



Abuse in Care
Royal Commission of Inquiry

**Royal Commission into Historical Abuse in State Care
and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions**

**Quarterly Report
As at 30 June 2019**



Purpose

This report updates you about the high-level activity of the Royal Commission into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions (the Commission) and year-to-date spend through to 30 June 2019. It also draws your attention to key activities planned through to 30 September 2019.

Highlights for the quarter to June 2019

Key highlights for the quarter include:

- Private sessions, where survivors share their experiences of abuse, commenced in April 2019 and continued through to June 2019. To date, more than 70 survivors - who had pre-registered with the Royal Commission - have spoken to Commissioners. Sessions were held in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. Approximately 1,100 survivors have now registered with the Commission;
- The Commission worked with the Department of Corrections to develop a Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations, which was signed on 7 June 2019. This enabled a series of private sessions to be held in prisons during the quarter. The Commission has also reached an agreement with New Zealand Police for referrals to take place to Police if a survivor requests it;
- A Preliminary Public Hearing was held in June 2019 at the Environment Court in Auckland. The purpose of the hearing was to share information about the Inquiry's scope and focus and the methods we will use to deliver our work programme. The feedback received from survivors about the Hearing and the associated media coverage was generally positive;
- Commencement of investigations occurred through a public 'disposal freeze' notice to all institutions of interest in April 2019. The Commission worked with the Chief Archivist and equivalent representatives in faith-based services to issue the notice;
- Strategies and plans for outreach and engagement to increase the awareness of the Commission's work, and to encourage registration and participation by survivors have been completed and are now being implemented. People with established networks in the community, particularly with Maori, Pasifika, and the disabled communities have been engaged to promote the Commission's work and encourage registration;
- The Commission appointed a Survivor Advisory Group in May 2019, as outlined in the Terms of Reference, to assist the work of the Inquiry and to ensure the survivor "voice" is heard. The first meeting of the Group was held in June and a second meeting is planned for August 2019. A series of regular meetings will follow;
- The Commission has developed a Communications Strategy, that includes taking a more proactive approach to media. Initial results have been pleasing and show the benefits of a more proactive approach;
- The Commission re-launched a simplification and rebranding in June 2019. The Commission is now to be known as the Royal Commission "Abuse in Care". A key aim of the relaunch was to reinforce our independence from the Crown and faith-based institutions;



- The Commission has developed business and operating models for the running of the Inquiry as part of the current move from establishment into its core delivery phase. Budgeted costs based on these models have been estimated to deliver the work of the Inquiry through to its conclusion in 2023. Anticipated costs are forecast to be higher than original estimates in the Cabinet Paper (CAB-18-MIN-0572.01, para 34).

Upcoming activity to September 2019

Planned activities for the first quarter of 2019/20 include:

- Completing negotiations for a Public Hearing space in Auckland for the duration of the Commission's work are underway. The Commission is working with the Department of Internal Affairs and the Treasury to secure capital funding to support the set-up of the facility;
- The Commission will hold a Procedural hearing in August 2019 to provide further information about how the Commission will be undertaking the Inquiry;
- Preparation for further Public Hearings, which will start later in the year and into 2020 will be well underway during the quarter. The hearings will see people give evidence and make submissions. Public hearings will involve institutions, lawyers, academics, some survivors and their networks. Specialist evidence management software to support the work required is being procured;
- The Commission will work with the Department of Internal Affairs to establish the administrative processes to support applications for the Crown to pay participants legal cost under section 18 of the Inquiries Act 2013. The Commission has estimated the cost of legal assistance over the life of the Inquiry and is working with the Department of Internal Affairs and the Treasury to secure funding;
- Private sessions, where survivors share their experiences of abuse, will continue during the quarter. Commissioners are planning to visit the following towns and cities: Whangarei, Auckland, Hamilton, Wanganui, Wellington, Nelson, Christchurch, and Dunedin, plus Rimutaka, Springhill and Auckland South Prisons;
- The Commission will develop the methodology and process for holding Roundtables during the quarter. Roundtables offer a way to engage survivors, academics, government and non-government representatives and policy experts on topics and research that will inform the work of the Inquiry. They provide also provide valuable input to Public Hearings preparation;
- The Commission is focusing on the recruitment of key staff and resources to support its operations. Based on the Commission's estimates of costs for the activity required to deliver on the Terms of Reference, staff costs are expected to be higher than originally anticipated. A comprehensive induction process for new staff will be rolled out during the quarter;
- As part of its Communication Strategy the Commission will launch its new website in August 2019. The new site is specifically designed for survivors and supports the Commission's new look and recent rebranding. The new site is expected to support increased awareness of the Commission's activities and encourage participation and registration by survivors;



- The Commission will implement a programme management approach during the quarter to manage and coordinate the Commission's activity as an integrated programme of work.

Financial summary to 30 June 2019

Departmental Output Expense: Royal Commission into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions.

Output	Total spend to date (\$m)	Multi-year Budget (\$m)
Operating expenses	8.857	56.066
Commissioner fees	N/A	6.123
Counselling costs	nil	15.335
Capital spend	0.290	1.325