



14 November 2024

LETTER TO OLD BOYS

Kia ora fellow Old Boy

Government apology for abuse in care

Prime Minister Christopher Luxon's delivery in Parliament this week of an apology to survivors of abuse in state and faith-based institutions was, as he said, "a significant and sorrowful day in New Zealand."

On 12 November, the Government formally responded to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in State and Faith-Based Care. The response was live streamed for over two hours, including apologies from seven state sector leaders, the Prime Minister, and the Leader of the Opposition. There were also speeches from five survivors, who gave their accounts of their suffering and the subsequent terrible impact on their lives.

The Prime Minister apologised to those who had endured abuse, harm and neglect while in care. He also apologised that survivors had not been believed in the past, that ongoing abuse had not been prevented, and that those acting on behalf of the Crown had not treated survivors as well as they should have.

The Prime Minister did not pretend that his words would right the wrongs of the past. Instead, he hoped the apology might help some people with their healing.

The Dilworth Trust Board supports the Government's and Opposition's commitment to working together to implement the Royal Commission of Inquiry's recommendations.

Dilworth community apology

For several months, we have been contemplating how best to proceed with a Dilworth apology with and for our community. We are enormously grateful for the collaborative efforts contributed through the survivor-led Project Reform Steering Group.

We are taking the time to listen carefully and determine the most appropriate way to construct and share this apology with our community.

In doing so, we are drawing on several sources. The Dilworth Independent Inquiry Report has been a strong starting point. We are also considering the responses to the survey which recently sought input from the full Dilworth community on the content, format and timing of the apology. We had a good response to this and are grateful to those who took the time to share their views.

Dilworth Trust Board

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We are taking into consideration the nature of personal apology requests made by survivors through the independent Dilworth Redress Programme, and the results of qualitative research conducted last month by independent research company IPSOS with the Old Boy community. We will also draw on a recent hui attended by survivors, members of the DOBA council, and Dilworth trustees and senior leaders.

Observing the Government's apology has also been informative and constructive.

Other progress

We have been asked to accelerate initiatives important to Old Boys, particularly survivors, to demonstrate our commitment to the restorative process. We acknowledge this request and are committed to honouring it.

The Dilworth Independent Inquiry Report issued in September 2023 outlined 19 recommendations, all of which were accepted by the Dilworth Trust Board. We have made substantial progress against these recommendations since that time, and you can view this progress here: <https://dilworthresponse.org.nz/>.

Finally, we offer a brief update on the independent Dilworth Redress Programme which has seen 258 eligible Dilworth survivors register to date, with 180 having now received their settlement payments and a number of others in the process of considering their redress determination. The ongoing process of registration, engagement with specialist Redress Facilitators, and delivery of Redress Panel determinations continues.

We encourage any former student who was abused to register their interest in making an application for redress if they have not already done so by emailing administrator@dwredress.org.nz or calling 0800 888 744 (Monday through Friday, 9 am-5 pm).

Support also remains available through the Listening Service at assist@dobsupport.com. The Listening Service continues to offer independent and confidential professional counselling and psychological support to any Dilworth former student in New Zealand or overseas. This is fully funded by Dilworth.

I will contact you all again before the end of the year.

Yours sincerely

DILWORTH TRUST BOARD



Aaron Snodgrass
CHAIRMAN