

Media Release

The Alliance for Forgotten Australians today welcomed the Australian Government's 2017 Budget announcement of \$33.4 funding for a Commonwealth Redress Scheme for Survivors of Institutional Child Sex Abuse.

Caroline Carroll OAM, Chair of the Alliance for Forgotten Australians, congratulated the Australian Government on this important step in bringing justice and healing to those who have suffered in 'care'.

'Nothing will ever replace a lost childhood, nothing will ever compensate for the pain we have suffered in the institutions which were supposed to look after us' she said. 'But as we age, our journeys may become smoother if we can have access to counselling, if we can afford to attend to our mental and physical health, and if the damage that has been done to children who were alone in the world can be acknowledged.'

The Alliance for Forgotten Australians today thanked and acknowledged the Turnbull Government, Minister Christian Porter and Attorney-General George Brandis for funding this initiative.

Caroline Carroll said that the Alliance for Forgotten Australians is lobbying state and territory governments and past providers of 'care' to opt-in to the Commonwealth Scheme.

'States, territories and institutions failed us,' she said. 'The evidence in Senate Inquiry reports and that given to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sex Abuse is unequivocal.'

'For survivors, time is running out. For the families of those who haven't made it, time has already run out. The Commonwealth redress scheme is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for those who failed to care for our children to come to the table and get this right,' she said.

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