



## **Presbyterian Support South Canterbury response to the Royal Commission**

Recommendations on abuse in care.

### **Reviewed 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025**

Introduction: Presbyterian Support South Canterbury operated a Children's Home in Timaru from 1918 – until 1987

The Royal Commission's Final report which was released in July 2024 contained 138 recommendations. Whilst all are very relevant in the context of the purpose of the Review undertaken by the Royal Commission, a number are directly relevant to Presbyterian Support South Canterbury (PSSC). A full schedule of these recommendations can be found on the Abuse in Care web site, [Recommendations | Abuse in Care - Royal Commission of Inquiry](#) .

**For the purpose of clarity, we have focussed on those Recommendations contained in the Final Report that have implications and relevancy for: PSSC as follows:**

#### **Recommendation. 3**

Public acknowledgement and apologies for historical abuse and neglect in the care of the State provided by faith-based institutions.

**Response:** *PSSC apology published on PSSC website 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024. [PSSC-Public-Apology-September-2024.pdf](#)*

*The apology was also discussed at the 2024 AGM which was held in November 2024.*

#### **Recommendation 5**

All entities that provide care, or have provided care, directly or indirectly on behalf of the State and faith-based entities, local authorities and any other relevant entities should: proven perpetrators and institutions where abuse and neglect took place.

a. review the appropriateness of any streets, public amenities, public honours or any memorials named after, depicting, recognising or celebrating a proven perpetrator of abuse and neglect in care and/or an institution where proven abuse and neglect took place

**Response:** *there have been no reported perpetrators for the PSSC Children's Home.*

#### **Recommendation 8**

The government should take all practicable steps, including incentives and, if necessary, compulsion, to ensure that faith-based institutions and indirect care providers join the puretumu torowhānui system and scheme once it is established

**Response:** *PSSC will ensure that those impacted will be made aware of this scheme*

#### **Recommendation 20**

State and faith-based entities The government and faith-based institutions should jointly establish a fund to provide contestable funding for projects that promote effective community healing from the collective impacts of abuse and neglect in care, like those established in Canada and Australia. The entity holding and distributing the funding should be independent from.

**Response:** *PSSC acknowledges and supports this concept but need more details about what commitment is required before we can advise our position*



## **Presbyterian Support South Canterbury**

### **Recommendation 39**

The State, faith-based entities (including indirect care providers) and others involved in the care system should be guided by the following Care Safety Principles for preventing and responding to abuse and neglect when making decisions, performing functions, or exercising powers and duties in relation to the care of children, young people and adults in care:

**Response:** *PSSC no longer provides residential care for children. We do provide care for those with physical disabilities( all ages) and the elderly within our four homes. These are regulated by health and disability care standards and are audited on a regular basis.*

### **Recommendation 50**

The leaders of all State and faith-based entities providing care directly or indirectly should ensure there is effective oversight and leadership of safeguarding at the highest level, including at governance or trustee level where applicable.

**Response:** *The PSSC leadership team and Board remain alert to the critical need to safeguard those in our care. Oversight is provided and any concerns would be immediately reported and dealt with.*

### **Recommendation 51**

The leaders of all State and faith-based entities providing care directly or indirectly should ensure that safeguarding is a genuine priority for the institution, key performance indicators are in place for senior leaders, and sufficient resources are available for all aspects of safeguarding.

**Response:** *PSSC is fully alert to the need of safeguarding those in its care, although it has not provided for care for children since 1987.*

**No. 113** The government and faith-based entities should disseminate and publicise the findings and Recommendations of this Inquiry to the widest and most transparent manner possible.

**Response:** *We will be guided by the Crown Response Office as to how to effectively meet this recommendation. It is our intention at the least to place our responses on our website.*

**No 125** The government and faith-based institutions should take any and all actions required to give effect to the Inquiries recommendations set out in the Commission's Final Report.

**Response:** *Agreed, we will do whatever is required to ensure that the recommendations that are applicable to PSSC are implemented.*

**No. 126 – 127** Requirement that providers of care recognise the diversity of children, young people and adults in care and put in place practices that reflect the rights, experiences and needs of people in care

**Response:** *Agreed.*

**No. 130** The government and faith-based institutions should publish their responses to the Final Report and the Inquiry's Interim Reports on whether they accept each of the Inquiry's findings in whole or in part. The responses should be published within two months of this Report being tabled in the House of Representatives.

**Response:** *We published these on our website: [www.pssc.org.nz](http://www.pssc.org.nz) however we were a little delayed in getting these out. They were published 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024*



## **Presbyterian Support South Canterbury**

**No. 131** The government and faith-based institutions should issue formal public responses to this report about whether each Recommendation is accepted, accepted in principle, rejected or subject to further consideration. Each response should include a plan for how the accepted Recommendations will be implemented, the reasons for rejecting any Recommendations, and a timeframe for any further consideration required. Each response should be published within four months of this report being tabled in the House of Representatives.

**Response:** *The response published on our website: [www.pssc.org.nz](http://www.pssc.org.nz) 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024*

**No 133** The government and faith-based institutions and other agencies that implement the Inquiry's Recommendations should:

- a) Publicly report on the implementation of the inquiry's' Recommendations contained in the final report and all previous reports including the implementation status of each Recommendation and any identified issues and risks;
- b) Publish the implementation report annually for at least 9 years commencing 12 months after the tabling of this Report in the House of Representatives (by 24 November 2025). We need to synchronise and provide a copy to the Care System Office and Care Safe Agency.

**Response:** *Noted. We will continue to provide updates on our website [www.pssc.org.nz](http://www.pssc.org.nz)*

**No. 138** The government and faith-based institutions should publish formal responses to the Independent 9-year review, indicating whether its advice on further steps is accepted, accepted in principle. Rejected or subject to further consideration. Each response should include a plan for how the accepted Recommendations will be implemented, the reasons for rejecting any recommendations, and a timeframe for any further consideration required. Each response should be published by 31 December 2033.

**Response:** *Noted. Further consultation with other PS organizations, legal advisors and the Crown Response Unit will be required so that we fully understand our obligations.*

**Recommendations 52-56, 59, 60-67, 75, 78-83, 89-110.** *Apply to Faith-based entities that provide care for children, young people and adults in care regarding safeguarding culture and practices. Generally, PSSC does not provide care for children and young people. However, we on occasion we have young adults with physical and/or intellectual disabilities residing in our Aged Care Facilities. These are regulated by health and disability care standards and are audited on a regular basis As such policies, procedures and HR practices are well audited and have meet all the requirements to date*

### **Summary**

*Presbyterian Support South Canterbury is prepared to meet with survivors who may make contact. PSSC has no files from the Children's Home and can only provide information on admission and discharge. This information will be provided to anyone requesting this. We do a collection of photos which we can copy and provide to survivors who see themselves in the photos. We are very open and available to continue to respond to any enquiries we receive from survivors, their families or via Survivor Experiences Services.*