parliament to listen to the survivor statements until the day before the apology.



This shows that the Prime Minister might not think being there to listen to the survivor statements is very important.



“So, this is not survivors’ response.

It’s our **challenge**, Prime Minister – as we count down the minutes to your speech.”



Here **challenge** means telling the Government to do better than it has in the past.



“‘Survivor voices’ is how we have been framed in the official programme but right now I feel alone and in utter **despair** at the way in which this Government has undertaken the task of **acknowledging** all survivors.”



Despair means feeling no hope at all.



Acknowledging means saying you:

- know about something
- understand that something is important.



The government has not done a good enough job of acknowledging survivors.



“Once again – like our decades of fight – we are having to **validate** our care experiences and our existence.”



Here **validate** means to prove something is real.



“Prime Minister, since the tabling of **Whanaketia** in July and leading up to today, your Government has continued to divide us survivors by picking and choosing when you want our **insights** and when you don’t.”



Whanaketia is name of the report into abuse in care.



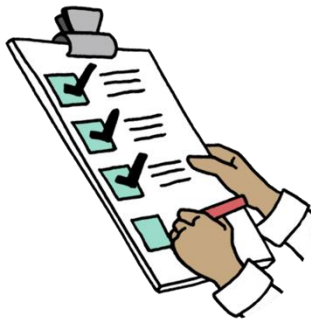
Insight means a clear understanding of something.



“We fear too you will pick and choose **recommendations** from Whanaketia – when Commissioners and survivors are all calling for a full **implementation.**”



A **recommendation** says what could be done to make things better.



Here **implementation** means doing the things that are recommended in Whanakitia.



“Whanaketia clearly and **prominently** tells your Government what you must do.

Without delay.

You owe us, right now.”



Here **prominently** means something stands out as being very important.



We continue living with the **decimation of our identities**, the raping and pillaging of our cultures through incompetent decision making and the intentional moves to invalidate our experiences.



Decimation of our identities

describes the ways survivors have been badly harmed by having their:

- sense of who they are destroyed
- their **culture** stolen from them.



Culture is a way of:

- thinking that a group shares
- doing things as a group.

The Government has:

- made very bad decisions
- not listened to survivors.

“The clear and utter **destruction** of lives cannot be **down played** nor can it be **swept under the carpet**, as the state, churches and faith-based organisations have done for decades.”

Destruction means damaging something so badly it cannot be fixed.



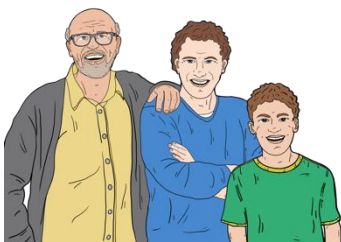
Down play means making something seem less important than it is.



Sweeping things under the carpet means hiding things you do not want other people to know about.



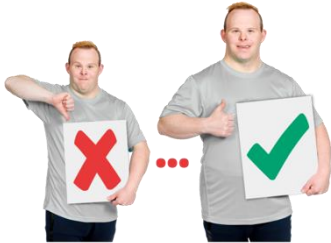
“You’ve caused significant **intergenerational trauma** and suffering, that continues to happen today.”



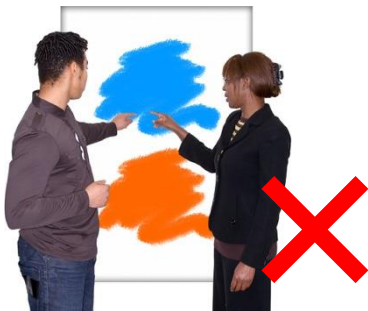
Intergenerational trauma means that some of the bad things that happened to survivors because of abuse get passed down to their families.



“We are done with you wasting our time tinkering around with policy, hui after hui, and cabinet papers that are not **transformative**.”



If something is **transformative** it makes a really big change.



“We did not have the luxury of having to think it through, we didn’t have an option to have hui about it, for the sexual, physical, emotional, psychological and spiritual abuses we have and continue to suffer.”



Survivors did not get a choice about the abuse that happened to them.



“Prime Minister, in July you said “when you try to speak up those same people **turned a blind eye**, they covered it up, and they **prevented** you from **seeking justice** for far too long” but we are still speaking up, yet we are still waiting.”



Turned a blind eye means pretended not to know about something.



Prevented means stopped.

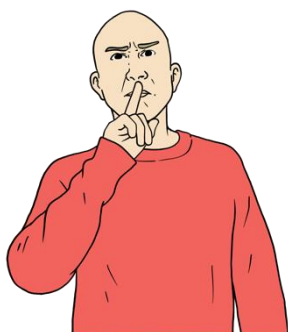


Here **seeking justice** means telling people / organisations to put things right.

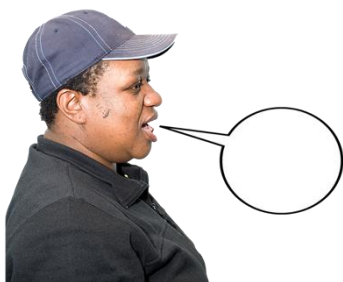


“Don’t repeat those same **grave** mistakes Prime Minister.”

Here **grave** means something is very bad.



“We are done with your ivory tower mentality.”



Survivors are sick of you talking about abuse in care when you do not understand what it is like to be abused.



“No **compassion**, no care, no thought for the impact on us. Kā tangihakū tonu mātou.”



Compassion means caring about other people.



“Do not play politics with our lives.”

Do not use our experiences to make yourself look good.

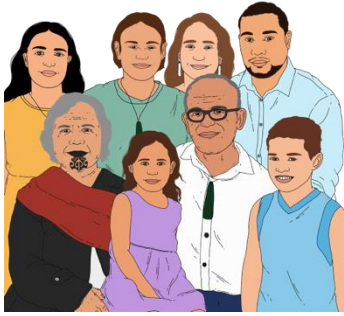


“Prime Minister, in July, you also said ‘The state is now standing here beside you, **accountable** and ready to take action’”



Here **accountable** means:

- owning up to what you have done
- being ready to make things right.



“What is the action?

Stop the tinkering.

Trust us.

Trust our whānau and communities.”

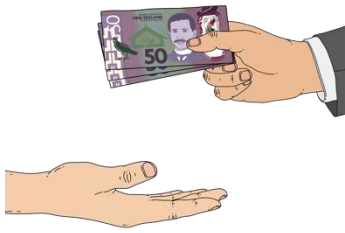
You want the **economy** and society to grow?

Grow us.

Help us thrive.

Give us what we need, so we can **contribute**.

We have the answers”



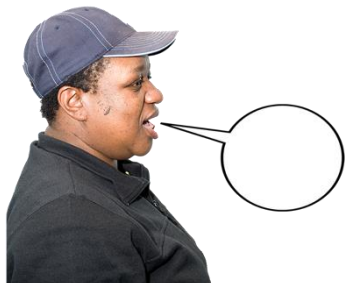
The **economy** is all the ways people:

- make money
- spend money.



Here **contribute** means take part in the community.

“Prime Minister – **put your money where your mouth is.**”



Put your money where your mouth is means do the things you are talking about.



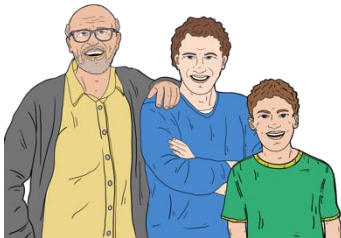
“E te kawana!

Whakamutua ēnei mahi tūkino.

Stop continuing to abuse us.”



To our future **mokopuna**, may you never have to suffer the pain and trauma we have had to **endure** for decades.”



Mokopuna means:

- grandchildren
- the people who will come after us.



Here **endure** means cope with something for a long time.



No reira, kua huri te tai, kei konei
mātou e whakakanohi i te kaupapa
mō ake tonu atu, he kura manene,
he kura tangata, he kura mōrehu
– e rongō whakairihia ki runga,
turuturu o whiti whakamaua kia tina.
Hui e tāiki e.



Make it Easy
Kia Māmā Mai



This information has been written by
Tu Chapman.

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

People First NZ
Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi



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