



INVESTIGATION INTO DISABLED PEOPLE'S EXPERIENCES OF ABUSE IN CARE

SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION

1. This investigation will examine issues and themes that are particularly relevant to disabled people's experiences of abuse in care. The investigation will work alongside all of the Inquiry's other investigations when their work involves the experiences of disabled people, so that all evidence and issues across the Inquiry are given a disability perspective.
2. Abuse is defined in the Inquiry's Terms of Reference as meaning physical, sexual, emotional or psychological abuse, and neglect. It includes inadequate or improper treatment that resulted in serious mental or physical harm to a person in care. Neglect is not defined in the Terms of Reference, but the Inquiry considers neglect may include physical, emotional and psychological, medical, educational, spiritual and cultural neglect.
3. Disability is a broad and evolving term used in this investigation to include all physical, psychosocial, psychiatric, neurological, and sensory impairments, and learning disabilities. The term disabled people includes those perceived to be disabled.
4. The main period covered by this investigation is 1950 to 1999. However, the Inquiry has discretion to consider issues and experiences prior to 1950, and it may also consider issues and experiences after 1999 in order to inform its recommendations.
5. The investigation will look back and look forward and will seek out and consider the voices and experiences of disabled people who are victims and survivors of abuse in care. It will select issues, themes and kaupapa as case studies, and may conduct research and examine relevant matters in public hearings, roundtables, wānanga, hui and fono.
6. The Inquiry will investigate and make findings and recommendations about what happened to disabled people who were abused in care and why, including:
 - a. The circumstances of disabled people being taken into or placed into care, and the appropriateness of those placements;
 - b. The number of disabled people in the care of the State and faith-based institutions from 1950 to the present day, and the nature and extent of abuse of disabled people in care;

disciplinary liability of any person, but may make recommendations that further steps be taken to determine liability.