

Alliance for Forgotten Australians – planning for the future

The Alliance for Forgotten Australians had a very successful and productive meeting in Sydney on 27-28 June to review how we delivered against our priorities for last year, and to agree about priorities and activities for the coming financial year.

We agreed that AFA's priorities remain:

1. Promote the implementation of a national redress scheme
2. Make service systems more responsive, especially the development of aged care services designed 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 Forgotten Australian support services
4. Strengthen AFA's leadership, governance and management capacities to further build confidence in the organization among internal and external stakeholders

Redress is one of our main concerns. We have started work on a manifesto which sets out in detail what AFA will lobby and advocate for as components of a national redress scheme. We will post more information about this in the next few weeks.

AFA is also conscious that the handing down of the Royal Commission's reports in December will be a historical moment in our history, and Forgotten Australians are likely to have a variety of strong responses. We have offered to work with the Australian Government on communications and support for our community.

We can't do our work in isolation. We were delighted that senior members of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sex Abuse, and the Department of Social Services, came along to hear our discussion and offer their perspectives.

AFA members also discussed some policy ideas we'd like to develop further that support Forgotten Australians' journey towards healing.

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