

E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā iwi,
Tēnā koutou katoa.

Madame chair, Commissioners

On behalf of the bishops and congregation leaders, I thank you for the opportunity to participate in this hearing and in the Inquiry. It is a humbling experience to stand here as a congregation leader, knowing what our history has been and how far we still have to go.

I wish to acknowledge, above all, the survivors, your whānau and your networks of support. Listening to the content of the past week and in other hearings will have evoked many responses, as will have other ways you have engaged in the Inquiry. I acknowledge your courage and commitment, often at great personal cost to you and your whānau.

I and other leaders in the church have learned much over the course of this Inquiry. We acknowledge that our journey is far from over. We are committed to walking with you, if you wish. We are committed to continuing to build a safe church where all feel and are welcome.

Sue France rsm
20 October 2022