



# Info Sheet for Catholic Organisations

on the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care

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

The Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care is looking into what happened to children, young people and vulnerable adults in State and faith-based care in Aotearoa New Zealand between the years 1950-99, though survivor experiences before and after these dates are being included.

## What is Te Rōpū Tautoko?

The Aotearoa Catholic *Te Rōpū Tautoko* (or simply 'Tautoko') exists to co-ordinate and manage cooperation between the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care and the Catholic Church in Aotearoa, represented by the Catholic Bishops and Congregational Leaders of Aotearoa New Zealand.

Tautoko is independent from the Royal Commission. Its work includes liaising between the local leaders and the law firm representing us, assisting Catholic organisations in gathering information that the Commission requests, and providing updates to the wider Catholic community.

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*We participate in the processes of the Inquiry acknowledging those who have been wounded in our care. Because of, not in spite of, our own brokenness in regard to abuse we offer our lessons. They come from a place of deep humility and sorrow. All we have to offer is our own experiences and the call to justice, mercy and forgiveness of Jesus Christ, Hēhu Karaiti.*

*We recognise that the way to learn lessons for today and the future is to examine, understand, acknowledge and address what has occurred. We must, collectively, work towards healing.*

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## The current work of the Royal Commission

A lot of important initial work has been undertaken by the Royal Commission since it started in 2018, including a Preliminary Hearing in August 2019 and then a Contextual Hearing late last year.

In mid-August of this year, the Commission announced further details on eight investigations and two of the case studies it will be undertaking:

- Redress – State and faith
- Māori experiences of abuse in care
- Pacific People’s experience of abuse in care
- Abuse in children’s state residential care
- Abuse in State Psychiatric Care
  - Case study examining abuse at the Lake Alice Child and Adolescent Unit
- Abuse in disability care and the experience of people with disabilities
- Abuse in the care of the Catholic Church
  - Case study examining abuse of children at Marylands School
- Abuse in the care of the Anglican Church

Three of these will clearly involve Catholic organisations: *Redress – State and faith*, *Abuse in the care of the Catholic Church*, and *Case study examining abuse of children at Marylands School* (which was a special school run in Christchurch by the St John of God brothers).

Catholic organisations will likely be involved in many of the other investigations as well, since our institutions have offered care to people from all backgrounds and cultures since the first Catholics arrived in Aotearoa.

## Helpful links for further information:

- Royal Commission - <https://www.abuseincare.org.nz/>
- Te Rōpū Tautoko - <https://tautoko.catholic.org.nz/>
- National Office for Professional Standards - <https://safeguarding.catholic.org.nz/>