

Giving feedback on the terms of reference for the Royal Commission COVID-19 Lesson Learned

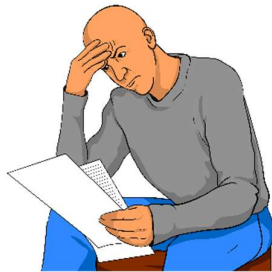


Published: February 2024

Before you start



This is a long document.



It can be hard for some people to read a document this long.



Some things you can do to make it easier are:

- read it a few pages at a time
- set aside some quiet time to look at it
- have someone read it with you to support you to understand it.



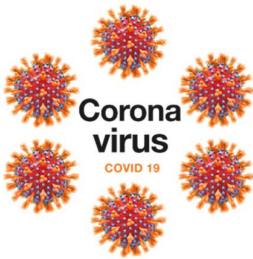
What you will find in this document

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What is this document about?



This Easy Read document is about the **Royal Commission of Inquiry into COVID-19 Lessons Learned – Te Tira Ārai Urutā**.



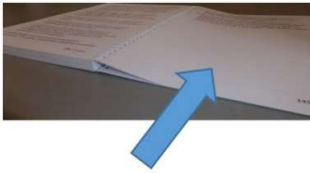
In this document the **Royal Commission of Inquiry into COVID-19 Lessons Learned – Te Tira Ārai Urutā** will be called the **Royal Commission**.



The Government has asked the Royal Commission to get **feedback** from New Zealanders about the **terms of reference**.



Feedback means saying what you think about something.



Terms of reference are explained on **pages 11 to 12.**



This document tells you how to give your feedback on the terms of reference to the Royal Commission.

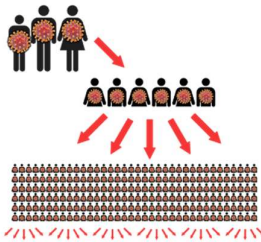
What is the Royal Commission?



The Royal Commission was announced by the Government in 2022.



It is a group of people learning about things that happened during the COVID-19 pandemic.



The Royal Commission will find these things out so the country can be ready if other pandemics happen.

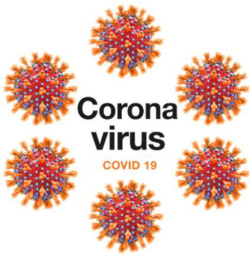


To do this they will look at lots of information.

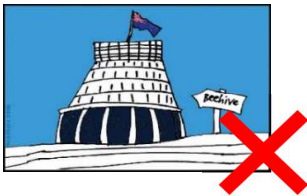


The Royal Commission will talk to different:

- people
- organisations
- communities.



They will ask people to talk about what happened to them during the COVID-19 pandemic.



The Royal Commission is not part of the Government.



The Government can ask the Royal Commission what to look at.



The Government cannot tell the Royal Commission what should go into their report.



As part of their work the Royal Commission will tell the Government what they find out.



The final report will come out on 30 September 2024.



You can find more information about the Royal Commission at this **website**:

www.covid19lessons.royalcommission.nz



This website is not in Easy Read.

What is the COVID-19 pandemic?



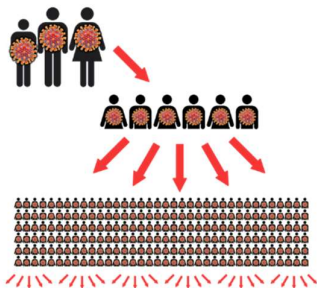
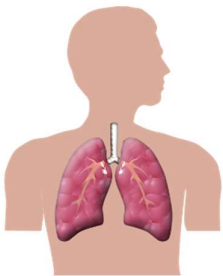
The **COVID-19 pandemic** started in Aotearoa New Zealand in 2020.



COVID-19 is a type of virus that makes people sick.

COVID-19 can affect your:

- lungs
- airways
- other organs / parts of your body.

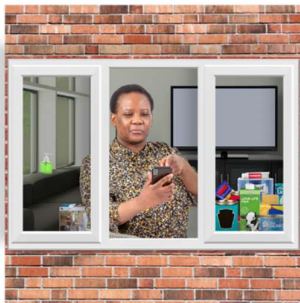
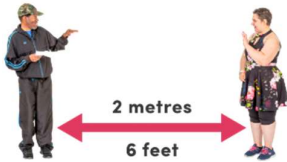


A **pandemic** is when many people around the world get the same sickness at the same time.

There were lots of rules to follow during the COVID-19 pandemic like:



- **lockdown**
- wearing masks
- keeping a distance from people
- staying at home when sick
- taking tests
- getting the the COVID-19 **vaccine**.

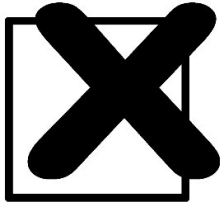


Lockdown was when the Government asked everyone to stay at home so that they did not get sick.



A **vaccine** is a medicine that can help stop you from getting very sick.

What are terms of reference?



Terms of reference means:

- what the Royal Commission can do
- what the Royal Commission can not do
- what the Royal Commission should look at
- how big the Royal Commission will be.



The terms of reference are made by the Government.



The Government may change the terms of reference.



The full terms of reference can be found on this **website**:

tinyurl.com/mr36m2ud



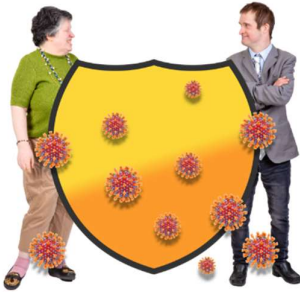
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What is in the terms of reference?

Public health response



The Royal Commission will look at the **public health response** during the pandemic.



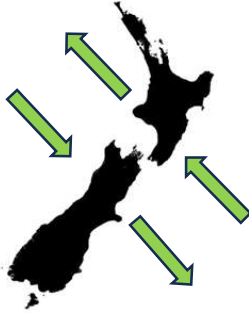
The **public health response** means all the things that were done to keep people safe from COVID-19.

Looking at the public health response includes:



- when the **border** was closed
- **MIQ**
- how we got vaccines for the country
- when there were rules about what people could not do if they did not get the vaccine.



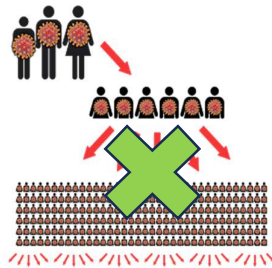


The **border** means places where people:

- come into Aotearoa New Zealand
- leave Aotearoa New Zealand.

When the border was closed there were lots of rules about who could:

- come into Aotearoa New Zealand
- leave Aotearoa New Zealand.



MIQ stands for Managed Isolation and Quarantine.

MIQ was when people who came into the country were kept away from everyone else for a short time.

This was to check if they were sick with COVID-19 so the virus would not spread through the country.



Looking at the public health response also includes:

- lockdown
- **isolation.**
- **vaccine passes.**





Isolation is when you stay away from people while you are sick with COVID-19.



A **vaccine pass** was a document that showed you had got the COVID-19 vaccine.



Looking at the public health response also includes:

- how many people could be in one place like:



- at a religious gathering like a church service
- at funerals
- in supermarkets



- **personal protective equipment.**



Personal protective equipment is things like:

- masks
- gloves
- gowns.

Personal protective equipment is also called **PPE**.

How people got their goods and services

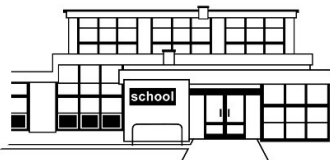


The Royal Commission will look at how everybody got the things they needed to live during the pandemic.



Looking at this includes:

- how people got important services like:
 - water
 - electricity / power
- how people got their education like school
- how people could get childcare.





Looking at how people got the things they needed during the pandemic also includes important Government services like:

- housing
- **superannuation.**



Superannuation is the money people over 65 years of age get given to live on by the Government.

Economic response



The Royal Commission will look at the **economic response** during the pandemic.

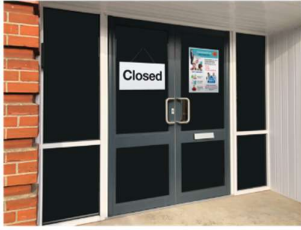


The **economic response** during the pandemic means how everybody was able to:

- get money
- spend money.

Looking at the economic response includes:

- support for people when they could not work
- support for businesses when they were not open
- the **wage subsidy**
- how some important businesses were allowed to keep running in lockdown like farming.

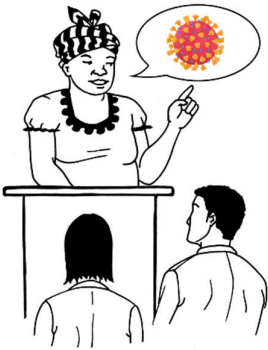


The **wage subsidy** was money given to businesses by the Government during the pandemic.

This was so they could pay their workers while their business was not open.

What the Government did

New Zealand Government



The Royal Commission will look at what the Government did during the pandemic including:

- talking to everyone about COVID-19
- how different communities were:
 - talked with
 - given information about COVID-19
- what decisions the Government made.



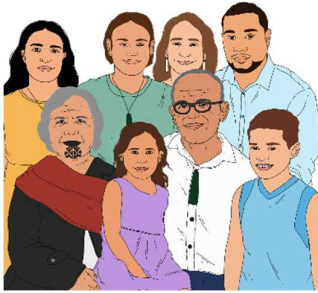
Looking at what the Government did includes thinking about which plans could be used again if another pandemic happens.

Law



The Royal Commission will look at what kinds of laws would be good to make sure Aotearoa New Zealand is ready if another pandemic happens.

Māori



The Royal Commission will look at what was important to Māori during the pandemic.



This will be looked at using the ideas of **Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi**.

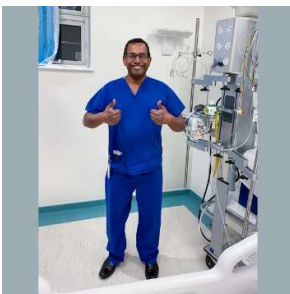


Te Tiriti o Waitangi / The Treaty of Waitangi is an important agreement between:

- Māori
- and
- the Government.

Important groups

The Royal Commission will look at how to best support **essential workers** during a pandemic.



Essential workers were people who had to work during the pandemic because what they did was important.

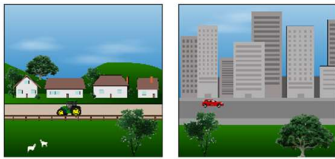


Essential workers includes people who:

- work in supermarkets
- work at the border.



The Royal Commission will also look at how to support communities who have more problems during a pandemic.



This includes:

- Māori
- Pasifika.



What is not included in the terms of reference?



There are things the Royal Commission will not be looking at.

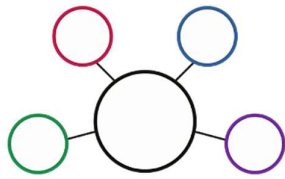


The Royal Commission will not look at decisions made during the pandemic by people working in health.

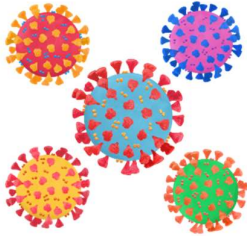


The Royal Commission will not look at how **strategies** for COVID-19 were used for 1:

- person
- thing that happened.



A **strategy** is a plan with different ways set up to make something happen.



The Royal Commission will not look at how the COVID-19 virus works.



The Royal Commission will not look at how well vaccines work.

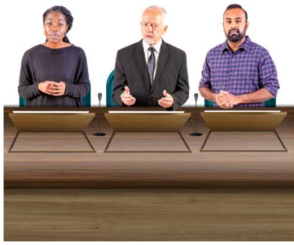


The Royal Commission will not look at changes that have been made not long ago to the health system.



The Royal Commission will not look at decisions made about the pandemic by:

- courts
- **tribunals.**



A **tribunal** is a type of court where:

- decisions are made
- problems are figured out
- **recommendations** are made.



A **recommendation** is something that would be good to do.



The Royal Commission will not look at decisions made about the pandemic by:

- agencies like the **Office of the Ombudsman**
- the **Privacy Commissioner**
- the **Independent Police Conduct Authority**.





The **Office of the Ombudsman** is a part of Parliament.

They look at complaints made about how government agencies work.



The **Privacy Commissioner** is a part of the Government that looks at how personal information is used.



The **Independent Police Conduct Authority** is a part of the Government that looks at complaints made about the police.



The Royal Commission will not look at how businesses worked during the pandemic unless they were part of important pandemic services.



The Royal Commission will not look at decisions made by the **independent monetary policy committee** of the **Reserve Bank** during the pandemic.



The **independent monetary policy committee** makes decisions about how much things cost in Aotearoa New Zealand.



The **Reserve Bank** is a part of the Government that looks after things to do with money in Aotearoa New Zealand.



The Royal Commission will not look at how courts worked differently during the pandemic.



The Royal Commission will not look at how Parliament worked differently during the pandemic.



The Royal Commission will not look at how the **general election** happened during the pandemic.



A **general election** is when we vote for who we want to be our Government.



A general election happens every 3 years.

How to give feedback on the terms of reference



The Royal Commission wants to know what you think about these terms of reference.



You can give feedback this at this **website**:

www.covid19inquiry.nz



This website is not in Easy Read.

Choose the form called:



Feedback on our Terms of Reference.



The form is available in:

- English
- te reo Māori
- **New Zealand Sign Language**
- Simplified Chinese
- Hindi
- Samoan
- Tongan.



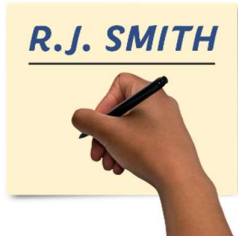
Information on how to give your feedback in **New Zealand Sign Language** is on **page 38**.



Once you have filled in the form you will be asked to give information about who you are.



This will let the Royal Commission give better information to the Government.



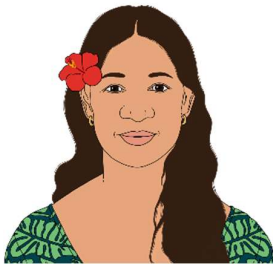
You will be asked things like:

- your name
- where you live
- your **ethnicity**.



Ethnicity means your race like:

- Māori
- Samoan
- New Zealand European.



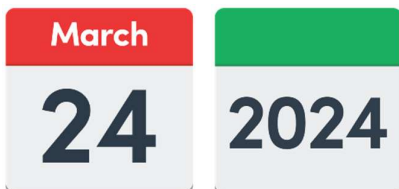


Ethnicity also means your background like if you:

- were born in Aoteroa New Zealand
- moved to Aotearoa New Zealand from another country.



You do not have to give this information about yourself.



The last day to give your feedback is **24 March 2024.**

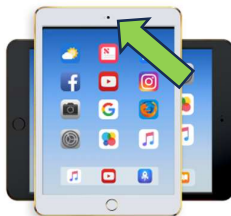
How to give your feedback using NZSL



You can make your submission on the website using New Zealand Sign Language / NZSL.



Click on the form that says New Zealand Sign Language.



Your video will be recorded using the camera on your device.



When you finish recording click the Send Videomail button.



Your video will be emailed to the Royal Commission.

What is the feedback you can give?



On the **Feedback on our Terms of Reference form** type in what you think about the terms of reference.



The Royal Commission also wants to know if you would like other things included in the terms of reference like:



- how lockdowns were done
- how we were able to get vaccines
- how well vaccines work
- how well the economy worked during the pandemic.





Other things the Royal Commission wants to know if you would like included are:



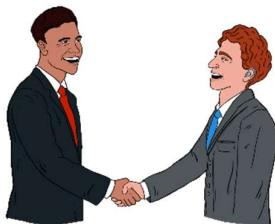
- how people got along during the pandemic
- if the decisions made during the pandemic were good



- whether the Government spent the right amount of money



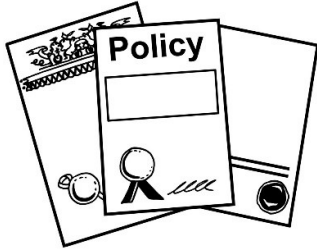
- whether the rules the Government made about getting rid of COVID-19 were balanced with other things happening in Aotearoa New Zealand



- how well the Government worked with people in business.



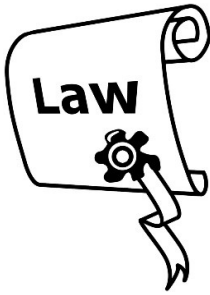
Other things the Royal Commission wants to know if you would like included are:



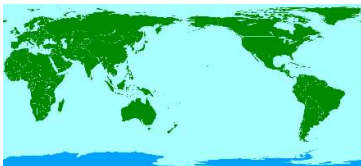
- how policies made by the Government during the pandemic changed things like:



- health care
- education like school
- business.



- if what the Government did was right by law



- how Aotearoa New Zealand did during the pandemic when looked at beside what other countries did.



You can also talk about what happened to you during the COVID-19 pandemic by filling in the Share Your Story form.



The Share Your Story form can be found at this **website**:

www.covid19inquiry.nz

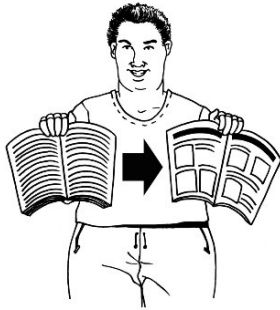


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What will happen after you share your feedback



Your feedback will be sent to the Department of Internal Affairs.

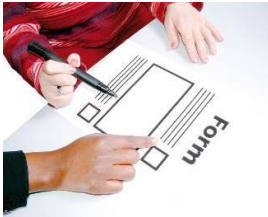


The Government will use all the feedback to decide what changes to make to the terms of reference.



If changes are made to the terms of reference the Royal Commission will need to look more at whether everything has been covered.

How to get support with your feedback



You can ask for support to give your feedback.

You can send an email to:



inquiryintocovid-19lessons@dia.govt.nz

In the subject line of your email put:



I need help with my submission.

You do not need to type anything else in your email.



Click send when you are done.



You will get an email back with information on how to get support.



This information has been written by the Royal Commission of Inquiry into COVID-19 Lessons Learned.



It has been translated into Easy Read by the Make it Easy Kia Māmā Mai service of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



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