

# The Church at Gloriavale

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The Church at Gloriavale acknowledges that the Royal Commission of Inquiry into historic Abuse in Care during the timeframe from 1950 to 1999 found that abuse happened in this church community. We accept the Royal Commission's recommendation to ensure the ongoing safety of people in our care.

To the people of Gloriavale and those who were part of the community that experienced this abuse while amongst us, we write to you with profound sorrow, acknowledging the pain and suffering that has been experienced by victims and families while within our church group.

We offer our deepest apologies that abuse had occurred in this time period. You were entitled to a safe and supportive environment, and we failed to provide that.

We thank the people who have spoken up and brought this sin into the light where it could be dealt with.

We honour your courage, and we also acknowledge those who struggle to find the words to express their pain.

We recognise the impact that abuse has had on your lives and sympathize with your pain.

The vision for the community life was to provide a safe and supportive environment, but this was taken advantage of. The trust that should have been honoured was broken, and for that, we are deeply sorry.

The Church at Gloriavale apologizes that the leadership at that time did not report known instances of abuse to state authorities.

As part of our commitment to change, we have provided, and will continue to provide, abuse awareness and prevention training to our children and families, promoting a culture of vigilance and care. We are committed to making our processes robust and consistent. We commit to the highest standards of pastoral care.

We will continue to listen to victims, and to support them to heal and receive redress.

To this end, the church is creating a page on its website where people can report abuse and find support from external agencies. We invite victims to request a personal apology from the leadership on behalf of the Church for not reporting known cases of abuse to appropriate authorities.

We will continue to engage with external agencies to provide assurance to all that people in this group are safe, visible, and heard.

To ensure the safety of families at Gloriavale, the church has implemented processes and documentation to enable, guide and support members to both be safe and get help from external agencies as required.

*Howard Temple (On behalf of the Shepherds of the Church at Gloriavale)*

*"I will build my church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." - Matthew 16:18*  
*"The Church of the Living God, the pillar and the ground of the truth." - 1 Timothy 3:16*