

Pānui

Newsletter April 2019

Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse

Commissioners began their work at the start of this year and are now planning how the Inquiry will run. Careful planning is needed to make sure survivors and their information are safe for the duration of the Inquiry. To make well informed findings and recommendations Commissioners need to get the very best information.

How will that happen?

- People who want to share their experiences can do so in a number of ways:
- Giving accounts in private sessions.
- Written statements
- Public hearings – giving evidence under oath
- At round table sessions, where groups of people can share their experiences in an informal setting.

How can you participate?

We will soon inform people how they can participate on our website and Facebook.

Conflict of interest

As you may have heard, a new Conflict of Interest Policy is on our website. Commissioners will soon publish their conflicts of interest. Following that we will release a conflict management plan put together by Commissioners to address any perceived, potential or actual conflicts of interest they may have.

Faith-based answers

Following months of discussion with key parties last year, Sir Anand pushed for the Inquiry to include faith-based care. This was accepted by the Government when the final Terms of Reference were announced.

A number of faith-based survivors asked how the Terms of Reference would apply to their particular circumstance. Commissioners have clarified the Inquiry will cover:

- A person abused by a priest/clergy in a church setting.
- A person abused by a priest/clergy while away on a trip (an 'errand', a day trip or overnight trip, for example).
- A person abused by a priest/clergy while paying a visit to them in their home

Documents can't be destroyed

We asked the Chief Archivist to issue a disposal moratorium and this is now in place. Government agencies have now all been told they can't destroy information that may be relevant to the Inquiry. The Royal Commission expects all organisations and faith based groups to supply documents when asked, or explain publicly why they can't.

49 applications for Survivor Advisory Group

There's been lots of interest in our Survivor Advisory Group with 49 people putting their hands up. Commissioners are reviewing the applications and will make an announcement shortly. The first meeting of the group is expected to be in May

Easy to read Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference describe what the Commission can look into and how it will carry out its work. There is now a plain English, two page version of the Terms of Reference on the Inquiry website. This document is being translated into 7 different languages, EasyRead and i-sign.

Thanks for the feedback

THANKS to 50+ survivors and advocates who recently met with Commissioners. Survivors gave us an understanding of what they want from the Inquiry and how they would like it to run. We will continue discussion throughout the Inquiry with survivors.

Contact us

If survivors wish to share their experiences with Commissioners we encourage them to register at:

www.abuseinstatecare.royalcommission.govt.nz

or call 0800 222 727