

Aide-Mémoire

Crown Response to the Abuse in Care Inquiry – Seventh Ministerial Meeting

Date due to MO:	14 October 2024	Date of Meeting:	15 October
Security level:	IN CONFIDENCE	Reference:	H2024051245
To:	Hon Matt Doocoy, Minister for Mental Health		
Copy to:	Hon Shane Reti, Minister of Health		
Consulted:	Health New Zealand: <input type="checkbox"/>		
Proactive release:	This title is proposed by the Ministry of Health for proactive release: <input type="checkbox"/>		

Contact for telephone discussion

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About the Meeting

Details of Meeting	Date:	15 October 2024
	Time:	5-6.30pm
	Venue:	2.1 EW

Comment/ Summary:

Item 1: Apology and Redress

1. This item will discuss approach to redress and the key decisions to support the public apology for abuse in care.
2. There is a paper accompanying this item, *Approach to Crown Response Ministers' Meeting on 15 October*, which outlines Cabinet decisions to date and the priorities for upcoming work to support the national apology on 12 November. In this paper, Minister Stanford has outlined two key priorities for the next three weeks:
 1. Focusing on delivering a full and meaningful apology on 12 November, including making decisions about the actions to accompany the apology
 2. Increased clarity in the work programme moving forward.
3. You have also received the paper, *Redress system context and background information*, which outlines general background information to support Ministers to make decisions for the new redress system. The paper is an overview of the history and intention of the Crown's current approach to providing redress to survivors of abuse in care. It includes a brief overview of the different redress system's currently operating within New Zealand and internationally and contextual information about redress.

Focusing on delivering a full and meaningful apology

4. The Prime Minister will deliver a formal public apology to survivors of abuse in care on 12 November 2024 at Parliament. For the apology to be meaningful, a set of tangible actions is proposed to accompany the public apology.
5. There are a set of decisions that Minister Stanford proposes should be made prior to 12 November to support the apology. These decisions centre around:
 - Initial actions to immediately start improving survivors' access to support and services,
 - Confirming the scope and focus for redress,
 - Confirming the text for the apology,
 - Legislation for the Omnibus Bill for introduction and first reading on 12 November.
6. Decisions regarding the redress for torture and the repayment of legal fees for Lake Alice survivors are also included within the set of new decisions to be made before 12 November.
7. Further information regarding the decisions that are proposed to be made before 12 November is set out in Annex 2 of the paper, *Approach to Crown Response Ministers' Meeting on 15 October*.
8. The Ministry will provide advice to your office on the upcoming decisions as required.

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13. The Ministry has been advised that there is another Cabinet paper for redress related policy decisions that will go for Ministerial Consultation on 4 November (subject to change). This paper will cover the payment framework, funding model and detailed design processes. The Ministry will provide advice to you on this paper as required.

Item 2: Other Business

Cabinet paper: Confirming Tangible Actions to accompany the public apology to survivors of abuse in care

14. The Cabinet paper, *Confirming tangible actions to accompany the public apology*, went out for Ministerial consultation on the 9 October.
15. The Ministry is reviewing this paper and will provide feedback to your office on 15 October.

Cabinet paper: Redress for survivors of torture at the Lake Alice Unit Child and Adolescent Unit

16. The Cabinet paper, *Redress for survivors of torture at the Lake Alice Unit Child and Adolescent Unit* is expected to be circulated this week.
17. The Ministry has provided feedback to the Crown Response Unit on this paper. A key part of this feedback has been the financial recommendations and ensuring that the Ministry is appropriately resourced to administer these this scheme.
18. The Ministry has also highlighted concerns about the support services aspect of the redress for torture paper. Redress, in the paper, consists of an apology, financial compensation and access to support services. The paper outlines that the support component of redress will involve linking back to existing services and assisting survivors to accessing existing support services.
19. While the Ministry is supportive of survivors having access to support services as part of their redress, we have concerns about the lack of clarification about how survivors will access services in practice and that there is no additional funding provided to connect survivors to services. Given that most survivors will likely require health services, there may be significant implications for the health system, and we would like to ensure that the system is adequately resourced to do so.

Ministry of Health's Apology

20. Agencies are waiting for updated feedback from the Prime Minister about how Chief Executives will provide their apologies.

The current expectation is that the seven Chief Executives will provide their apologies in a half an hour slot before the Prime Minister's apology on 12 November.

21. The Ministry has received some guidance for the tone of the apology and has begun initial thinking for the Director General of Health's apology. The apology will be short given the constrained timing, likely around 2 minutes.



Emma Prestidge
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Strategy, Policy and Legislation

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