

27th August 2024

Presbyterian Support Central (PSC) Public Apology

E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e rau rangatira mā

We acknowledge the release of the Final Report from the Royal Commission and its many, far-reaching recommendations. On behalf of the Board, senior management, staff and myself, I with a heavy heart, make this public apology. In this, we recognise Te Tiriti and our obligations to Māori, and Pacific Peoples who were purposefully and disproportionately neglected alongside others.

There are no words to express the way some tamariki (children) and rangatahi (youth) were treated at our Berhampore Home in Wellington, this is our shame to own. The lack of care an impact to tamariki that should never have happened.

Since the Home closed in the 1980's, PSC is now working with survivors and their whānau who were once residents. Our conversations and interactions are helping us to understand their trauma and our mistakes. We will never let this happen again and will continue to support survivors and their whānau.

We are committed to continue to learn, to reflect, promote and change so that the past never repeats. Survivors' contributions have informed us, and the importance of their lens on establishing meaningful solutions has been welcomed.

I publicly say again, I am in awe of your courage and strength to come forward and share your stories with us. I cannot begin to fathom, or comprehend the pain, heartache, hurt and humiliation that the time at the Home has caused you and your whānau. On behalf of the whole PSC whānau, I apologise unreservedly. For those that we have missed, arohamai (I am truly sorry), if you have been ignored or disbelieved, again arohamai.

We will truly never know, or understand, the harm inflicted over the years. We see you and we hear you. We have grown as an organisation based on our time spent with, and in the company of, so many who have been courageous enough to step forward and share their confronting memories. PSC's doors remain open for any survivors who wish to speak with us.

PSC no longer provides direct residential care to tamariki or rangatahi, I would, though, like any survivor to know that we will and are committed to ensuring we engage with you positively and in a caring way when you engage with us.

Words alone are hollow, and it is with our actions that we will be judged. As we look at, consider, and digest the recommendations prepared by the Royal Commission, please know that we are and will be accountable, transparent and responsible in our actions to affirm that any abuse will not be tolerated.

It is to our shame that this occurred, but I can assure survivors it is not who we are today. We can never undo the harm that was caused, but I hope that our acknowledgment and public apology may help survivors on their path to healing.

Ngā mihi nui



M N (Joe) Asghar
Chief Executive

