

25th July 2024

Presbyterian Support Upper South Island – Public Apology

We are so very sorry. Abuse in care should never have happened. We are dedicated to supporting survivors, and their whānau, as they journey towards healing and redress.

Presbyterian Support Upper South Island (PSUSI) deeply acknowledges and respects the findings and recommendations of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into historical abuse in state care and faith-based organisations from 1950-1999.

The Inquiry has confirmed disgraceful instances of neglect and abuse, and we are profoundly sorry for the harm inflicted upon vulnerable children and young people in care.

As an organisation entrusted with the care of children and young persons on behalf of the state during this period, we recognise and condemn the abuse and mistreatment that occurred. This behaviour is utterly incompatible with our commitment to fostering an equitable, compassionate, and inclusive society, and directly contradicts our core values/kaimana korowai of aroha, whakawhanaungatanga, kotahitanga, tikanga, and kaitiakitanga.

We wish to acknowledge and tautoko the incredible courage and bravery of survivors who have testified and had to revisit these terrible traumas. We recognise that this should never have happened, and we are fully committed to embracing the recommendations made by the Inquiry to ensure the safe and appropriate care of all vulnerable people accessing our services now and in the future.

Barry Helem, Co-CEO/Tumu Whakarae Tauwiwi, and Kim Manahi, Co-CEO/Tumu Whakarae Māori, also reaffirm our steadfast commitment to supporting survivors. "PSUSI has a zero-tolerance policy for any form of abuse, and we are dedicated to advocating for the protection of all vulnerable people. We extend our deepest apologies to those who suffered harm while in care and acknowledge the impact this has also had on survivor's whānau and support networks. We will continue to listen, learn, and support survivors. We promise to do our utmost to help them towards a journey of healing and redress."

Presbyterian Support is supportive of the establishment of the independent [Puretumu Torowhānui redress scheme](#), to help support survivors and their whānau affected by abuse in State and faith-based care and help prevent abuse in care.

In the interim, if you, or a member of your whānau, has been harmed while in the care of our services, we urge you to come forward and speak with us directly or seek support from New Zealand Police.

Key Contact

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