



Caring for survivors of institutional child abuse

One national redress scheme

Justice. Compassion. Caring.

The Greens will implement the Royal Commission's recommendations for a single national redress scheme.

Survivors deserve a fair system that ensures just redress across the country, and provides appropriate counselling and psychological support.

For too many years, survivors of child abuse have suffered in silence. Many victims of child abuse have not been able to seek the compensation they deserve. The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has made comprehensive recommendations about the changes we need to make to ensure survivors are able to seek redress. The job is now to get these reforms in place.

> A NATIONAL REDRESS SCHEME

Tragically, child abuse has occurred in jurisdictions across Australia, and in different institutional settings. Many survivors have struggled in difficult court systems which can vary across jurisdictions.

Everyone should have access to a fair, national system. Justice for survivors should not depend on the state or territory in which the abuse occurred, or the type of institution. A national redress scheme will ensure survivors have equal access to justice across Australia.

The Greens will establish a national redress scheme for survivors of child abuse in institutional settings. The Greens will also establish a national redress advisory council, to advise on the establishment and operation of the scheme.

In line with the recommendations of the Royal Commission, the scheme will be primarily funded by responsible institutions, including the costs associated with administration, counselling and psychological care, and monetary payments. State, territory and Commonwealth governments will have direct responsibility for compensation where abuse has occurred in their respective government institutions.

> FUNDING THE SCHEME

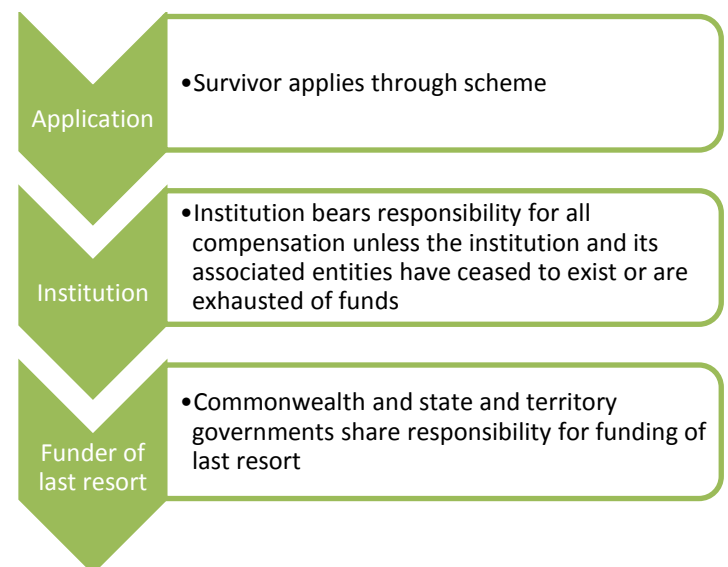
In line with the recommendations of the Royal Commission,¹ the scheme will provide redress payments ranging from \$10,000 up

¹ <http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/policy-and-research/redress/final-report-redress-and-civil-litigation>

to \$200,000. In order to allow time for appropriate consultation and implementation after the 2016 election, the scheme will commence payments from 1 July 2018.

Where the relevant institution cannot fund the redress, then there must be a role for governments as funders of last resort. The Greens will split responsibility for funding of last resort evenly between Commonwealth and state and territory governments.

Funding the scheme



The Greens propose to start work on the scheme in 2016-17, and start payments in 2018. The Parliamentary Budget Office costing will cost the Commonwealth \$250.5m over the forward estimates (2016-17 to 2019-20).

> CARING FOR SURVIVORS

The Greens will also establish a counselling and psychological support scheme, as per the recommendations of the Royal Commission. The scheme will include:

- Provide counselling under Medicare for eligible survivors, including removing restrictions on the number of sessions
- Expand the services available under Medicare for eligible survivors, to include longer-term approaches suitable for treating complex trauma, without requiring diagnosis
- Provide case management style support
- Ensure counselling sessions for family members of survivors when required

In addition to support for all survivors, this package will also include:

- \$2m funding for practitioners who have not had the necessary training or experience to work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander survivors
- \$2m in funding for training rural and remote, or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practitioners, to work with survivors
- \$5m in funding for service provision to regional and remote communities.

> COMMITMENT TO ACTION

The Greens are the only party with a fully costed scheme. The Coalition will not commit to providing shortfall funding,² and so far the ALP has only committed to establishing an agency, not to a fully funded scheme.³ The Australian Government should support survivors across Australia, and survivors deserve more than a fragmented system.

> SUPPORT FOR THE ROYAL COMMISSIONER'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR A NATIONAL REDRESS SCHEME

There has been strong public support for the establishment of a national redress scheme in accordance with the recommendations of the Royal Commission.

Blue Knot Foundation

Survivors need a redress scheme that is fair and equitable and affords equal access and equal treatment to all. This cannot be achieved through separate disparate schemes, in which some survivors would be entitled to redress from several institutions and jurisdictions, others from one, and still others from none due to their closure or lack of assets ... a single national redress scheme established and administered, by the Australian

government, with collaboration with states, territories and institutions is the only way to avoid further transgressions and re-traumatisation.

Care Leavers Australia Network (CLAN)

We need a one-stop shop to make it easier for Care Leavers to access Redress, not harder. Some Care Leavers were abused in institutions in more than one state. How much more are we expected to suffer?

Francis Sullivan, Chief Executive Officer of Truth, Justice and Healing Council

Australia needs an independent national redress scheme so that regardless of where or when a survivor was abused they have access to consistent, compassionate and generous redress. Where someone lives or where they were abused should not change how they are treated which will inevitable happen if all the states operate separate schemes.

Law Council of Australia

The Law Council considers it vital that urgent consideration be given by the Commonwealth, States and Territories in the development of a nationally consistent approach to redress. Survivors of child sexual abuse have already waited too long for a national response to redress and there is still much to be done.

² <http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/turnbull-government-to-start-negotiations-on-national-child-abuse-redress-scheme-20160129-gmgqyh.html>

³ <http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=Id%3A%22media%2Fpressrel%2F4159462%22>