

Pānui Newsletter

December 2018

Looking forward

E ngā mātāwaka o te motu, ténā tātou katoa.

In New Zealand at this time of the year, we often take time to reflect on the year's achievements, recall those who have passed and relax with our whanau and friends.

For the Royal Commission the last few weeks have been busy with the Terms of Reference confirmed, and the Government appointing Sandra Alofivae, Andrew Erueti, Paul Gibson and Coral Shaw to join Chair, Sir Anand Satyanand, as Commissioners.

The Terms of Reference extend the scope to Faith-based Institutions as well as State Care. They now acknowledge the Treaty of Waitangi and provide flexibility with timeframes, both of which were asked for by the many people and organisations who made submissions to the Chair.

The new Commissioners bring varied skills and experience to the work ahead.

We have spent recent days in an intensive orientation programme, mapping out the challenges we will face and developing a work plan and processes to deal with conflicts of interest.

We will need courage to face the work ahead, just as survivors will need courage to share their accounts with us.

Our work will begin in the New Year and we hope this will begin the process of healing for survivors.

The result will be real change effected for young people and vulnerable adults in the future.

We wish you and your families,

Ngä mihi matakui o te wä!

Commissioners

Andrew

"Something that is going to be hard for us to come to grips with, is to believe that there was this environment of deep institutionalised discrimination, neglect and the marginalisation of people who were forgotten about."

Coral

"There's a difference between knowing and acknowledging what happened. You can know what happened but not feel it. New Zealanders have to acknowledge what went on was not right, it caused harm and it's not something we want in our society."

Sandra

"At what point do we as a nation say enough is enough? This is not who we are on the global world map. Let us not be afraid to stand tall, and stand differently, as a nation."

Paul

"This is New Zealand's biggest human rights disaster. There are system processes that ignore the needs of the most vulnerable. I want to make sure those people have a voice and their stories are heard."

Frequently asked questions

When will the Inquiry start?

The Inquiry will start in 2019. Early next year we will contact those who have pre-registered to let them know how they can be involved. We will also widely

publicise the Inquiry so many people will have the opportunity to participate.

What abuse is in scope?

Our Commissioners and Legal Counsel need to work through the Terms of Reference to work out what abuse is in scope. Once we know what is in scope we will let you know.

How can I be involved?

There will be a number of different ways that survivors can contribute to the Inquiry including participating in public hearings and sharing their account with Commissioners in a private setting.

What support is there?

The Government has set aside \$15 million to support the survivors who come forward to share their story. When we begin the Inquiry process we will wrap support around survivors as they prepare to share their account.

Can I get compensation?

The Royal Commission cannot order compensation to be paid. We can review the current compensation and redress schemes operating and make

recommendations to the Government on changes that need to be made.

Can you prosecute my abusers?

No. The Royal Commission cannot press criminal charges against individuals or organisations. We can connect you to the appropriate Police team to investigate the abuse.

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Help

If any of this content has raised difficult emotional issues for you, and you would like to talk to a support person, there is a list of free telephone helplines or services on our webpage under HELP.

<http://www.abuseinstatecare.royalcommission.govt.nz/>