

## Candidate Information Sheet

### Royal Commission into Historical Abuse in State Care

The Minister of Internal Affairs (the Minister) is seeking nominations for member positions on the Royal Commission into Historical Abuse in State Care (the Royal Commission).

Nominations must be received by **Wednesday 30 May 2018**. The Department of Internal Affairs is coordinating the appointment process on behalf of the Minister.

**The Royal Commission**

The Royal Commission is established under the Inquiries Act 2013 (the Act). Royal Commissions are reserved for the most serious matters of public importance, with members appointed by the Governor-General on the advice of the Executive Council. The Government established the Royal Commission on 1 February 2018 as part of its 100-Day Plan. It is set to be a significant inquiry, with a mandate to examine the nature and extent of abuse that occurred, why it occurred, the impact on individuals, whanau and communities, and identify lessons for the future.

The Royal Commission is chaired by Rt Hon Sir Anand Satyanand, former Governor-General of New Zealand. The Chair has recently led public consultation on the draft Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Royal Commission’s mandate. The public consultation process helps to ensure that the government is well-placed to make informed decisions on the Royal Commission’s mandate, before it starts its work. The Chair will shortly report to the Minister on the submissions received, as well as any suggestions or recommendations for the final TOR. The Minister will carefully consider this report, before taking a final proposal to Cabinet.

Along with the final TOR, Cabinet will also agree on the appointment of further members of the Royal Commission, who will work alongside the Chair, and its final budget. Further information about the Commission, the establishment process to date, and the draft TOR can be found on its website at: [www.abuseinstatecare.royalcommission.govt.nz](http://www.abuseinstatecare.royalcommission.govt.nz).

**Members**

Currently, the Royal Commission consists of the Chair, as appointed by the Governor-General under the Act. Cabinet has noted that a further three or four members will also be appointed to the Royal Commission in addition to the Chair.

It is expected that the members will, either individually or collectively, bring the following skills and experience:

* ability to support and contribute to complex, system-level reviews drawing on a wide range of perspectives;
* knowledge of, or experience in, examining systems or processes affecting individuals;
* knowledge of the machinery of government and government processes,
* knowledge of legal systems and practices or other subject specific expertise (e.g. specific understanding of child protection and youth justice, health, psychiatric and disability services, human rights in detention/care settings);
* experience of working within Māori kawa and tikanga, throughout te ao Māori; and
* experience working in the public eye, independently and impartially without being unduly influenced.

All members are also expected to hold the following personal attributes:

* empathetic listening skills and the ability to work in non-adversarial ways;
* the ability to assess evidence dispassionately and impartially;
* high personal integrity and no irreconcilable conflicts of interest;
* resilience and the ability to commit to the task; and
* a focus on delivery and the ability to work to a tight reporting timeframe.

**Time commitments**

The Royal Commission will determine its work programme and methods of work. The time commitment expected of the Royal Commission members will be agreed by Cabinet during the final establishment process. It is currently envisaged that members will be expected to work an average of three or four days per week. The Royal Commission is expected to run until the end of the current parliamentary term, subject to confirmation in the final TOR.

***Remuneration***

Remuneration for members will be agreed in accordance with Cabinet guidance, as part of the final appointments process.

**Appointment process**

***Information required from nominees***

Each nomination must be accompanied by a current curriculum vitae (maximum four pages in length) and a completed nomination form (as attached).

***Nominee disclosures***

Nominees will be asked to provide declarations to the Department of Internal Affairs. This includes declaring any actual or perceived conflict of interest, other matters that may affect the Royal Commission’s work and/or functions, and anything in a nominee’s personal or financial circumstances that may affect their candidacy.

Further guidance on potential conflicts of interest is available through the Office of the Auditor-General and the State Services Commission, including the publication at [www.oag.govt.nz/2007/conflicts-public-entities/](http://www.oag.govt.nz/2007/conflicts-public-entities/).

***Submitting nominations***

Nominations should be sent to the Department of Internal Affairs by e-mail to inquirynominations@dia.govt.nz. All nominations must be received by **Wednesday 30 May 2018.**

Nominees (and nominators) should note that any nomination received will not necessarily result in the appointment of a particular person.