# The Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care’s commitment to te Tiriti o Waitangi

# *The Terms of Reference and te Tiriti o Waitangi*

The Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care will honour our Tiriti o Waitangi obligations under our Terms of Reference.

The inquiry must give appropriate recognition to Māori interests, acknowledging the disproportionate representation of Māori, particularly in care.

The inquiry will be underpinned by te Tiriti o Waitangi, and its principles, and will partner with Māori throughout the inquiry process.

# *Relevant principles of te Tiriti o Waitangi*

The principles that are most relevant to the inquiry, as articulated by the Courts and Waitangi Tribunal, include (but are not limited to) the following:

1. ***The principle of Partnership***

We will act reasonably, honourably and with the utmost good faith.

1. ***The principle of Tino Rangatiratanga***

We will recognise and respect the right of all Māori including as individuals, whānau, hapū and iwi to exercise tino rangatiratanga.

1. ***The principle of Kāwanatanga***

Kāwanatanga must be exercised in accordance with the principles of good governance and in a way that actively protects and does not diminish tino rangtiratanga.

1. ***The principle of Active Protection***

The inquiry will be underpinned by the principle of active protection of Māori interests.

1. ***The principle of Equity***

We will ensure that we act fairly as between Māori and non-Māori. The interests of others cannot be prioritised to the disadvantage of Māori.

1. ***The principle of Redress***

We recognise that past wrongs give rise to a right of redress. This principle arises from te Tiriti relationship in general and, in particular, the principles of partnership, active protection and equity. We will ensure that the principle of redress is adequately reflected in our inquiry.

# *Our ongoing commitment to te Tiriti o Waitangi and Māori*

The Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care recognises that our obligations under te Tiriti o Waitangi are ongoing.