

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
On behalf of the membership of AFA
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