

The Alliance for Forgotten Australians – Annual General Meeting and membership meeting November 2017

AFA membership

The Alliance for Forgotten Australians (AFA) held its AGM and membership meeting on 21-22 November 2017. Recognising the importance of stability and continuity, only very minor changes were made to our membership. The latest list of members is below.

AFA's priorities

We agreed AFA's strategic and business plan for 2017-18 and our priorities are:

1. Promote the implementation of a national redress scheme.
2. Make service systems more responsive, especially aged care services, to meet the needs of Forgotten Australians, and a system for priority access to health, aged and housing services.
3. Raise awareness about the importance and needs of Forgotten Australians in the community and among local, state and territory and national decision-making bodies and state /territory Forgotten Australian support services.
4. Strengthen AFA's leadership, governance and management capacities to further build confidence in the organisation among internal and external stakeholders.

Draft Commonwealth legislation for redress scheme

AFA notes that there has been much comment and discussion about the eligibility and structure of a national redress scheme. We carefully considered the tabled Commonwealth redress legislation and agreed that we have *significant* concerns with the proposed legislation. Our response to the legislation is attached, and we will immediately undertake a vigorous campaign to lobby for a more equitable and inclusive scheme.

AFA 2017-18 membership

Board

Caroline Carroll OAM, Chairperson (VIC)
Pamella Vernon, Vice-President (NSW)
Karyn Walsh AM, Treasurer (QLD)
Simon Gardiner, Secretary (VIC)
Dennis Dodt (QLD)

Marlene Wilson (QLD)
Yvonne Porter (NSW)
David Henderson (TAS)
Josephine Littlehawk (SA)
Gordon Hills (WA)
Heather May (NT)

Members

Jules Carroll (TAS)
Maree Holt (VIC)
Steven Page (SA)
Reg Casley (WA)
Crystal Keitaanpa (NT)
Jim Myers (NT)
Mergho Ray (SA)

The Alliance for Forgotten Australians - response to the *Commonwealth Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Bill 2017*

The Alliance for Forgotten Australians (AFA) has advocated strongly and consistently for a national redress scheme that is:

- Open to all survivors of out-of-home 'care'
- Equitable and inclusive of all forms of abuse
- Transparent in process
- Independently administered.

AFA has participated actively and collaboratively with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse; the Australian Government; and most recently with the Independent Advisory Council on Redress.

AFA notes that there has been much comment and discussion about the eligibility and structure of a national redress scheme. AFA has carefully considered the tabled Commonwealth redress legislation. Following this consideration, AFA has *significant* concerns with the proposed legislation because it is:

- Not equitable
- Not inclusive of all forms of abuse
- Not independently administered

The proposed scheme will leave a very large numbers of adult survivors of out-of-home 'care' excluded, discarded and forgotten.

A national redress scheme requires the involvement of all states and territories, and all institutions involved in the 'care' of children. AFA encourages all these parties to seek further discussion with the Commonwealth about the deficiencies in the proposed redress legislation.

AFA calls on other advocacy and peak bodies and professional associations to support an urgent review of the proposed redress legislation.

Caroline Carroll OAM
Chair
On behalf of the membership of AFA
22 November 2017