



PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee

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## Inquiry into the Commonwealth Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Bill 2017 and related bill

On 26 October 2017, the Australian Government introduced two Bills into the Australian Senate proposing a new Commonwealth redress scheme for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse (the Scheme).

The Minister for Social Services, the Hon Christian Porter MP, stated the Scheme "is designed to recognise the suffering survivors have experienced, to unequivocally accept that these events occurred and to ensure that each institution that has been responsible for abuse in their institutional settings must take responsibility for that abuse".

The Senate Selection of Bills Committee [referred the Bills](#) for inquiry to ensure these issues can be properly examined and all relevant stakeholders are given the opportunity to participate in decision making on this important issue.

The Community Affairs Legislation committee is seeking submissions from relevant advocacy organisations, survivor groups, impacted individuals and non-government organisations, on the provisions of the Scheme contained in the Bills.

Senator Slade Brockman, Chair of the Community Affairs Legislation Committee, said, "This redress scheme was developed by the Australian Government after extensive consultation with a broad range of stakeholders. Ensuring the voices and views of survivors and their advocates are included at every stage is a vital part of any healing process. This inquiry will ensure those voices continue to be heard and listened to."

Information about the Bills can be found on the [inquiry web page](#). Submissions should address the provisions in the Bills. You may find it helpful to read the guide to making a submission available on the Senate website: [Preparing a submission to an inquiry](#)

The committee has scheduled a public hearing on Friday 16 February 2018. Information about the public hearing will be published on the inquiry website when it is available.

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**DATE REFERRED**

30 November 2017

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**SUBMISSIONS CLOSE**

2 February 2018

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**NEXT HEARING**

16 February 2018

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**REPORTING DATE**

13 March 2018

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Senator Slade Brockman  
(Chair)

Senator Rachel Siewert  
(Deputy Chair)

Senator Jonathon Duniam

Senator Lisa Singh

Senator Dean Smith

Senator Murray Watt

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**CONTACT THE COMMITTEE**

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## **Making a submission**

Written submissions can still be provided to the committee by emailing [community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au)

If you would like to make a submission you may find it helpful to read the guide to making a submission available on the Senate website: [Preparing a submission to an inquiry](#)

If you have questions, or need more time to write your submission, contact the secretariat.

Further information about the inquiry, including published submissions and hearing programs, will be available on the committee website: [www.aph.gov.au/senate\\_ca](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate_ca).

## **Inquiry Terms of Reference**

The terms of reference for this inquiry are the provisions of the Commonwealth Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Bill 2017 and the Commonwealth Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2017 to the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee for inquiry and report.

Information about the bills can be found on the [inquiry web page](#).

## **Attending a public hearing**

Most committee hearings are held in public and anyone is welcome to come and listen. The audio and video of each hearing will also be broadcast live on the internet: [www.aph.gov.au/News\\_and\\_Events/Watch Parliament](http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament)

Further information about what to expect when attending a Senate committee hearings is available on the Senate website: [Attending a public hearing](#)