

## **Things for a Ministry Unit to Consider:**

### **1) How would one respond to a survivor of abuse triggered by the Report who had never reported the abuse they had experienced?**

- a) Please refer to 'Guide for Handling Responses to the Royal Commission on Abuse in Care Report at a Ministry Unit'.
- b) Most survivors are not angry people looking for physical confrontations.
- c) Ken Clearwater has offered to be an independent point of contact for survivors of abuse. He is the head of National Advocate at Male Survivors Aotearoa. Email: [mssat@survivor.org.nz](mailto:mssat@survivor.org.nz) . For more information, visit: Ken Clearwater [TEDx Talk](#).

### **2) How would one respond to the negative and distressing comments about the church and Christians in general?**

- a) Acceptance that this is part of our shared history as Anglicans and global church.
- b) The Royal Commission of Inquiry reveals abuse across all sectors of society including the State.
- c) Our stance is: Abuse was not okay, abuse is not okay, abuse will never be okay.
- d) Ministry Standards Commission developed to better support those disclosing an abuse.
- e) Spread Safeguarding content across multiple weeks during notices at a service:
  - i) Please do not preach on the topic of abuse as it is a trigger/traumatic subject to those affected by it. See 5(b) for discussing topics related to the Royal Commission Report.
  - ii) Introduce Parish Safeguarding Contacts (PSC) and clergy as points of contact.
  - iii) Point out A Safe Church for Everyone posters displayed.
  - iv) Clergy are available to listen and talk to anyone who wants to approach.

### **3) How staff, Parish Safeguarding Contacts, and clergy manage their own emotional and mental responses to the Report?**

- a) Special staff meetings to discuss Royal Commission Report how we are feeling and how we can support each other:
  - i) Larger Ministry Units can do so inhouse.
  - ii) Smaller Ministry Units combine with other Ministry Units e.g. rural parishes.

b) An intentional topic during supervision or spiritual direction.

**4) How are clergy and staff encouraged to process the Report as a group and support each other as they manage their own emotions while being the face of the church in the community?**

- a) Make time to discuss at the next staff meeting
- b) To discuss at the next archdeaconry meeting
- c) To show integrity
- d) Be proactive in best practice towards safeguarding of all.

**5) How do we support the emotional and mental stress (and disgust) of our congregations once they know what is in the Report?**

- a) Clergy available to listen and talk to anyone who wants to approach them regarding any topic related to the Report. This may occur in any informal setting.
- b) Create an opportunity to discuss in a well-planned small-scale group (not a home group or a Bible study group) on topics of concern raised by the Royal Commission Report:
  - i) Give plenty of advance notice
  - ii) Hold small scale meetings (4-10 people)
  - iii) Possibly held offsite of a Ministry Unit
  - iv) Any opportunities to organise would be expected to include participation of Clergy
  - v) Begin any meeting with a trigger notice (which acknowledges the topics may be triggering to individuals).
  - vi) Mention specific support is available for specific situations:
    - (1) Hand out the list of Abuse in Care Report Support Contacts
    - (2) Offer telehealth contacts (online audio/video calls e.g. Zoom) for parishioners impacted by any form of abuse. This will allow them to obtain confidential, accessible and non-judgemental support.
- c) Attend the 'Liturgy of Lament and Tears'.

**6) How will the church listen to what is needed going forward for staff and clergy to be safe in the future.**

- a) Feedback from Ministry Units via archdeacons to the bishop is welcome
- b) Diocesan media officer to monitor letters to the newspaper and any comments made on our diocesan website and social media.