

Alliance for 
Forgotten Australians

Patron: Jack Thompson

The Hon Daniel Andrews MP
Premier of Victoria
1 Treasury Place
Melbourne VIC 3002

30 May 2017

Dear Premier

I was disappointed and disturbed to receive the letter from [REDACTED] Assistant Director of your Cabinet Office reference CM17/6404 dated 11 May 2017 in response to postcards mailed to you by the Alliance for Forgotten Australians calling for a redress scheme for survivors of abuse in Victorian institutions and other forms of out-of-home 'care'.

As you may be aware, the Alliance for Forgotten Australians is committed to recognition and healing for Forgotten Australians and encourages their active engagement in the development of policy and services. One of our two aims is to obtain adequate acknowledgement, accountability and redress for past wrongs. On that basis, we have mailed postcards to members of parliament across Australia calling for states and territories to opt in to the redress scheme announced by the Australian Government on 4 November 2016.

In [REDACTED] letter, [REDACTED] states that redress is the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government and has referred our postcards to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet for consideration.

This is contrary to the spirit and intent of the *Betrayal of Trust* report tabled in the Victorian Parliament on 13 November 2013, to which your government responded on 8 May 2014, stating that the Victorian Government will explore options for implementing the recommendations of the Family and Community Development Committee's Inquiry and the reports of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sex Abuse.

Children who suffered abuse in Victorian institutions were in the 'care' of the Victorian Government. The government failed these children and we hope it does not continue to fail them as adults, as they enter old age and experience the life-long impact of abuse, including poverty and ill health. For many, initiatives such as the *Betrayal of Trust* report and the Royal Commission have been a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to be heard, to have hope for pathways to justice and redress, and a policy platform for future generations of those who are or have been in 'care'. But our members are aging. Every week we say goodbye to more of them. For too many, time has run out.

Your government is to be congratulated on the initiatives which you have developed in response to the *Betrayal of Trust* report. But much remains to be done, especially around redress. The Panel of Experts in Ireland has done extensive work and published two reports in 2016 – *What Survivors Want from Redress* and *A Compensation Framework for Historical Abuse in Residential Institutions*. Much of the

policy thinking has been done; the groundwork has been laid. Is it too much to expect that survivors will receive redress for the abuse perpetrated under the watch of the Victorian Government last century, rather than passing responsibility to the Commonwealth?

I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and discuss this as a matter of urgency. I may be contacted on 0488 460 646 or admin@forgottenaustralians.org.au. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Carroll

Caroline Carroll OAM
Chair, Alliance for Forgotten Australians



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Premier and Cabinet

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CM17/6404

11 May 2017

Alliance for Forgotten Australians
PO Box 212
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Dear Alliance for Forgotten Australians.

Thank you for the postcards sent to the Premier regarding redress for abuse survivors in Australia's orphanages and institutions.

Given that this matter is the responsibility of the Commonwealth Government, these postcards have been referred to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet for further consideration.

Yours sincerely

Assistant Director
Cabinet Office