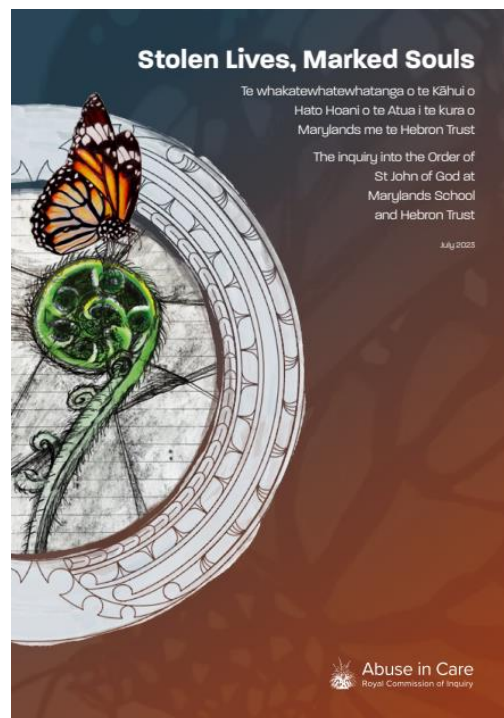




Abuse in Care
Royal Commission of Inquiry



Stolen Lives, Marked Souls



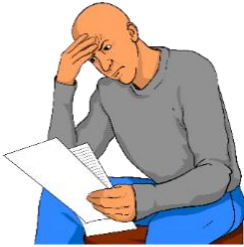
**A report about abuse by the
Order of Saint John of God at
Marylands School and Hebron Trust**

Published: July 2023

Before you read this



This Easy Read document is about a report written by the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care.



Some of the information and pictures used in this document is very upsetting.



This document is about children being badly hurt by people who were meant to look after them.

Before you read it you might want to make sure you:



- are in a safe place
- have people who can support you.



If you do not feel safe call the police on **111**.



If you are upset after reading this document you can talk to your:

- whānau / family
- friends.



You can also talk to a counsellor at Need to Talk by:

NEED TO TALK?



**free call or text
any time**

- calling 1737
- texting 1737.



It does not cost any money to call / text 1737.



Abuse in Care
Royal Commission of Inquiry



If you are still worried you can also talk to someone at the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care:

Phone: 0800 222 727

Text: 8185

Email: contact@abuseincare.org.nz

Survivor Experiences Service

You can also find support through the **Survivor Experiences Service**.



You can contact them by:

Phone: 0800 456 090

Text: 8328

Email:

contact@survivorexperiences.govt.nz

What is in this document

Page number:



About the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care 6



About this document 9



Marylands School 11



Hebron Trust 22

Effects of the abuse 26



Complaints and what happened with them..... 30



Page number:

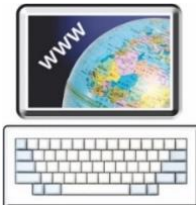
Human rights..... 42



Te Tiriti o Waitangi /
The Treaty of Waitangi..... 45



What the Commission found 46



More information 53

About the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care



Abuse in Care
Royal Commission of Inquiry

The **Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care** is looking into abuse that happened to people **in care**.



In this document being **in care** means that the Government or a **faith-based institution** was in charge of your care.



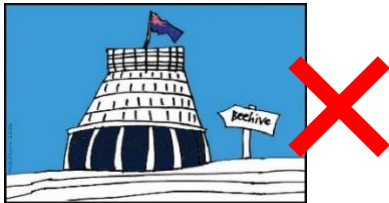
Faith-based institutions are run by religious groups like churches.



Abuse can be:

- **physical** – a person kicking or hitting you
- **sexual** – a person doing sexual things to you that you do not want them to such as:
 - touching your body or private parts
 - kissing you
 - making you have sex with them – this is called rape
- **emotional** – a person yelling or saying things to you that are not nice
- **neglect** – a person not giving you the things or care you need.

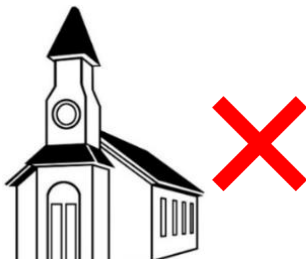
The Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care is also called the **Commission**.



The Commission is **not** part of the Government.



The Government cannot tell the Commission what to do.

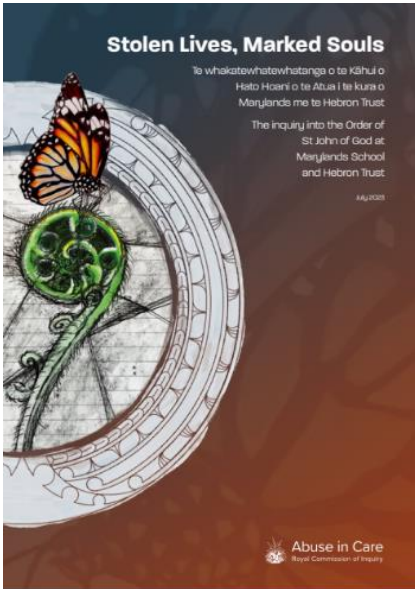


The Commission is not part of any faith-based organisations like churches.



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

About this document



This Easy Read document is a **summary** of a report called:

Stolen Lives, Marked Souls: The Inquiry into the Order of St John of God at Marylands School and Hebron Trust



A **summary**:

- is shorter than the main report
- says the most important things.



The report is about abuse that happened at:

- a school called Marylands School
- places young people were sent to live or attend programmes at called the Hebron Trust.



Both of these places were run by a group called the Order of the Brothers of Saint John of God.



The Order of the Brothers of Saint John of God is part of the Catholic Church.



In this document we will call the Order of the Brothers of Saint John of God the **Order**.



Members of the Order are called **Brothers**.

This does not mean they:

- have the same parents
- are related.

Marylands School



Marylands School was:

- a school for disabled boys
- started in 1955
- in Christchurch.



Until the 1980s the Government thought disabled children should not stay with their family.



The boys lived at the school away from their:

- families
- communities.



The way the boys were sent to the school showed that how people thought at the time included:

- **ableism**
- **eugenics.**



Ableism is the idea that disabled people are less important than other people.



Eugenics is the idea that:

- some people are better than others
- we should make sure only the better people are born
- disabled people should not be:
 - born
 - allowed to have children.





Parents believed the school was a good place for children.



Some children were sent to Marylands School by:

- welfare agencies
- police
- courts.



This was because people:

- thought the school supported young people
- liked the Brothers who were teachers at Marylands School.





The Order brought Brothers from Australia to work at the school.



Most of these Brothers had no training in:

- teaching
- working with disabled children.



Survivors have said students were abused by Brothers throughout the 30 years the school was open.



Some boys may have been abused every day.



St Joseph's Orphanage was:

- near the school
- run by a different Catholic group.



The Royal Commission is **not** looking at St Joseph's Orphanage.

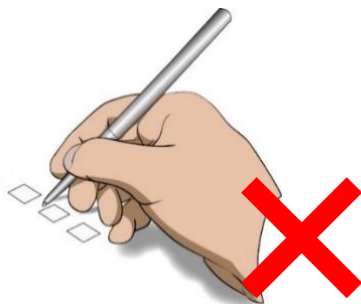


Some people who were in the Orphanage have told us they were also abused by the Brothers in the Order.



The Order did not:

- understand the needs of the boys
- keep track of their
 - disabilities
 - **ethnicities.**



Ethnicity means if you are:



- Māori
- Pākehā / European
- another ethnicity like Asian or Pasifika.



Some of the people at the school were rangatahi Māori / Māori young people.



Instead of teaching the boys the Order made them work:

- in the laundry
- in the kitchen
- on the land.





More than 5 hundred boys went to Marylands School.



More than 1 hundred of those boys said the Brothers abused them.

The abuse at Marylands School included:



- **physical violence** which means hurting the body



- **rape** which means forcing someone to have sex
- other sexual abuse.



Sometimes boys were abused in front of other boys to scare or punish them.



The Brothers used religion as part of the abuse.



The children were always afraid.



The Brothers at Marylands School were from Australia.

They went back to Australia after their time in Aotearoa New Zealand.



The Brothers did not know about:

- the culture in Aotearoa New Zealand
- te ao Māori / the Māori world
- what other cultural groups needed.





The Catholic Church / **Bishop of Christchurch** did not check that the Order were following **te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi**.



The **Bishop of Christchurch** is in charge of the Christchurch part of the Catholic Church.



Te Tiriti o Waitangi is a legal document that was signed in 1840.

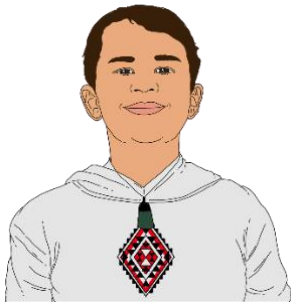


The Treaty / Te Tiriti is important to New Zealand.

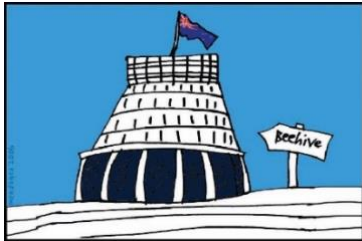
It is about Māori and the New Zealand Government:

- making decisions together
- protecting things that are important to Māori.





Some Brothers were racist to Māori students.



The Government was part of:

- setting up Marylands School
- paying for Marylands School for 30 years.



The Government did not:

- seem to care about the boys at Marylands School
- check that the boys were being cared for.





Life at Marylands School was awful for the boys there.



Some boys saw violence that they think may have caused the deaths of other boys.



Some boys talked about killing themselves.

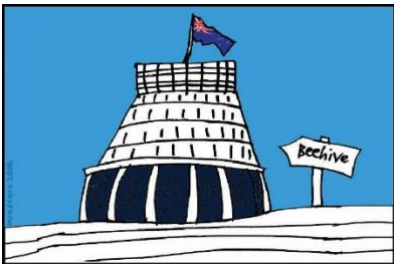
Hebron Trust



The Government took over running Marylands School from the Brothers in 1984.



In 1986 the Brothers started the Hebron Trust in Christchurch.



The Government let Hebron Trust become a **state service provider** in 1990.

Being a **state service provider** means the Government pays them to provide services.



Hebron Trust was meant to care for young people who needed support like those who did not have anywhere to live.



Many of these young people were Māori.



Brother McGrath was in charge of how things worked at Hebron Trust.

Brother McGrath used his job to abuse many of the young people he was meant to care for.



This abuse included:

- physical abuse
- rape.





The abuse of rangatahi / young people by Brother Garth at Hebron Trust kept getting worse.



Brother McGrath was able to abuse other young people who lived in the Christchurch community.



He often abused rangatahi Māori / young Māori.



28 people at the Hebron Trust said they has been abused by Brother McGrath.

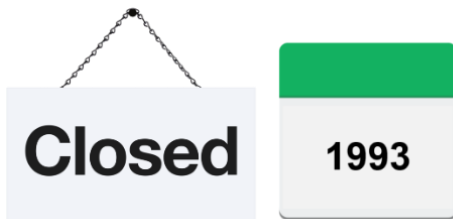
Most of these people were under 18 years old when the abuse happened.

The Order was also told Brother McGrath had abused a staff member.



Even though the Order knew Brother McGrath had abused people at Maryland's School they did not:

- check on him
- look into abuse at Hebron Trust they had been told about.



Hebron Trust closed in 1993.



We will probably never know about all the abuse Brother McGrath did.



The abuse at Hebron Trust caused a lot of harm to survivors.

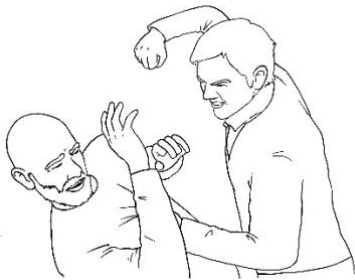
Effects of the abuse



The abuse had many effects on the boys at:

- Marylands School
- Hebron Trust
- St Joseph's Orphanage.

Some of the boys:



- became violent
- did sexual things they should not be doing.



Some had injuries from the abuse that:

- were painful
- lasted a long time.



Many of the survivors that the Commission spoke to said they used drugs or alcohol to cope with the abuse.



Some started using drugs or alcohol when they were still at school.



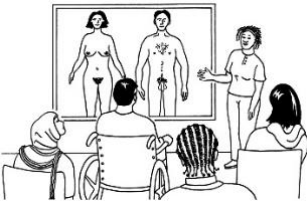
Often this led to the boys:

- doing crimes / breaking the law
- joining gangs.



Survivors also talked about:

- being very upset
- having medical issues to do with their bodies
- being confused about things to do with sex.



The abuse meant some survivors:

- stopped believing in their religion
- could not trust people
- found it hard to:



- make friends
- have good relationships with people like their children or partners.





As there was not good education most of the survivors were only able to get jobs that paid badly.



Many survivors told us they had:

- thought about **suicide**
- tried to die by **suicide**.



Suicide is when someone kills themselves.



Other people who were abused have died by suicide.

Complaints and what happened with them

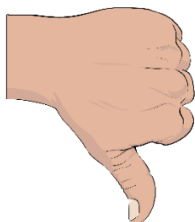


Children told lots of people about abuse including:

- Brothers
- the leaders of the Order
- social workers
- police.



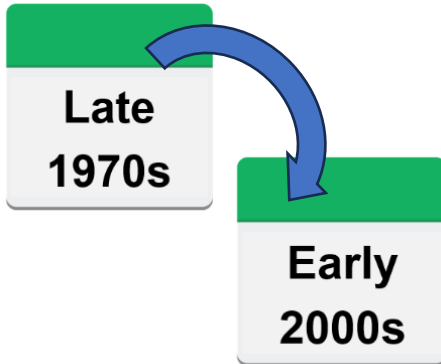
Most of the time the children were not believed.



Almost every time they were told about abuse the Order / Catholic Church did not do anything.



The leaders of the Order were told about abuse by the Brothers lots of times between:



- the late 1970s
- and
- the early 2000s.



37 Brothers worked in Christchurch during the time the Order was running Marylands School.



21 of those Brothers had someone say they had been abused by them.

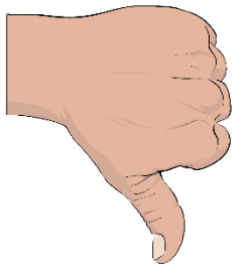


The police tried to look into what happened 2 times.

Both times the Brothers / Order were not helpful to the police.



The Order spent lots of money to stop Brothers being sent back to Aotearoa New Zealand from Australia so they could be sent to court.



The police / courts did not support survivors.

Police did not:



- keep information about survivors who were disabled
- ask for support to communicate with disabled survivors
- do things in a way that was a fit for the **culture** of Māori and Pacific people.





Culture is a way of:

- thinking that a group shares
- doing things as a group.

There are many different cultures in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Some examples of the different cultures are:

- Māori culture
- Pacific culture
- Deaf culture.

New Zealand Police agreed it can be hard for disabled survivors to be treated fairly in court.



The Commission was told by survivors and their whānau / families that the **criminal justice process**:

- did not care about how survivors were affected by disability
- did not allow them to have the support they needed when talking in court
- did not care about their disability when they were being asked questions in court
- ignored what they had to say.



The **criminal justice process** means things to do with:

- police
- courts.



The Bishop of Christchurch:

- supported the Order in New Zealand
- did not carefully look at what the Order did at Marylands School and Hebron Trust.



When people found out about the abuse in 2002 the Bishop:



- did not take any **responsibility**
- said he was unhappy about the abuse being in the **media**
- wanted to make sure people did not think bad things about the church.





Media means things like:

- radio
- television
- newspapers.



Taking responsibility means you say you:

- should have done things differently
- have a part to play in making things better.

Brother McGrath



The courts said Brother McGrath had sexually abused children.

This was said by the courts:



- in 1993 in Aotearoa New Zealand
- in 2006 in Aotearoa New Zealand
- in 3 court cases in Australia.



Brother McGrath was found guilty of breaking the law more than 1 hundred times.



Brother McGrath will likely spend the rest of his life in prison in Australia.



Brother Moloney

Brother Moloney led Marylands School in the 1970s.



The court said he had broken the law 7 times.



He was sent to prison for 2 years and 9 months.



He went back to the Order in Australia after he was let out of prison.



He died in 2019.

Brother Garchow



Brother Garchow was going to be in court in 2008.



The court case did not happen because:

- he was ill
- some of the survivors were ill.



Brother Garchow died in 2011.

Brother IU



The courts say we cannot use the real name for Brother IU.

We are calling him Brother IU instead.



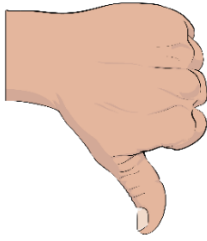
Brother IU was going to have a trial in 2008.



The trial did not happen because some of the survivors were ill.

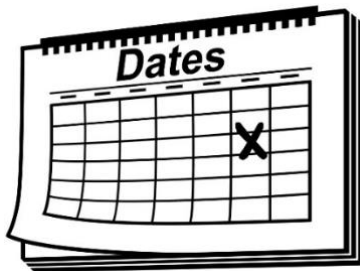


Brother IU tried to make people who said he had abused them have a test of their mind.



The police thought this was to try and make the survivors look wrong.

Brother IU had his **charges** removed because:



- the tests took a long time
- the charges were about things that happened a long time ago.



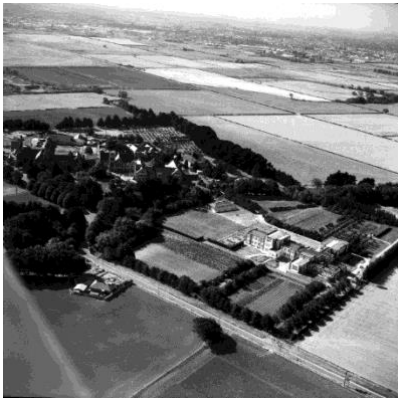
Charges are when the police say:

- they think you did a crime
- you have to go to court.

Human rights

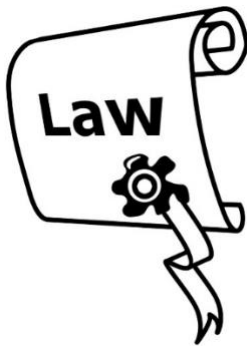


The Government has to protect the human rights of those in care.



The Government may not have done what it needed to at:

- Marylands School
- Hebron Trust.



The Order may be **legally responsible** for those who got services from Hebron Trust.



Being **legally responsible** means that:

- the law says you have to do something
- the courts can take action if you do not.



The Commission cannot say which people are legally responsible.

The Commission thinks the Government and the Order should think about if they are legally responsible.



Taking a person or organisation to court is hard for anyone.

Survivors should also get support with **access to justice**.



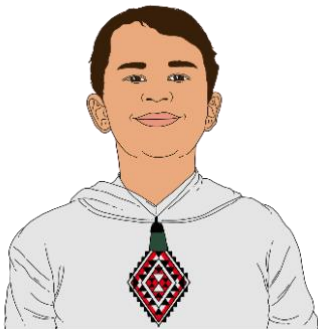
Access to justice means things like being able to take the people / organisations responsible to court.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi

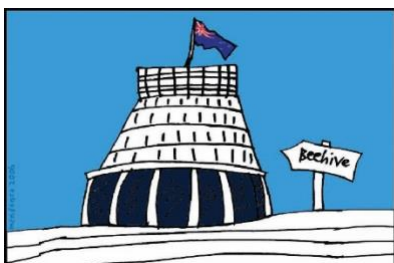


Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi means there are things that must happen for tamariki Māori / Māori children when they are cared for by:

- the **State**
- faith-based institutions.

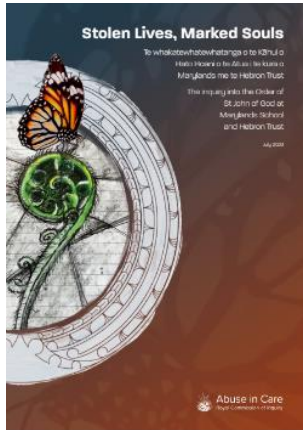


The boys did not get care that fitted with te Tiriti o Waitangi.



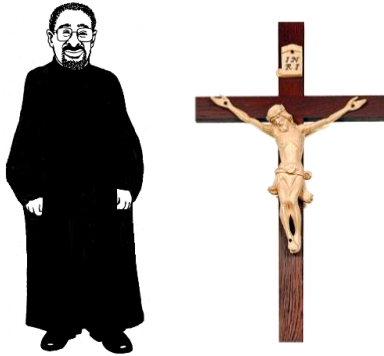
State care is when a child is placed in care that is managed by the Government.

What the Commission found

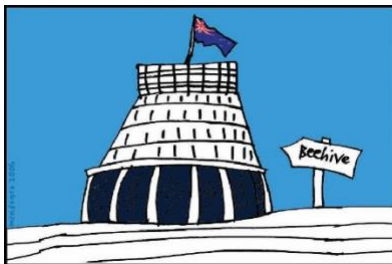


In the full report the Commission outlines 42 things they found out.

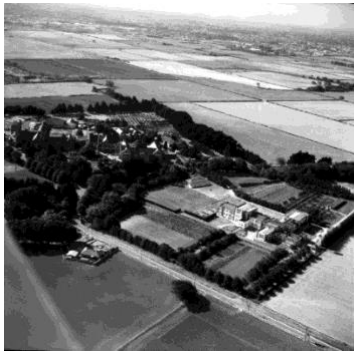
The things they found out were about the **failures** of:



- the Order
- the Catholic Church
- the Government / country.



Failures are when people did not do what they should have done to keep people safe.



Some of these failures were that the Government:

- was part of setting up Marylands School and Hebron Trust
- gave money to Marylands School
- sent young people to Hebron Trust without checking if they would be safe
- did not check that Maryland School and Hebron Trust supported te Tiriti o Waitangi
- did not make sure people were held responsible for the abuse.



The Catholic Church and the Order of the Brothers of St John of God failed to give the children:

- support
- learning
- understanding of te ao Māori / the Māori world.



The Brothers caused very bad harm to these young people.



The Brothers also kept trying to avoid responsibility for the terrible things they did.



The Order has still not tried to support survivors.



When boys told social workers or police about the abuse they did not do anything.



The Catholic Church and the Order have never tried to find out why abuse at Marylands School was so bad.



This report is not just about:

- a few people who did abuse
- the crimes the courts have said the Brothers did.



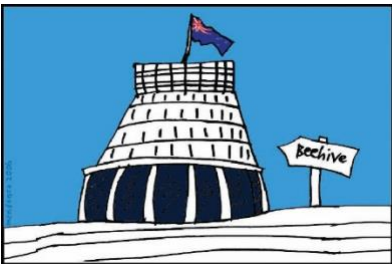
The Commission heard from hundreds of:

- survivors
- whānau / families.

The Order / Church have not:



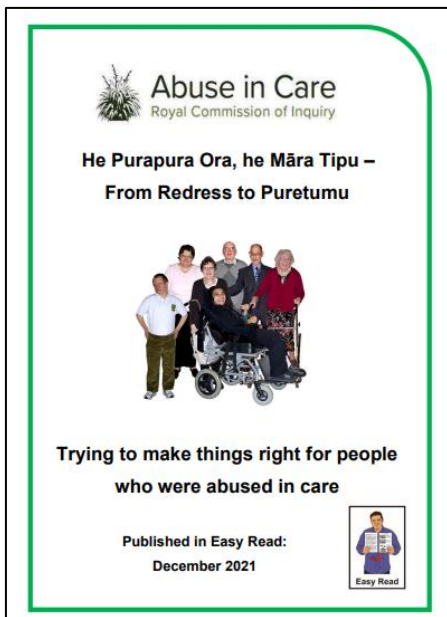
- been found responsible for the many terrible things that happened at Marylands School / Hebron Trust
- taken responsibility for not dealing with what was happening.



The Government has also not been found responsible or taken responsibility.



Because they have not been found responsible we cannot be sure something like this will not happen again.



In December 2021 we wrote an Easy Read document called:

He Purapura Ora, he Māra Tipu – From Redress to Puretumu.

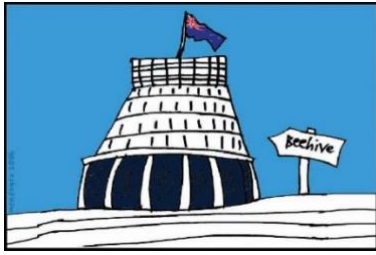
You can find this document on the Commission **website** at:



www.abuseincare.org.nz/our-progress/reports/from-redress-to-puretumu/



This document talked about a way of making things right for survivors called a puretumu system.



What we have found here supports the idea that the puretumu system must be for both:

- places run by the Government
- faith-based institutions which means places run by religious groups like churches.



Aotearoa New Zealand must listen to people saying there should be justice.

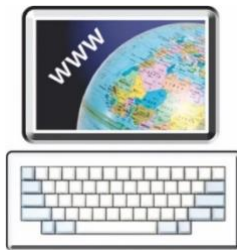


Big changes are needed to make sure nothing like this happens again.

More information



You can find more information on the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care website.



The **website** is at:

www.abuseincare.org.nz



You can also talk to someone at the Commission:

Phone: 0800 222 727



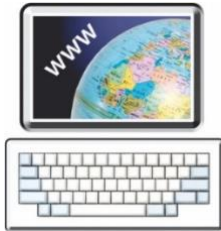
Text: 8185



Email: contact@abuseincare.org.nz

Survivor Experiences Service

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Their **website** is at:

www.survivorexperiences.govt.nz



You can contact them:

Phone: 0800 456 090



Text: 8328



Email:

contact@survivorexperiences.govt.nz



Abuse in Care
Royal Commission of Inquiry

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



Make it Easy
Kia Māmā Mai

It has been translated into Easy Read by the Make it Easy Kia Māmā Mai service of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.

People First NZ 
Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi

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