

SUBMISSION – INQUIRY INTO THE COMMONWEALTH REDRESS SCHEME FOR INSTITUTIONAL CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE BILL 2017 AND RELATED BILL

It seems strange to me that the Commonwealth Redress scheme attempts to water down the Commonwealth Governments responsibility to provide redress for all those who were sexually abused in Children's Homes. The Commonwealth Government financially supported the churches and charities to establish and continue to run the Homes. In many of the Homes the CSIRO and some vague hospital (s) were permitted to carry out medical experiments on the children – the only consent coming from the churches and charities in exchange for extra financial assistance. In no instance were any representatives of the Federal Government inspecting the homes to check on the welfare of the children – a failure of their responsibility to ensure that children were not being sexually abused.

There are 3 major entities who were involved in allowing Children's Homes to operate – these being 1. The churches and charities 2. The Commonwealth Government and 3. The State Government. My understanding would be that the Commonwealth Government was to collect compensation from each entity and then distribute the funds to the victims. Or if we take on your understanding that the most responsible entity is to pay then the amount of redress needs to be substantial.

A monetary payment of up to \$ 150,000 is bizarrely the same amount the so called catholic church makes out is the top limit of possibly what they call towards healing or is it the Melbourne response now? Oh I have heard its like going to an inquisition if you deal directly with them – they even indicate you are lying. A top amount of \$2,000,000 is what I think is more acceptable with a base level starting at \$150,000 – the abuses committed had life changing consequences – the amount of redress should also be life changing.

Why are these institutions provided with our names – how disgraceful of you- what about our privacy. I have made no contact with the so called cath church – they only have my initials when Open Place approached them on my behalf – I gave you my name in privacy and I would say you should ask others if they want their name disclosed.

Once a compensation package is accepted the so called responsible entity should then provide ongoing financial support- after all it is what any responsible christian would do. The compensation package is for the abuse that occurred but as was noted in the bill

" The psychological, physical and emotional injuries inflicted on these children were

inevitably severe and are capable of long lasting debilitating effects on survivors for the rest of their lives"

A fortnightly payment would be quite acceptable for the rest of our lives – paid for by the responsible entity.

Those who have already taken legal action against the responsible entity should not have to pay income tax on that monetary payment that they have received. Nor should the payment have been considered income for the purposes of determining social security and veteran entitlements. This should be retrospective.

Any payment either through the redress scheme , direct negotiation with the responsible entity, or received by legal action should be exempt from the medibank levy- this should be retrospective.

No deed of release . Churches and charities are christian organisations – they do not need to hide behind a deed of release- they believe in the will of god because they have faith. They should welcome any further negotiation with survivors of abuse.

The responsible entity should give proper respect to the relatives of those who have died in the form of a personal apology if requested (some boys took their lives while still in the homes – some if not all of them would have been sexually abused)

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