



Communique – AFA Board meeting 4-5 April 2019

AFA had its first Board meeting of 2019 in Hobart.

Our main topic for discussion was the implementation of the National Redress Scheme. We were pleased to again welcome senior managers from the Department of Social Services to answer questions and take part in the discussion. We appreciate the opportunity for continued open and honest, if at times difficult, discussions with the department.

AFA's main concerns were the trauma applicants are experiencing when going through the process, starting with completion of the application form; the offensive nature of the assessment matrix; the degree to which governments have underestimated the degree of support applicants need; the lack of clarity and consequent confusion about the status of a claim on the death of an applicant; and the need for stronger and more active communication and promotion of the scheme. Finally, AFA was concerned about the need for governments to take more punitive action on institutions which have not joined the scheme.

AFA heard from members about their local lobbying for the 'Unfinished business – still waiting for justice' campaign. Plans were developed for the next phase of the campaign. Letters of response from politicians are all posted on AFA's Facebook page. So far these have been disappointing.

AFA continued its plans to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of the National Apology to Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants on 16 November 2019. For this anniversary, AFA will acknowledge how few of the Senate Committee's recommendations from the 2004 Senate Inquiry Report *Forgotten Australians* have been fully, or even partly, implemented.