

To: joint standing committee on Implementation of the National Redress Scheme

From: [REDACTED] Cult Survivor of Truth 2x2s

Date: 05 November 2025

To whom it may concern,

I write to you regarding feedback on the implementation of the National Redress Scheme.

As a survivor of a high control group (also known as a cult) known as the Truth or the 2x2s, I have been unable to access redress through this scheme.

My application is now on hold, because of the distress of managing the application.

I attended a round table in Adelaide in October 2024 to provide feedback. Unfortunately, I have not heard the outcomes of that round table and it does not appear that changes were implemented after that round table.

I hope that providing this feedback again, through this channel, some change can take place.

High control groups, which are disingenuous, will not sign up to the redress scheme. Cults are disingenuous by nature; they avoid accountability structures. The redress scheme was sadly not set up in a cult-trauma informed manner.

The redress scheme as has been distressing and time consuming to deal with. It has taken a lot from me and diminished my trust further in institutions. Cults teach people that governments, agencies and 'outsiders' can't be trusted and don't care about us. It takes a great deal of tenacity, bravery and trust for a cult survivor to pursue a claim through a scheme like this. To be met with the hoops and layers of failure which I have, is distressing.

The Truth 2x2s should not ever be listed on the redress scheme as having applied and being 'unable to join'. They are a disingenuous group which deliberately avoids registering church entities, to avoid financial and legal accountability. They tell followers that they're 'trying' to join the scheme. They lie to followers about why they can't join. In my opinion, the redress scheme not outright being able to say why the group cannot join, on the redress website, facilitates the disingenuous leadership of 2x2s, and continues to put children and vulnerable people at risk.

The redress scheme should have been set up in a way which ensured that cult survivors were considered and treated with care. We should not be waiting all these years later with no redress paid out. We should have been invited earlier, as a working group of cult survivors – Brethren, JW's, 2x2s etc – to sit down with administrators and work out what legislation needed to be crafted to ensure we would be cared for and paid redress.

My recommendation is that you put together a working group to advise you on closing out cult survivor redress. My recommendation is that this is actioned as soon as possible, to minimize further distress for survivors.

Further to that, I recommend that the scheme be left open beyond the existing closing date which I believe is 2028. It is extremely difficult for cult survivors to come forward, and it takes decades for them to have the bravery. It's important to me that my fellow survivors be given the chance to access redress when they are able.

Regards

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