



# The Methodist Church of New Zealand

## Te Hāhi Weteriana o Aotearoa

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**The Methodist Church of Aotearoa New Zealand is publishing this statement in response to Tūtohi Recommendation 130 in Whanaketia – Whakairihia ki te tihi o Maungārongo - Through pain and trauma, from darkness to light, the Royal Commission of Inquiry’s final report.**

1. The Methodist Church of Aotearoa New Zealand acknowledges the Royal Commission of Inquiry’s findings in Whanaketia and its interim reports. The Church supports the Inquiry’s call for urgent change to stop abuse and neglect of those in care in Aotearoa New Zealand, and for state and faith-based institutions to take urgent action to right the wrongs of the past. The Church acknowledges Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the covenant establishing our nation on the basis of a power-sharing relationship and will guide how we undertake mission.
2. The Church has considered the Inquiry’s findings and its recommendations relating to the Church. We will provide further updates on the Church’s plans and timeframes for implementation of recommendations in the coming months.
3. The Church acknowledges the pain and suffering of all those who were abused while in its care, and the courage of the survivors who gave evidence to the Inquiry about abuse they experienced in the care of the Methodist Church. To those survivors whose suffering is documented in the Inquiry’s reports, the Church hears you, believes you, and thanks you for sharing your stories.
4. The Church accepts the Inquiry’s findings that abuse and neglect occurred in its care settings, including Wesley College, former children’s homes, and by Ministers and foster parents for whom the Church was responsible. The Church accepts that it failed to prevent abuse and neglect, and it did not have appropriate protection policies, vetting, resources, or training in place. It accepts that it missed key opportunities to make changes and implement an all of Church approach to protect those in its care.
5. The Church also accepts that it did not always respond appropriately to reports of abuse. Its historical approach was overly legalistic and it has not always believed survivors or taken necessary steps against those who committed abuse. By responding this way, the Church added to the pain and suffering of survivors.

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6. The Church is committed to making amends to those abused in its care. The Church invites survivors who wish to seek redress directly from the Church to come forward and welcomes feedback on how it can improve its redress scheme and engagement with survivors. The Church is open to working with the Crown on the establishment of a new puretumu torowhānui scheme.

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