

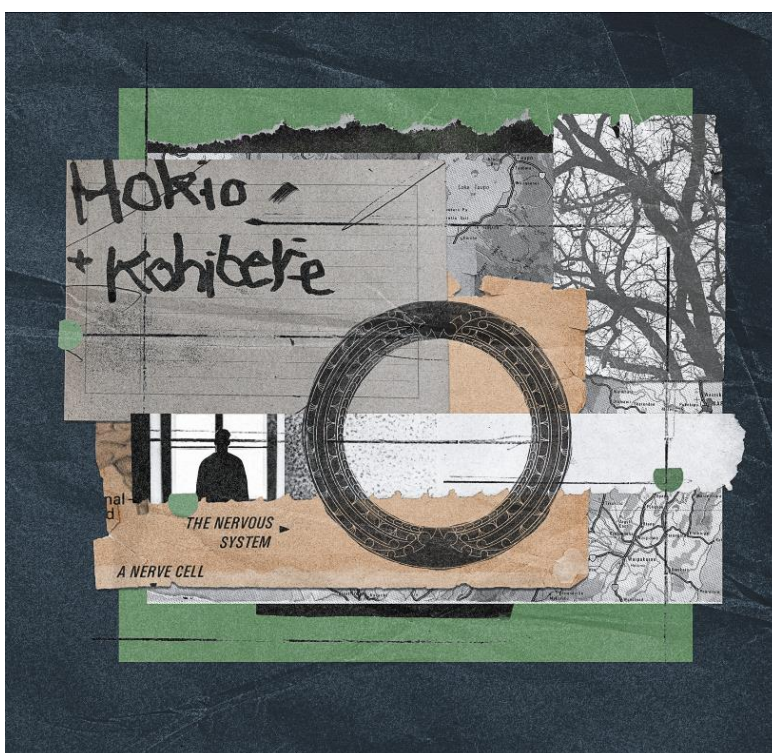


Abuse in Care

Royal Commission of Inquiry



Cauldron of violence



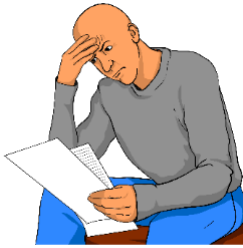
Hokio Beach School and Kohitere Boys Training Centre

Published: August 2024

Before you start



This Easy Read document is about a report written by the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care.



Some of the information and pictures used in this document is very upsetting.



This document is about people being badly hurt by people who were meant to look after them.



The people who were hurt include:

- children
- disabled people.



Before you read it you might want to make sure you:



- are in a safe place
- have people who can support you.



If you do not feel safe call the police on **111**.



If you are upset after reading this document you can talk to your:

- whānau / family
- friends.



NEED TO TALK?



free call or text
any time



You can also talk to a counsellor at
Need to Talk by:

- calling 1737
- texting 1737.

It does not cost any money to call /
text 1737.

You can also find support through the
Survivor Experiences Service
website.

[https://survivorexperiences.govt.nz/
support-services/](https://survivorexperiences.govt.nz/support-services/)

[https://survivorexperiences.govt.nz/
for-survivors/disabled-survivors/](https://survivorexperiences.govt.nz/for-survivors/disabled-survivors/)



You can contact them the Survivor Experiences Service by:



- **phone: 0800 456 090**

- **text: 8328**



- **email:**

contact@survivorexperiences.govt.nz

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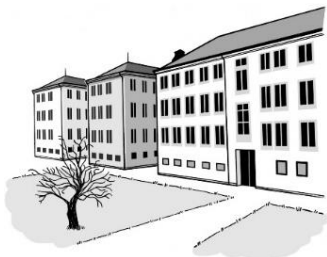
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About the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care



Abuse in Care
Royal Commission of Inquiry

The **Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care** is looking into abuse that happened to people **in care**.



In this document being **in care** means that the Government or a **faith-based institution** was in charge of your care.



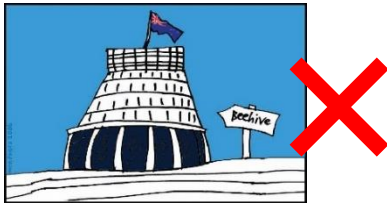
Faith-based institutions are run by religious groups like churches.



Abuse can be:

- **physical** – a person kicking or hitting you
- **sexual** – a person doing sexual things to you that you do not want them to such as:
 - touching your body or private parts
 - kissing you
 - making you have sex with them – this is called rape
- **emotional** – a person yelling or saying things to you that are not nice
- **neglect** – a person not giving you the things or care you need.

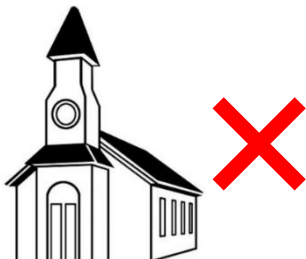
The Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care is also called the **Commission.**



The Commission is not part of the Government.



The Government cannot tell the Commission what to do.



The Commission is not part of any faith-based organisations like churches.

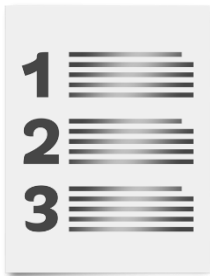


The Commission calls people who have been through abuse in care **survivors.**

What is this document about?



This Easy Read document is a **summary** of a **case study**.



A **summary** is:

- shorter than the main document
- tells you the main ideas.



A **case study** is research that is done on one:

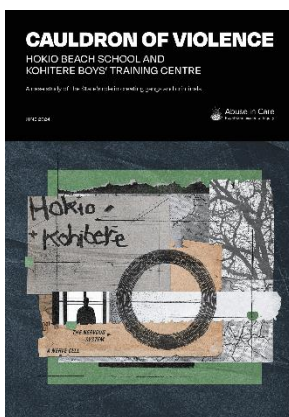
- person
- group
- place.





The Commission asked for case studies to be done to talk about the abuse in care that happened to certain communities of survivors.

This case study is called:



Cauldron of Violence – Hokio Beach School and Kohitere Boys Training Centre: A case study of the State’s role in creating gangs and criminals.

It is about the abuse in care that happened at:



- Hokio Beach School
- Kohitere Boys Training Centre.



The case study talks about how using these schools the **State** were part of creating:

- gangs
- criminals.



Here the **State** means:

- the government
- institutions working with the government like:
 - schools
 - churches.





In this document there are **quotes** from:

- the Commission
- survivors.



Quotes:

- are words someone has said
- will be inside a yellow box like this.



The Commission has given a **trigger warning** to go with this document.

A **trigger warning** is a statement that says the information you are about to read has upsetting things in it.

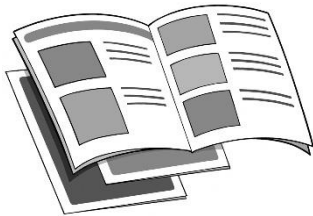
The Commission says:



We honour and uphold the dignity of survivors who have so bravely shared their stories here.



We acknowledge that some content contains **explicit** descriptions of tūkino – abuse, harm and trauma – and may evoke strong negative, emotional responses for readers.



Here **explicit** means things are talked about in detail.

The Commission also says:



Although this response may be unpleasant and difficult to **tolerate**, it is also appropriate to feel upset.



Tolerate means to deal with something even though it is bad.

The Commission also says:



Respect others truths, breathe deeply, take care of your spirit and be gentle with your heart.

What happened at Hokio School and Kohitere Centre?



Hokio School and Kohitere Centre were institutions in Taitoko Levin where boys stayed for a long time.

1900s



1980s

The schools ran from the early 1900s until the late 1980s.



Boys came to the schools from all over Aotearoa New Zealand.



They were often far away from whānau / family.





The State thought these boys were bad people.



In a document from 1965 the Department of Education said:

These boys were too difficult to remain in the community.



The care system the boys were put into was:

- punitive which means the boys were punished a lot.
- abusive.



The boys were not cared for at the schools.



The State:

- took the boys away from their families / whānau
- sent them to places where bad things were normal like:



- **abuse of power**
- violence
- **racism.**



Abuse of power means using your position / job to take advantage of someone.

This can be done using things like:



- violence
- emotional abuse like making people feel scared.



Racism means nasty or unfair treatment of someone because of:

- where they come from
- their language
- skin colour
- religion / their beliefs
- their **culture**.

Culture is a way of:

- thinking that a group shares
- doing things as a group.



Survivors were:

- punished in very bad ways
- blamed for the way they behaved.



The ways the survivors behave were often caused by:

- trauma
- learning difficulties
- disability
- the abuse they were getting at the schools.





Trauma is the bad feelings a person sometimes gets when a bad thing happens to them.

Trauma can last for a long time.



There was extreme violence which included things like:

- **no-narking**
- the staff making up ways to show who was the most powerful person.





Narking means telling on someone when they have done something bad so you will not get in trouble for something else.



Here **no-narking** means making sure:

- people did not talk not talking about bad things that were happening
- no one gets punished for any bad things that were happening.



Things that were parts of the abuse included:

- staff not being watched properly when they did their jobs
- having staff who had been in the military like the army
- staff being hired without the schools knowing:



- who they were
- if they were good at the job.

Staff thought survivors were:

- manipulative which means trying to control things in bad ways
- liars.





People at the schools were told to keep quiet about what was going on including:



- survivors
- staff.



Complaints about abuse were covered up.

Some survivors said prison was better than:



- Hokio School
- Kohitere Centre.



Some survivors said they were worse off when they left the schools than before they arrived.



Some survivors said the only thing they learned was how to be better at doing crime.



The abuse the survivors experienced led to problems with their:

- spirit like how they felt about being part of the world



- bodies like:

- injuries
- if they got sick

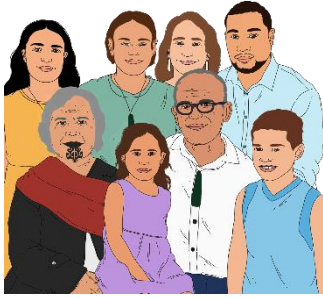


- minds like:

- if they had trouble dealing with their emotions
- if they had mental illness



- relationships like how they got on with people.

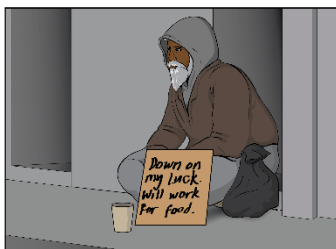
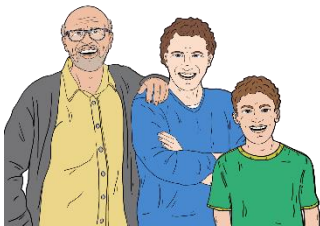


The abuse the survivors experienced also caused impacts that were **inter-generational**.



Here **inter-generational** means the problems the survivors had affected:

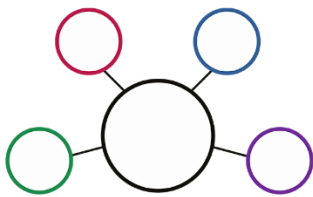
- their whānau / family for a long time like their:
 - children
 - grandchildren
- their community for a long time like:
 - poverty which means not having enough money to live
 - violence
 - illness.





Some survivors:

- have spent most of their lives in prison
- looked for support by joining a gang with other people who had experienced abuse in care.



The abuse that happened at the 2 schools came from every part of the system.



There was little:

- oversight which means watching what was going on
- accountability which means being responsible for what was happening.





Oversight and accountability did not happen for the:



- State
- institutions
- staff
- people who were abusive.



The lives of survivors were **profoundly** changed by their time at:



- Hokio School
- Kohitere Centre.



Profoundly means:

- something is extreme
- and**
- felt deep down inside a person.

Survivor David Williams who is Samoan said:



The things that happened in those places, I don't really know how us survivors can let go of it.

You can't, it's there for life until you go to your grave.



This information has been written by
The Royal Commission of Inquiry into
Abuse in Care.



It has been translated into Easy Read
by the Make it Easy Kia Māmā Mai
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Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



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