



**Abuse in Care**  
Royal Commission of Inquiry

# **Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care**



## **Information Booklet**

**Published in Easy Read:  
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## Before you read this booklet



This is an Easy Read information booklet about the **Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care.**



In this Easy Read information booklet we will call the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care the **Commission.**



Some of the information in this document may upset people when they are reading it.



This information is not meant to scare or upset anyone.



If you do not feel safe right now call the Police on **111**.



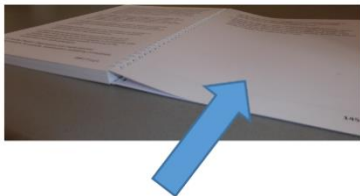
If you are worried or concerned after reading this document you can talk about it with:



- your family / friends
- your support workers.



If you are still worried you can also talk to someone at the Commission:



You can find the **contact details** for the Commission on **page 27** of this booklet.

# What you will find in here

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# What is the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care?

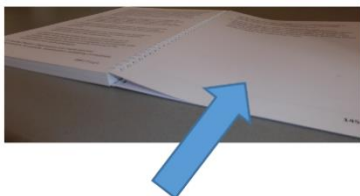


The **Commission** is looking into **abuse** that happened to people in **care**.



**Abuse** is when people are:

- not looked after properly
- hurt
- treated badly.

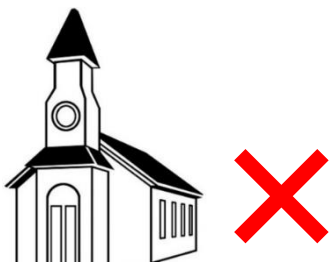


You can find more information about the different types of abuse on **pages 12 to 14**.

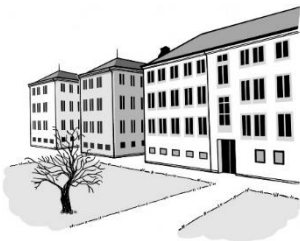
The Commission is not part of the Government.



The Government cannot tell the Commission what to do.



The Commission is not part of any faith-based organisations like churches.



Being **in care** means that the government or a **faith-based institution** was in charge of your care.



A **faith-based institution** is run by religious groups like churches.

Faith-based institutions provide care.



The Commission calls people who have been through abuse in care **survivors**.



The Commission has been set up because survivors and advocates have been asking for an inquiry into the abuse that has happened in New Zealand to:



- children



- young people



- **vulnerable adults.**



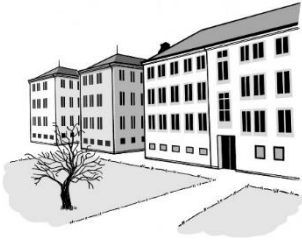


A **vulnerable adult** is someone who is 18 years and older.

**Vulnerable** is a word that can mean some people need support because of:

- the things that happened in their life
- their disability
- their mental health needs.

The Commission wants to hear from survivors about:



- how people found themselves being in care



- what abuse has happened
- why the abuse happened



- how has the abuse changed things for people that were abused



- how the abuse affected people's family / whānau



- what changes have been made to make things better
- what more can be done to stop abuse.

## What will the Commission do with the information that people tell them?



The Commission is getting information about what:

- people say about what happened to them in care



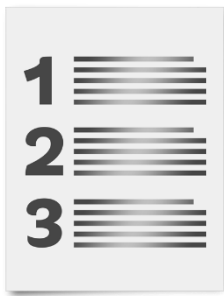
- they find out from looking at documents from the past.



The information will be used to make **recommendations** so that people are no longer abused in care:



- today
- into the years ahead.



**Recommendations** are the things that need to happen to stop people from being abused.

## What are the kinds of abuse I can tell the Commission about?



You and / or your family member can tell us about abuse.

Abuse can be:



- **physical abuse** – when a person or people kick or hit you



- **emotional abuse** – when a person or people yell or say things that are not nice about you



- **psychological abuse** – when a person or people threaten you or stop you from seeing other people.

Abuse can also be:



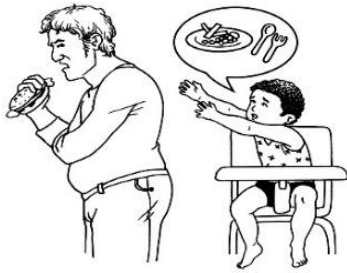
- **sexual abuse** – when a person or people do sexual things to you that you do **not** want them to.



Sexual abuse can be:

- touching your body or private parts
- kissing you
- making you have sex with them – this is called rape.





Abuse can also be:

- **Neglect**– when a person or people do not give you the things or care they need.

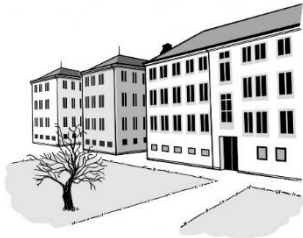


Neglect can also be:

- not being able to be part of your culture
- not getting an education like going to school or learning
- not being able to practice your spiritual beliefs
- not being given your medication or having your health care needs meet.



## What are the places that I can tell the Commission about where abuse happened?



The abuse may have happened in:

- an institution



- disability services

- respite care



- mental health care or psychiatric care

- children's services like:

- children's home

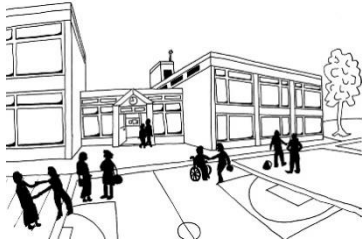
- foster care



- adoption services.







The abuse may have also happened in:

- any school or early childhood centre including boarding school



- a youth justice services like:

- youth justice facility



- a health camp

- in police cells

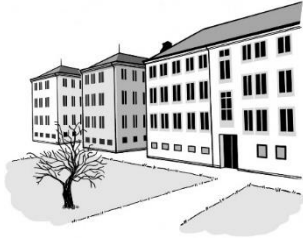


- court cells

- police custody.



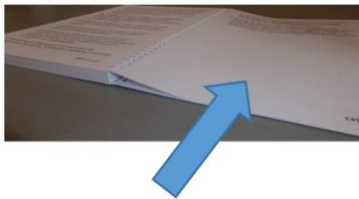
The abuse may have also happened by someone from a religious group or faith like a church or a church group.



There are many places and institutions that are State or faith-based care that are not listed above.



If you are unsure about what happened to you happened in State or faith-based care you can talk to someone at the Commission about this.



You can find the contact details for the Commission on **page 26** of this booklet.

## What are the different ways that I can tell my story of the abuse in care?



There are a few different ways that you can tell your story about the abuse that happened to you while in care.



- 1) You can tell your story of abuse in care at a **private confidential session** with the Chair or the **Commissioner**.



A **private confidential session** means you meet with the Chair or the Commissioner.

You can take support people with you during your private confidential session.

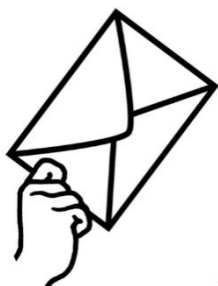


**The Chair and the Commissioners** are people at the Royal Commission who:

- decide what to investigate
- listen to survivor's stories
- write reports about the things they find out
- decide what things should happen next.

There will also be a person called a **session facilitator** at a private confidential session.

The **session facilitator** is there to make sure you have everything you need.



2) You can also tell your story of abuse by:

- writing your story

or

- sharing your story publicly at a **public hearing**.



**Public hearings** are meetings that anyone can go to.



If you choose to share your story at a public hearing you will get the support you need to do this.



It is **your choice** about:

- how you share your story
- where you share your story
- how much information you want to share
- what support you want.



You can share your story **confidentially** with the Commission.



## **Confidentially** means:

- what you say to someone will stay with them
- they will only talk to other people about what you tell them:
  - if you ask them to
  - if the law or the court says they have to
  - if you or someone else will be unsafe or in danger.



You can share your story from your own home.

This could be:



- someone from the Commission coming to your home to listen to your story

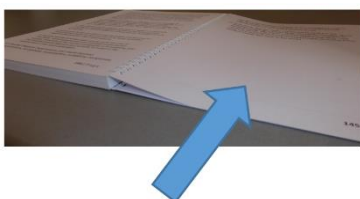
or



- sharing your story by computer like over Zoom.



To find out more about how to share your story please talk to the Commission.



You can find the **contact details** on **page 26** of this booklet.



## What support can the Commission offer?

The Commission:



- understands that telling your story about what happened to you can make you feel very upset



- wants survivors to feel well supported when they tell us about the abuse that happened to them in care



- has a team that makes sure survivors who tell them about what happened to them are supported with:



- keeping well
- staying safe.



This support could be:

- counselling
- **literacy** support which is support with reading and writing
- any disability support that is needed for you to feel safe to tell your story
- support for making our own decisions
- communication support like:
  - using communication boards
  - New Zealand Sign Language.



# How to get more information or let the Commission know I want to share my story



You can contact the Commission  
**Contact and Support Service:**

**Phone:** 0800 222 727



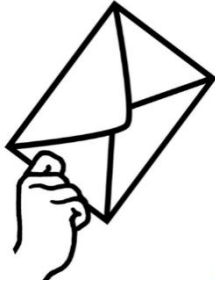
This phone line is open:

- Monday to Friday
- 8am to 6pm



**Email:**

[contact@abuseincare.org.nz](mailto:contact@abuseincare.org.nz)



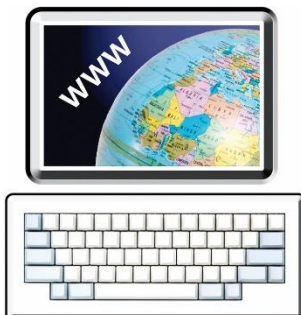
**Write to:**

PO Box 10071

The Terrace

Wellington 6011.

**For more information you can  
look at:**



The Commission **website**

[www.abuseincare.org.nz](http://www.abuseincare.org.nz)



You can also find out what is  
happening at the Commission on  
**Facebook**

<https://www.facebook.com/abuseincareRCNZ/>



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This information has been written by the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care.



It has been translated into Easy Read with assistance from the Make It Easy service of People First New Zealand Inc. Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



The ideas in this document are not the ideas of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



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- [Changepeople.org](http://Changepeople.org)
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- Sam Corliss.