

Presbyterian Support East Coast (PSEC) Implementation Plan in response to the Royal Commission Recommendations on Abuse in Care for Faith-based Organisations.

Preamble

Royal Commission of Inquiry – Abuse in Care released their Whanaketia report in July 2024, including 138 recommendations. This annual report has been published in response to recommendations.

Introduction

Presbyterian Support East Coast acknowledges the work of the Royal Commission Inquiry. We appreciate the depth and thoroughness of the inquiry and the recommendations as they guide us to improve our treatment of all people and address the wrongs of the past.

Update

We have developed competence in many of the Royal Commission's recommendations; however, we recognise there is more work to be done. We have robust recruitment systems in place that has enable us to ensure that we are employing candidates for all roles that are well trained and safe to practice. We have excellent training systems in place and look forward to developing these further once the Care Safety Standards are in place.

We have spent time working through the recommendations reviewing current policies and processes to identify any gaps.

Areas of progress to date include:

- completing our plan and publishing this on our website
- writing our apology to survivors and publishing this on our website
- working with our Presbyterian Support New Zealand Federation (PSNZ) group to publish national apology
- removed photos of Hillbrook's Children's Home from public display
- updated PSEC centralised complaints process
- developed a Police Vetting Risk Management Framework
- reviewed all current policies and procedures to align with Royal Commission recommendations
- Client Privacy of Information and Documented Records Storage and Destruction Policies have been updated to include retention of vulnerable client records to be held indefinitely or as instructed by the relevant government agency

The next 12 months we will

- Respond to individual survivors if they come forward
- Continue to provide a caring, professional service to survivors who do come forward
- Streamline data and information processes when documenting our involvement with survivors
- Will be engaged and monitor developments of the proposed puretumu torowhānui system once this is established
- Will be guided by the Care and Safety Principles once they are available
- Staff training modules will be developed and aligned to the Care Safety Principles, to be included in staff orientation programs and PSEC ongoing training compliance programs

Conclusion

Presbyterian Support East Coast is fully committed to developing new policies and processes, and strengthening what we already have in place, in implementing the recommendations established by the Royal Commission.

We note that at present there is not a Care System Office or Care Safe Agency set up as recommended by the Commission therefore we will publish this report on our website.

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