

20 June 2024

Tēnā koutou katoa

I write to update you on The Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care.

The Royal Commission will conclude its Inquiry and present its Report to the Governor General later this month. As the Presbyterian Church has participated and cooperated fully with this Inquiry we will be included in the Report.

We now await the Report and recommendations and anticipate that the Commission's Report will not be an easy read as the Commission Chair states, "The whole country must pay attention when our final report is released and take responsibility to ensure that it never happens again".

The Government will table the Report in Parliament soon after the delivery to the Governor-General, this is when the Report and recommendations will be released to the public.

Although the Royal Commission into Abuse in Care is coming to a close, I cannot stress strongly enough that we want to hear from anyone who has experienced abuse involving the Presbyterian Church. As a Church we take our duty of care and any allegations of abuse and sexual misconduct very seriously. Our Church policy provides that any allegations of a criminal nature are reported to the Police, and complainants are supported to do so.

Should you wish to report or discuss any matter concerning abuse and the Presbyterian Church, I encourage you to do so in whatever way is right for you. You can contact our Complaints and Disputes Manager, email ComplaintsandDisputesManager@presbyterian.org.nz and free phone 0800 244 357. There is information on the Church website [here](#) on how to report abuse in the PCANZ.

The Church also has its own complaint processes to give any person who has experienced, or has knowledge of, any form of harm in our Church an avenue to raise these matters and seek justice.

If you wish to make a complaint through the Church's processes regarding any acts of inappropriate or unethical behaviour by a Church office-bearer or member, please contact the Complaints Manager as above, and see more information about the Church's complaints process [here](#).

We are fully committed to keeping our children, churches, and communities safe; to supporting those who have been harmed; and to continuing to uphold our Christian values and principles. To this end all people representing or working for the PCANZ are required to abide by the Code of Ethics policy, and our Child Protection Policy must be applied when people in our Church have responsibility for children and young people. I encourage you to read both these policies if you have not done so. You can find these [here](#).



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We also have on our website a number of resources aimed at keeping people safe, these include our [preventing family violence](#) resource page, our [PCANZ White Ribbon NZ](#) resource page, and our [e-minister service](#) which provides a means to email with an ordained Presbyterian minister anonymously and confidentially.

Beneath our policies and processes lies our commitment to Jesus Christ who cares for and values all people and came so that all may have fullness of life.

Some of the most vulnerable people in our country have suffered enormously through abuse in their lives and this continues to impact them and have a ripple effect on society. It is heart-breaking and deeply distressing. At this time let us continue to pray and to work towards justice, healing and hope.

Yours in Christ

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