



23 August 2018

Hon Andrew Little
Minister of Justice
Private Bag 18888
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

Ngā mihi mahana ki a koe Minister Little

Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in State Care

Te Ohaakii a Hine - National Network Ending Sexual Violence Together (TOAH-NNEST) is a nationwide network of professionals from the Sexual Violence sector and includes both those who work with people who have been harmed as well as those who have harmed others. This network represents a substantial group of experienced and knowledgeable practitioners and is arranged along the principles of the Tiriti o Waitangi into two houses. Members of this network see the harm caused by Sexual Violence in their work daily.

TOAH-NNEST has been really heartened to know that this government is taking the devastating issue of the abuse of children and young people placed in care, very seriously. We are pleased to know that there will be a Royal Commission of Inquiry into this matter. Our everyday work evidences the prolific nature of abuse against New Zealand's children and young people. A large amount of historical abuse in New Zealand has occurred in out of home care, both in state and other institutions such as faith-based communities.

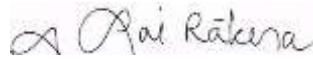
TOAH-NNEST applauds the government for taking on the enormous challenge of investigating the facts and the extent of such abuse. We are however very perturbed that significant sections of the community who have been harmed in care will be left out of the inquiry because of the proposed narrow Terms of Reference.

We strongly urge the government to include all children and young people who have been harmed in care, whether that was in state, faith or other organisationally based care. Many of the victims of abuse in care were variously placed in a mixture of settings and we would like to argue that a holistic approach that considers the whole system is required to do the inquiry justice.

We urgently request that you extend the scope of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in State Care in New Zealand to include all state and organisational care settings.

We look forward to your response.

Nāku noa, nā,



Maggy Tai Rākena
for Taiwi Caucus
TOAH-NNEST



Joy Te Wiata
for Ngā Kaitiaki Mauri
TOAH-NNEST