

A Commitment to Move from Darkness to Light

Social
Service
Providers

Te Pai
Ora o
Aotearoa



Purpose

This sector-wide commitment seeks to respond to the recommendations and findings from the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions (the Inquiry). It starts by recognising and addressing the hurt and responsibility to survivors and requires system change that ensures the prevention of future harm – moving from Darkness to Light.

Te Pai Ora SSPA is the leading national organisation representing social service providers of care to children and whānau. We represent organisations that are supporting intergenerational survivors of abuse today, organisations which were not part of historic abuse, alongside organisations which were responsible for historic harm.

We want to support and champion the sector's response to the recommendations of the Inquiry by uniting us under a shared vision: to support the healing of survivors and transform the care system by eliminating harm and nurturing the lives of those who need care. It is vital that the steps we take as a sector acknowledge harm, support change, improve systems and strengthen protections for those in care today.

The commitment is a demonstration of our on-going dedication to providing and advocating for a safe and nurturing care system: a system where children and vulnerable adults are loved and protected, while the needs of those in care and their families and whānau are met.

It brings the sector together under a shared promise to give effect to the findings and recommendations of Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care. This is a commitment to take action and make change.

Guiding values

As participants in this commitment organisations acknowledge that the approach and principles that inform their work and motivate them to be part of this work are:

- Abuse-in-care informed and trauma-informed
- Survivor-centred
- Grounded in Te Tiriti o Waitangi – seeking kaupapa Māori approaches and solutions
- Committed to equity

Organisational Commitments

By joining the Commitment to Move from Darkness to Light, we understand the past harm and the intergenerational impacts from the abuse and neglect that occurred while children and vulnerable adults were in care.

We acknowledge and understand the impacts the findings have on our organisation and staff. We acknowledge that kaimahi within our organisations may have personal experiences of being abused in care themselves and they are an important taonga with unique insights for transformation.

We recognise that Māori children, young people and adults made up the majority of those in care and that Māori were more often subjected to abuse. We recognise that iwi, hapū and whānau were traditionally shut out of providing care and this structural inequity needs to shift now, so we can be strong as a committed collective.

We agree with survivor voices and the Inquiry's work that shows the care system has created harm. We recognise that the harm did not stop with the Inquiry.

We acknowledge that many organisations did not perpetuate abuse, but that there are some which were responsible for harm. By participating in this commitment, we acknowledge that we are all responsible for safe, healing and nurturing services and care.

We commit to improving care systems, services, experiences, workforces and safeguards and taking steps to ensure the harm does not continue.

We acknowledge our commitment to implementing the recommendations from the work of the Inquiry.

Organisational Work Programme

Te Pai Ora o Aotearoa SSPA is undertaking an eliminating abuse in care work programme to support care services and the community that supports those in care, and those who have experienced abuse in care.

As part of this community, together, we will take steps to improve care systems, strengthen policies, provide survivor outreach, improve support, improve and train workforces, show practice leadership and strengthen protections for those in care. Annually, we will reflect on what we have achieved over the year and identify future actions. Ultimately, our work will move towards transformational change for the care system.

As part of the collective commitment, organisations are asked to share any aspects of their work and accountabilities in relation to the Inquiry's recommendations that are currently public, and any outcomes achieved to date. Part of our commitment is to identify areas where organisations are willing to collaborate, share policies, best practice and challenges.

How do you get involved?

More information on how to join the Commitment to Move from Darkness to Light can be found [here](#) or by scanning the QR code below.

It is our collective responsibility to acknowledge the harm done, to create space for things to be different and to move from Darkness to Light.

Join the Commitment today!

