

28 March 2024

Prime Minister, Rt Hon Christopher Luxon
Minister for Justice, Hon Paul Goldsmith
Minister for Mental Health, Hon Matt Doocey

By email to:

C.Luxon@ministers.govt.nz

P.Goldsmith@ministers.govt.nz

M.Doocey@ministers.govt.nz

Re: Implementation of Puretumu Torowhānui

Tēnā koutou Ministers

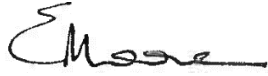
Last month, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists offered invited former residents of the Lake Alice Child and Adolescent Unit a formal apology for the harm caused by psychiatrist Selwyn Leeks. The actions of Leeks were delivered under the guise of psychiatry, but in fact amounted to torture. The impact of his abuse was severe and for many survivors that harm is still felt deeply today. Their experiences have been highlighted through the [Beautiful Children](#) report, as part of the Abuse in Care Royal Commission of Inquiry.

More than 30 survivors attended the event last month along with numerous whānau and supporters. Our apology was not accepted, and we understand that. However, the survivors in attendance acknowledged the importance of the event and told us they appreciated the opportunity to be heard. This is an important part of the healing journey and [we will continue to work with survivors](#) in the wake of the final Royal Commission's report being released. As part of that commitment, we now respectfully urge the New Zealand Government to complete and implement the promised redress scheme, Puretumu Torowhānui.

Delivering this scheme and support for survivors is a critical step in acknowledging the systemic failures which allowed these vulnerable people, and in particular young Māori, to be harmed. We urge you to implement Puretumu Torowhānui as a priority. We acknowledge that the health and social service sector has greatly evolved since the 1980s, and the abuse carried out at Lake Alice would not be able to occur in New Zealand's modern-day health system.

Our promise to the Lake Alice survivors is that we will do what we can to ensure that continues to be the case. Our membership is clear that psychiatrists have a responsibility to [acknowledge and learn from all historic harmful practices](#). As the professional body which trains and supports psychiatrists, we look forward to working with your government to offer the appropriate, respectful and expert mental health care all New Zealanders deserve.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Moore', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Elizabeth Moore
President
RANZCP

Ref: 4454