



Abuse in Care

Royal Commission of Inquiry

Welcome to the March 2021 edition of Pānui. Every two months the Royal Commission will bring you a survivor focused edition with news and information that affects you and your potential involvement with the Inquiry.

On alternate months there will be another newsletter for survivors and other stakeholders with more general information.

Please note: The Royal Commission must comply with COVID-19 requirements. If hearings need to go ahead with restrictions, e.g. social distancing, or if they are unable to go ahead, we will let you know about this. Information about how hearings will run under COVID-19 alert levels is provided below.

Faith-based Redress hearing – 15 to 29 March in Auckland

15 March is the start date for the second Faith-based Redress hearing taking place in our Auckland office. The hearing will go ahead either at Level 1 or Level 2. Planning is underway for either of these possibilities.

- Under **Level 1** the public can attend and hygiene protocols will be in place. Further information is outlined below. (Please note there are still health and safety guidelines, not related to COVID that might limit numbers of people attending).
- Under **Level 2** the hearing will go ahead and due to social distancing guidelines members of the public cannot attend.

While Auckland is *currently* in Level 2, the Government has signalled a move to Level 1 from this weekend, as long as there are no further community clusters. This decision will be made on Friday. Please check our website www.abuseincare.org.nz or our [Facebook page](#) on Friday afternoon for the latest information.

The focus of this hearing will be evidence on redress processes from witnesses called on behalf of the Catholic Church in Aotearoa New Zealand, Anglican Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and the Salvation Army. Survivors will *not* give evidence at this hearing – as survivor evidence was the focus of the first faith-based hearing late last year. There is more information about the hearing [here](#).

The hearing will be live streamed on our website: www.abuseincare.org.nz and witness statements will be available after witnesses appear. Generally, transcripts and videos of witness evidence will be published on our website within a few days of witnesses appearing.

More information about the scope of this hearing is [here](#).

We appreciate the content of the hearing might be confronting. If you need support, please call our Contact Centre on **0800 222 727 (weekdays 8am-6pm NZT)** who can direct you to wellbeing support if needed.

How to access the Live Stream from 15 March on our website:

1. Go to the Royal Commission website home page: www.abuseincare.org.nz
2. Scroll to Faith-based Redress Phase 2 Hearing
3. Click on [Learn more](#) button. This will take you the Live Stream of the hearing.

Further down on this page is the summary of witnesses for this hearing. After they have given their evidence at the hearing, the witness' evidence: transcripts, videos and statements, will be published on the website and you will find that by clicking on their name in the summary of witnesses.

COVID-19 Alert levels for hearings

We are closely following the situation with alert levels with the Faith-based Redress public hearing (phase two) due to start on 15 March in Auckland, and we will follow the government's COVID-19 requirements so that attendees and our staff are safe. This is how hearings will run at different alert levels:

COVID-19 ALERT LEVEL 1

- No limitations on attendees
- All attendees need to sign in by COVID-19 Tracer QR Code or register
- Health & Safety Officer will clean in the breaks and at lunch time and assist with physical distancing protocols
- Hygiene protocols in place, e.g. hand sanitiser. Masks and gloves will be available.

COVID-19 ALERT LEVEL 2 Hearing can go ahead with the following restrictions:

- No public attendance
- Limited number of invitees/core participants/stakeholders can attend

- Limited attendance by media
- All attendees need to sign in by COVID-19 Tracer QR Code or register and complete a temperature check
- Hygiene and social distancing protocols apply. Masks and gloves will be available.
- Health & Safety Officer will clean in the breaks and at lunch time and assist with physical distancing protocols.

COVID-19 ALERT LEVEL 3 No hearing

Hearing dates confirmed up until early 2022

Here are the recently confirmed dates for further public hearings:

Name of hearing	Dates	Location
Redress	15 to 29 March (Reserve day 30 March)	Auckland
State children’s Residential Care	3 to 10 May (Reserve day 11 May)	Auckland
Abuse in State Psychiatric Care (Lake Alice Case study)	14 to 25 June	Auckland
Pacific people’s experiences of abuse in care	19 to 30 July	To be confirmed
Māori experiences of abuse in care	6 to 17 September	To be confirmed
Catholic Church – the St John of God/Marylands School case study	11 to 22 October	To be confirmed
State and faith-based disability care settings	22 November to 3 December	Auckland

The Pacific and Māori hearings will address themes arising from both state and faith abuse.

Taking part

Most survivors and others who wish to participate in the Inquiry will choose to share their experiences and views about how things should change by providing a formal witness statement or written account, or by attending a private session.

Some will also want to participate as a witness in one of the public hearings that will be held over the course of the Inquiry.

It will **not** be possible for the thousands of survivors and other witnesses who contact the Royal Commission over the next few years to be witnesses at public hearings. To participate, a witness must first give a formal witness statement. Then, the Inquiry will ask some of the witnesses who have given a witness statement to also give their evidence about their experiences to the Commissioners in a public hearing. If you have any questions about this to get in touch with our Contact Centre on **0800 222 727 (weekdays 8am-6pm NZT)**.

Get in touch

Call us on 0800 222 727 between 8.00am and 6pm (NZT) weekdays

Call from Australia on 1800 875 745

Email us at contact@abuseincare.org.nz

Write to us at PO Box 10071, The Terrace, Wellington 6143

Visit our website www.abuseincare.org.nz

