

26 May 2025

Hon Erica Stanford

Minister Responsible for the Government's Response to the Royal Commission's Report into
Historical Abuse in State Care and in the Care of Faith-based Institutions
New Zealand Government

By email to: Erica.Stanford@parliament.govt.nz

Dear Minister Stanford,

Re: Redress eligibility for Lake Alice Hospital survivors

We thank you for the Government's mahi undertaken to date to prevent, identify, and respond to abuse in state and faith-based care, particularly the recent review and improvements to the redress and care system. This support for survivors remains a critical step in acknowledging the systemic failures which allowed vulnerable people, and in particular young Māori, to be harmed.

One of the RANZCP members continues to work with a Lake Alice survivor who was subjected to paraldehyde injections, not in the Child and Adolescent Unit, but in the adult ward of the facility. This survivor has submitted a redress claim but has been deemed ineligible for compensation by the Crown Response Agency due to the criteria being outlined as "[confirmed admission to the Lake Alice Child and Adolescent Unit](#)". This is inexplicable and is only serving to prolong the abuse for the survivor.

We respectfully ask that you review the current criteria pertaining to Lake Alice Hospital survivors to ensure that all those who were subjected to unmodified ECT and/or paraldehyde injections at the facility are afforded equitable redress opportunities.

The actions of the psychiatrist at the heart of the Lake Alice abuse have been acknowledged by the RANZCP as torturous, and our commitment to survivors is to ensure the mental health system cannot allow such activity to occur again.

As the professional body which trains and supports psychiatrists, we look forward to working with you and your government to offer the appropriate, respectful and expert mental health care all New Zealanders deserve.

If there is any way we can assist or contribute to this important conversation, please let us know by contacting nzoffice@ranzcp.org.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'H. Thabrew', written in a cursive style.

Dr Hiran Thabrew

Chair, Tu Te Akaaka Roa

RANZCP