



Australian Government

An open letter about the review of the National Redress Scheme

Hello,

My name is Robyn Kruk, and I am the independent reviewer for the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. I want to hear from you about how it is working.

The National Redress Scheme was established in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The Scheme helps people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse to access counselling, a direct personal response and a redress payment. It is, more importantly, also a formal and important acknowledgement that many children were sexually abused in Australian institutions, and it holds institutions to account for this abuse.

The review I am undertaking is required by legislation. It will consider such matters as the implementation, operation and administration of the Scheme, and people's experiences. The review will also consider the financial arrangements that support the Scheme, and the support that is provided to people who apply or are thinking about applying.

I would like to hear views from as many people as I can. While I would like to hear from you through a series of face-to-face discussions across the country, because of the coronavirus pandemic, it is not possible for me to do this immediately. Instead, I invite you, your family members, support services and advocates to contribute to the review either by written submission or by participating in a request for feedback on the National Redress website. I want to hear from people who have applied, as well as those that have not.

How to get involved

Information about the review can be found at <https://www.nationalredress.gov.au>

You can provide input to the review through a submission or through a feedback study. We are accepting submissions now and until 30 September 2020.

Public submissions made to parliamentary committees and oral evidence to the committees will also be considered during the course of the review.

The feedback study will commence in August 2020. This study will invite you to respond to a number of questions about the Scheme. It is designed to help me understand people's experience through the application process and if you have not applied, or have halted your application, why that is so. Further information on this study and how you can contribute will be posted on this website in early August 2020.

If you have any questions about the review please email my team at Redressreview@dss.gov.au

I am very pleased to be leading this review and I appreciate you taking the time to share your views with me

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Kruk', written in a cursive style.

Robyn Kruk AO
Reviewer
14 July 2020

National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018

Section 192 Review of the scheme

(2) The second anniversary review must consider the following matters:

- (a) the extent to which the States, participating Territories and non-government institutions have opted into the scheme, including key facilitators and barriers to opting in;
- (b) the extent to which survivors who are eligible for redress under the scheme have applied for redress;
- (c) the extent to which redress has been provided to survivors who are entitled to redress under the scheme;
- (d) the application, assessment and decision-making process, including user experiences of the process;
- (e) redress payments;
- (f) access to counselling and psychological services under the scheme;
- (g) the extent to which survivors access direct personal responses under the scheme, including factors influencing the uptake and experiences with the direct personal response process;
- (h) the availability of, and access to, support services under the scheme;
- (i) the implications of the scheme's design for survivors (including Indigenous and child migrant survivors, as well as survivors who are still children or who have a criminal conviction);
- (j) the operation of the scheme's funding arrangements (including a review of the scheme administration element of funding contribution);
- (k) the operation of the funder of last resort provisions;
- (l) the extent to which the scheme has been implemented as proposed in the National Redress Scheme Agreement;
- (m) the views of key stakeholders on the scheme (including representatives from survivor groups, non-government institutions, advocacy groups, support services provider groups, the Independent Advisory Council, the Commonwealth, the States and the Territories);
- (n) the impact and effectiveness of section 37 (which is about the admissibility of certain documents in evidence in civil proceedings);
- (o) the question of whether an institution (the *first institution*) should be responsible for abuse that occurs in connection with another institution merely because the first institution regulates or funds the other institution or the other institution's activities;
- (p) the administration of this Act and the scheme;
- (q) any other matter relevant to the operation of this Act or the scheme.