

# **NZ Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in State Care**

CLAN NZ has been working hard lobbying and advocating for a Royal Commission of Inquiry in NZ ever since the NZ branch was first launched at a public meeting on Saturday 18th Feb 2012 at Outhwaite Hall in Grafton, Auckland.

At long last, on 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 2017, Jacinda Ardern, the newly elected Labour Prime Minister, announced that "setting up an inquiry into the abuse of children in state care" was one of the sixteen issues in Labour's 100-day-plan.

However, in response to a number of significant concerns that CLAN NZ had about the proposed scope of the inquiry, on 17th Nov 2017, they issued a press release outlining their concerns.

<http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PO1711/S00211/royal-commission-on-state-historical-abuse-is-non-negotiable.htm>

On 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2018, the establishment of the "**Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in State Care**" was formally announced by the NZ Government. The Chief Commissioner is a former Governor-General Sir Anand Satyanand. It is expected to take a minimum of 3 years and will cost \$12 million in the first year. It is the largest and most expensive Royal Commission New Zealand has ever had.

On 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018, the Draft Terms of Reference were first released for public consultation.

[https://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/Files/Royal-Commission-of-Inquiry-into-Historical-Abuse-in-State-Care/\\$file/Royal-Commission-Terms-of-Reference-for-consultation.pdf](https://www.dia.govt.nz/diawebsite.nsf/Files/Royal-Commission-of-Inquiry-into-Historical-Abuse-in-State-Care/$file/Royal-Commission-Terms-of-Reference-for-consultation.pdf)

On 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018, four CLAN representatives attended a two-day Hui in Wellington at Victoria University, along with 50 other care leavers, survivors, lawyers, researchers, practitioners working in the care/justice/health sectors, media professionals, academics, activists and advocates etc. It was set up to critically examine the Draft Terms of Reference and was hosted by the Aotearoa New Zealand Centre for Indigenous Peoples; the New Zealand Centre for Human Rights Law, Policy and Practice; and the Institute of Criminology School of Social and Cultural Studies.

On 30<sup>th</sup> March 2018, the dedicated Royal Commission website was launched

<http://www.abuseinstatecare.royalcommission.govt.nz/> and further submissions on the Draft Terms of Reference were called for, with a cut-off date of **30<sup>th</sup> April 2018**.

Sir Anand has said, "*The Chair of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in State Care, Sir Anand Satyanand invites you to submit your comments on any aspect of the draft Terms of Reference.*

*He is particularly interested in your views on:*

- *the Purpose of the Royal Commission of Inquiry*
- *the Scope of the Royal Commission of Inquiry*
- *a suitable reference to the Treaty of Waitangi*
- *the dates within which the Inquiry should consider people's experiences of abuse and neglect*
- *what constitutes state care*
- *any other matters you want the Inquiry to consider*

We welcome your views on the draft Terms of Reference. **Submissions close on Monday 30th April 2018.**  
Please tell us if you want your submission to remain confidential.

Email your submission: [abuseinstatecare@royalcommission.govt.nz](mailto:abuseinstatecare@royalcommission.govt.nz)  
Or post your submission: PO Box 10071, The Terrace Wellington, 6143  
Or use Free Phone: 0800 222 727 “

**----CLAN NZ is now encouraging you to let Sir Anand know your thoughts asap----**

**NOTE: A 'submission' is just an ordinary email, letter or a phone call, so don't be put off by the sound of it. (Let us know at [clan.nz@actrix.co.nz](mailto:clan.nz@actrix.co.nz) if you want any help with writing it.)**