

**Presbyterian Support Southland (PSS) Implementation Plan update Year 1 of 9 in response to Royal Commission Recommendations on Abuse in Care for Faith-based Originations**

**Update**

We have made reasonable progress against the actions in our plan; however, we have not managed to complete all we had intended due to a reduction in staff capacity. Oranga Tamariki made funding cuts to our service last year resulting in a significant amount of work (and time) needed in restructuring our service with an impact on both staff and service delivery.

Work on current practice regarding care required a collaborative approach with Oranga Tamariki nationally given we continue to provide care services funded by them. As they also experienced funding cuts resulting in restructuring and capacity issues, they too would have been impacted in progressing this work with us.

We have spent time addressing areas in the plan at the time of reviewing and identifying gaps as it made sense to do so. This resulted in additional time being used that we had intended to spend reviewing and identifying gaps.

Oranga Tamariki has recently (July 2025) initiated an Annual Care Partner Self-Reflection assessment that will address some areas of the plan where it relates to current care practice.

After this we intend to check what else regarding current practice needs to be reviewed and identify gaps for actioning.

Areas of progress to date include:

- completing our plan and publishing this on our website
- writing our local apology with the assistance of survivor and cultural input and publishing this on our website
- working with our Presbyterian Support New Zealand Federation (PSNZ) group to write our national apology with survivor and cultural input
- assisted with information locally for Konae - the database for survivors
- met with Survivor Experience staff to share our redress process with survivors
- met with Presbyterian Church Aotearoa New Zealand (PCANZ) members to discuss how we could work together to make sure survivors are well supported when coming forward particularly where they may be confused as to who they should talk with

- met with staff from a church to look at how to work together to best support a survivor who had come forward and was confused as to who to go to, resulting in a positive outcome for the person regarding the redress process
- investigated any areas etc. that may have been named after known perpetrators and removed how a perpetrator was referred to in our centenary book as requested by a survivor.

### **The next 12 months**

There is a lot to work through in the plan, so we have prioritised the following:

- Continue to provide a caring, professional service to survivors who come forward.
- Streamline data and information processes when documenting our involvement with survivors
- Where we can or where it makes sense to do so, we will action work that comes out of identifying gaps after reviewing areas in our plan.

### **Transparency**

We will publish this report on our website and send the same to the Crown Response Unit as they are tasked with driving the government's response to the Royal Commission's recommendations and at present there is not a Care System Office or Care Safe Agency set up as recommended by the Commission.

Dated  
24 July 2025