

Summary from AFA Board meeting – 7 April 2017

AFA's Board met in Melbourne on 7 April and all members were present.

The Board recognised that a period of intense activity is coming up, leading to and resulting from the release of the Royal Commission's final report to the Australian Government in December 2017. While we intended to use some time in our meeting to update AFA's strategic plan, Board members agreed that it would be better to involve the full membership in our planning and devote more time to **reviewing and setting** our priorities. We will do this in June.

Members discussed the issues around **redress** and passed on questions and concerns that had been raised with them. A long-standing issue since the Australian Government's announcement has been the need for states, territories and past providers of 'care' to join the scheme; as well as the need to recognise sexual as well as other forms of abuse.

AFA's Chair Caroline Carroll OAM has been appointed by the Attorney General to the **Independent Advisory Council on Redress** and this is an important opportunity for AFA to advocate for the interest of Forgotten Australians in the design of this policy response.

As part of its advocacy, AFA has developed and funded **postcards** calling for a redress scheme covering all forms of abuse. These will be widely circulated to politicians and others in the next month.

AFA anticipates being an active partner and participant in the release of the **Royal Commission's final report**, and will be strongly positioned to advocate for the recommendations which will support Forgotten Australians. AFA has made seven submissions to the Royal Commission, the most recent being on 27 March 2017 on the *Nature, Cause and Impact of Child Sex Abuse*. All of these are on our website www.forgottenaustralians.org.au. Members have also given evidence at hearings and made submissions privately.

AFA has been an active partner in the development of the ***Caring for Forgotten Australians, Former Child Migrants and Stolen Generations Information Package*** and welcomed its release by the Australian Government on 15 December 2016. AFA received a grant of \$10,000 from the Department of Health to promote the package through a range of local activities, and we discussed how best to promote the package by partnering with other aged care advocates and health professionals.

The Board accepted the final scoping report on *Access to Health and Aged Care Funding for Forgotten Australians* we commissioned from Manning Consulting. We will discuss “where to from here” on the report’s recommendations when we consider a range of priorities at our meeting in June. The scoping report may be found on AFA’s website.

AFA members are active in their communities promoting and advocating for AFA’s priorities for Forgotten Australians. We discussed the kind of **communication strategies**, tools and other support we could provide to members to help them in this role.

Finally, we were pleased to receive notification from our funding body, the Department of Social Services, that our **funding has been extended to 30 June 2020**. We are grateful to the Australian Government for its recognition of Forgotten Australians and look forward to maintaining our present positive and constructive relationship with the Department.