



Queensland
Family & Child
Commission

Telephone: 07 3900 6000
Reference: PAL – F18/503 – D18/15112

Committee Secretary
Health, Communities, Disability Services and
Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Committee Secretary

Thank you for inviting submissions addressing the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2018. The Queensland Family and Child Commission (QFCC) recognises the importance of this milestone and is pleased to have the opportunity to provide feedback on this matter.

The QFCC has responsibility to promote and advocate the safety and wellbeing of children and young people in Queensland, particularly children in need of protection. The QFCC supports the establishment of the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse.

The QFCC notes children who meet the requirements set out in the Bill are entitled to apply for redress under the scheme. Children and young people who may be entitled under the scheme should be informed of their right to apply for redress. Particularly, children and young people who are living in institutions or in out of home care must be supported to access or seek information to ensure they are not disadvantaged under the scheme. The QFCC recommends a particular focus on child-friendly communication and resources to make sure children and young people are supported to access the scheme.

Notwithstanding the determination of the application by the Operator, emotional support and assistance is needed for children and young people who are accessing the scheme. This should include legal assistance and the option of counselling for the person for the duration of their time as a nominee (in addition to the counselling and psychological component of redress entitlement outlined in section 16(1)(b) of the Bill).

Children and young people are often dependent on the support of family members and others close to them to help them to navigate systems and processes. Resources for parents, guardians and other parties should also be available in public-friendly language to make sure they can provide assistance. This is particularly important for people who have been appointed by the Operator to be assistance nominee or legal nominee of a (child) applicant.

Level 22, 53 Albert Street,
Brisbane Qld 4000
PO Box 15217,
Brisbane City East Qld 4002
Telephone 07 3900 6000
Facsimile 07 3900 6050
Website www.qfcc.qld.gov.au
www.talkingfamilies.qld.gov.au

If you or your officers have any queries in relation to this submission, they may contact Tracy Fogarty
Director Office of the Commissioner, on [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cheryl Vardon', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Cheryl Vardon
Principal Commissioner
Queensland Family and Child Commission

12 JUL 2018