



Te Pai Ora SSPA is establishing an Abuse in Care Sector Advisory Group as an important component of our programme of work to breathe life into the findings and recommendations of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions. It is Te Pai Ora SSPA's commitment to the voices of survivors and our sector that with this work we will work together to take a stand, address the issues and protect those in care.

Below is the Terms of Reference setting out the purpose and expectations of this group. If interested please contact our Office Coordinator, Ada Tangiora (office@sspa.org.nz) for the Expression of Interest information or find it [here](#).

Background

At Te Pai Ora SSPA, our vision is for Aotearoa New Zealand's community-based social services to be sustainable, making a positive impact every day in our communities and supporting children, rangatahi, and whānau to thrive now and into the future. We are a membership-based sector peak-body. We are a voice for community-based social sector providers, and advocate for system-level changes to support the aspirations and outcomes of children, rangatahi, whānau, and survivors while also strengthening our community-based social services and the social sector as a whole. Our continued focus is supporting and growing social services that have children, whānau at their centre.

Whanaketia, the final report from the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions, provides clear recommendations for Government and the social sector. The recommendations of Whanaketia mark a point in time but we know abuse did not stop with the Inquiry, there are still unacceptable experiences and abuse in care happening today. We want to ensure that this changes, that the Inquiry results in lasting change and abuse in care stops happening. Along with our members we want to see a system of care that does not harm and recognises and respects the role of whānau, family and community in care.

Te Pai Ora SSPA has initiated a programme of work alongside the sector and in strategic partnership that seeks to amplify and maintain accountability of the work being done, to help inform the decision-makers and government, and support the delivery of the recommendations of Whanaketia. To help ensure that this programme of work delivers what the sector needs and is advised by the highest level of expertise we are looking to form a Sector Advisory Group.

Purpose and responsibilities

The purpose of this group is to provide expertise and knowledge from their varied perspectives and experiences to Te Pai Ora SSPA and government decision-makers. The advisory group will provide a sense check, guidance, advice and support to Te Pai Ora SSPA's work programme in response to Whanaketia. Specific responsibilities for this group are to:

1. Provide expertise and knowledge of the care system and how it can be strengthened.
2. Help identify the priorities for Government and the sector.
3. Advise on how we best work together as a sector to effect change.
4. Ensure the solutions and processes of the work undertaken by Te Pai Ora SSPA honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi and are in the best interests of tamariki, rangatahi and whānau.
5. Ensure strong survivor voice and the solutions and processes are safe and respect and honour survivors.

Likely elements of the Te Pai Ora SSPA work programme in response to Whanaketia include:

1. Provide a sector overview of the response to Whanaketia.
2. Identify sector priorities for Government and advocate for these.
3. Amplify and share survivor voice and experience.
4. Understand how the sector and survivors are experiencing redress and take any system level solutions to decision makers.
5. Engage and test care solutions with tangata whenua to ensure they reflect the experiences and needs of tamariki, rangatahi, whānau and hapori.
6. Develop a strategic vision for the transformation of the care system.
7. Respond to emerging needs and issues.

How the Reference Group will Work

Membership

The Abuse in Care Sector Advisory Group members will primarily be appointed from Te Pai Ora SSPA membership. They will hold knowledge, experience and/or connections about care, abuse in care and practice as it is relevant to this work, with particular consideration for the voice of survivors. Any gaps in knowledge or experience that cannot be filled by members will be sought from the wider community.

Short periods of co-option of specialist knowledge may occur at any time, on an as needed basis.

The Sector Advisory Group will consist of up to 8 members. The make-up of the group will reflect the co-governance approach we are committed to as part of Te Pai Ora SSPA operational practices. Members will represent the sector diversity of types of care and service providers, location, capacity and kaupapa.

Membership is anticipated to be for eighteen months. With members able to commit to a quarterly meeting schedule. This is likely to include an annual in person planning meeting with the remainder of the meetings held on-line.

Any travel and accommodation for the in person meeting will be covered by Te Pai Ora SSPA. Members are expected to have the support of their employer for the time commitment and membership of the Sector Advisory Group.

Meetings and Communication

Te Pai Ora SSPA Kaiwhakahaere Matua will chair the meetings or appoint a chair in their absence. Meetings will take place quarterly for structured sessions around insights and actions. The beginning structure of the meetings will be:

- An initial in person meeting will take place around September this year. This will be a chance to outline the overall direction, establish how we work together and with the sector, and the key focuses for the group in the coming 12 months.
- Three quarterly online meetings per year - likely December, March and June.
- There will be some electronic responses to documents and communications required in between meetings.
- Additional online meetings will be set as required / agreed.

Meeting documentation

- Meeting documentation will be sent to members at least a week in advance of the Sector Advisory Group meeting.
- Brief notes and actions will be taken at each meeting and distributed for comment shortly after the meeting.
- Te Pai Ora SSPA will be responsible for meeting notes, documentation and coordinating meeting times

Declaration of interest(s)

Members must disclose any perceived or actual conflict of interests at each meeting.

