

National Redress Scheme - Submission

I have been providing research and offering support to victims/survivors of child sexual abuse in Australian gymnastics for over ten years.

As part of this long-standing commitment towards victims/survivors, I have collaborated with individuals, groups and government advocating for Gymnastics Australia and the various State and Territory Associations within gymnastics to sign on to the National Redress Scheme.

While some States and Territories have signed up to Redress, others have not which is truly disappointing. Gymnastics New South Wales finally signed onto the scheme during 2025, despite having been made fully aware of multiple individual stories of child sexual abuse by former coaches accredited by their organisation.

During 2025 I directed a number of victims/survivors towards the National Survivors Foundation (formerly In Good Faith Foundation) who have expertise in assisting people with navigating and applying to the National Redress Scheme. I could not more highly recommend their team to victims/survivors requiring knowledge and guidance regarding Redress and other support mechanisms.

During 2025 I also met with a number of victims/survivors, who were former gymnasts within New South Wales. These survivors had recently been involved in a criminal trial involving a former Gymnastics NSW coach, who was sentenced and jailed.

When I mentioned the National Redress Scheme as an avenue they might explore now their criminal case has concluded, their response was “What is Redress?”

This highlighted to me the disturbing reality there are many victims/survivors who remain completely unaware of the National Redress Scheme. If they are completely unaware, the messaging to eligible victims/survivors is flawed.

As such, an extension to the National Redress Scheme is both necessary and a duty.

Alongside an extension to the scheme, the effective promotion of the scheme as an option to victims/survivors (alongside other legal options) is also a duty.

We track the monthly updates to the National Redress Scheme and believe it would be useful to also have a further breakdown of the statistics which would show for example the number of applicants from a specified sport (e.g. gymnastics). This could be provided without any risk to privacy.

It would also be useful to those working in this space to understand the major reasons for the delays encountered by victims/survivors and also to have specified the key reasons applications are withdrawn.

Further detailed reporting by the National Redress Scheme may be useful in fast-tracking eligible applications and providing additional support to those who are encountering difficulties as they navigate the scheme.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit to this review.

Virginia Klemt
Research Executive

Bachelor of Media (Writing)
Macquarie University