



24 October 2019

To the Salvation Army community

Dear friends,

Salvation Army Response to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse – Update

The Government is currently holding a Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care. As previously communicated, I want to reassure you that The Salvation Army supports this inquiry and is fully cooperating with its work. This letter is to update you on current activities related to the Commission.

No Salvation Army officer, staff or volunteer is to speak on behalf of The Salvation Army in this matter. Please note the following and refer any inquiries to the people listed below:

- **Public inquiries:** Refer people to either Murray Houston (Royal Commission Response, Manager, p:0276942040) or Major Christina Tyson (Royal Commission Response, Response Officer, p:0274910027). Email: tsa.royalcommissionresponse@salvationarmy.org.nz.
- **Media inquiries:** Louise Parry, Territorial Media Officer, ph: 021945337
- **If criminal sexual behaviour is alleged:** Encourage the complainant to contact the Police. The Salvation Army will cooperate in any criminal investigation or prosecution.
- **Royal Commission website:** www.abuseinstatecare.royalcommission.govt.nz

The Commission will hold its first public hearing — a Contextual Hearing — from Tuesday 29 October to Friday 8 November in Auckland. Its purpose is to set the scene for all public hearings that will be held over the anticipated four-year life of the Commission. At the Contextual Hearing, the Commission will hear from survivors and their advocates, academics and other experts, with their testimony helping to shape and guide the Commission's work.

Salvation Army representatives Murray Houston (Royal Commission Response Manager) and Major Christina Tyson (Royal Commission Response Officer) will attend, along with our legal representation.

After the Contextual Hearings, public hearings will be held periodically, organised around a range of themes. Salvation Army representatives will attend whenever required at these hearings.

The Salvation Army provided residential care for approximately 20,000 children from 1903 to 1991. It causes us deep sorrow that some of these children were abused during this time, causing them lasting pain and harm. As incidents of abuse have come to our attention, we have worked with survivors and the police to ensure justice and redress for people's suffering.

I remind you that The Salvation Army has a no-tolerance policy for anyone who offends against children, young people and vulnerable people within The Salvation Army today. Please ensure that you comply with all policies in place to ensure the safety and wellbeing of those connected with The Salvation Army. This includes Criminal History Checks for staff and volunteers, our Keeping Children Safe Child and Young Adults' Protection Policy, our Sexual Misconduct and Complaints process, guidelines for the Management of Sex Offenders in Salvation Army Fellowships, and our Salvation Army Respect Policy. Failure to adhere to these policies results in disciplinary action.

It is both our Christian and moral duty to ensure that we ensure the protection of those in our care.

God bless you,

Colonel Suzanne Fincham
CHIEF SECRETARY