

The Hon Gabrielle Upton MP
Attorney General, NSW

The Hon Martin Pakula MP
Attorney General, Victoria

The Hon John Rau MP
Attorney General, South Australia

The Hon Yvette D'Ath MP
Attorney General, Queensland

The Hon Dr Vanessa Goodwin MLC
Attorney General, Tasmania

Mr Simon Corbell MLA
Attorney General, Australian Capital Territory

The Hon Michael Mischin MLC
Attorney General, Western Australia

25 September 2015

Senator the Hon George Brandis QC
Attorney-General
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Attorney-General

We welcome the tabling of the report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse ('Royal Commission') into redress and civil litigation. We are writing to seek clarity as to the position of the Commonwealth Government in response to the report.

The Royal Commission's report makes 99 recommendations designed to improve access to justice for survivors of institutional child abuse. Central to these recommendations is a national redress scheme, led by the Commonwealth, with the participation of state and territory governments and various non-government organisations.

Aside from the establishment of a national redress scheme, the Royal Commission has also recommended Commonwealth involvement in a number of other areas, such as reforms to Medicare to enable better access to counselling for survivors of abuse. These reforms are critical to the success of the redress approach recommended by the Royal Commission, regardless of whether a national approach to redress eventuates.

The Royal Commission's recommendations have identified a clear role for the Commonwealth, including that the Commonwealth announce its willingness to establish a national scheme by the end of 2015. The Commonwealth's response will

have significant ramifications for the States and Territories. Accordingly, we request the earliest possible indication from the Commonwealth as to whether it intends to establish and fund a national redress scheme.

You will note that the Northern Territory Attorney-General is not a signatory to this letter. This is due to the timing of the Northern Territory Government's Cabinet processes. Once the relevant processes have taken place, further correspondence will be forwarded to you, if required.

We look forward to your confirmation as soon as possible and further discussions with you on this important issue.

Yours Sincerely

Reginald Gabele Ope.

John Youth D'Att

Varene Good S. J.

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