

CONFERENCE RESOLUTION REQUESTING A ROYAL COMMISSION

The attendees at the 2017 International Conference of the South South Institute, Christchurch, New Zealand, 5-10 November 2017, have passed the following resolution and ask that it be presented to the Prime Minister of New Zealand by Phillip Chapman (Chair) and Ken Clearwater (National Advocate) for the Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse Trust, Aotearoa New Zealand (MSSAT Aotearoa) who are hosting this conference.

RESOLUTION

We, the ATTENDEES of the South South Institute Conference, Christchurch, New Zealand, 5-10 November 2017, endorse the Government of New Zealand's commitment to set up an Inquiry into the abuse of children in State care. We request that Inquiry be inclusive of ALL institutional abuse, historical and current, of children in New Zealand.

We submit that the government MUST commit fully to an Inquiry in the form of a **Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse**, that is independent, has appropriate powers to compel testimony from institutions, has sufficient resources provided to it to ensure an environment of safety, support, confidentiality, redress and restorative justice for survivors who come forward to report abuse and share their experience, and is conscious of the sensitivities of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

We also submit that any inquiry must have the mandate to publicly report to facilitate the healing of survivors and the New Zealand community based on an understanding of the institutional failure that enabled abuse to occur and to make recommendations for government action that prevent future institutional abuse.

We suggest as a model the Australian Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

In passing this resolution we note:

- ✓ The Australian Commission reported that **60% of abuse occurred in faith-based institutions with 66% occurring within Catholic Church institutions.**
- ✓ The majority of men in prisons have been the victims of abuse
- ✓ Many of the men in mental health treatment have been the victims of abuse
- ✓ Childhood abuse is a key causal factor in male suicides
- ✓ There has been a 90% increase in the number of sensitive claims to ACC by males who have been sexually abused in the period 2012 – 2016
- ✓ Most male survivors will never make a claim under the present system
- ✓ International research suggests 1 in 6 males will suffer abuse
- ✓ Many survivors experience the current processes for reporting their abuse re-traumatising.
- ✓ Survivor evidence supports that perpetrators have been able to act with a degree of impunity because of systemic failure and the way Institutions have covered up occurrence of abuse and effectively silenced survivors.

Endorsed by the Board of MSSAT Aotearoa New Zealand and signed on behalf of ATTENDEES by:

PHILIP CHAPMAN
National Chair

KEN CLEARWATER
National Advocate

Male Survivors of Sexual Abuse Trust, Aotearoa New Zealand