

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department/Agency:** Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Outcome/Program:** Outcome 1: Prime Minister and Cabinet

**Topic:** Commonwealth Redress Scheme for Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse

**Senator:** Siewert

**Question reference number:** 51

**Type of question:** FPA Tuesday 23 May 2017, page 77

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** 7 July 2017

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

**Senator SIEWERT:** Is the Prime Minister, and I may need to ask the minister here, taking an overview of the redress scheme?

**Senator McGrath:** I will need to take that on notice.

**Senator SIEWERT:** If you could, that would be appreciated. You will probably need to take this on notice too: has the Prime Minister met with any of the survivor organisations or any of the institutions that have been involved in this process?

**Senator McGrath:** I think I should take that on notice.

...

**Senator SIEWERT:** I have got one final question—although sometimes I say that and the answer leads to another one, so I apologise in advance! Once the scheme is operational and people are receiving compensation under the scheme, has a decision been made as to whether that would rule them out from taking any action under the common law?

**Ms Hatfield Dodds:** I am really sorry, but I do not know the answer to that question. I do know that question either has been considered or is under consideration. I am sure the Department of Social Services will be able to respond.

**Senator SIEWERT:** Sorry, that did lead to one more question! In terms of the previous taskforce that was previously operating, which we discussed at the estimates before last, that decision was not taken as part of that process?

**Ms Hatfield Dodds:** That is what I believe to be the case. I am happy to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

The Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, maintains a close interest to all Government priorities. The Minister for Social Services, the Hon Christian Porter MP, is responsible for the Commonwealth Redress Scheme.

The Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, has had a long engagement with survivors of people suffering institutional sexual abuse, including his statement as part of the National Apology to the Forgotten Australians in 2009, many of whom had suffered sexual abuse. The Prime Minister has also had a long association with the Care Leavers Australasia Network.

No decision regarding deeds of release was taken prior to the taskforce transferring from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.