

# Blog

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## **Legislation set to be introduced to kick-start national redress Francis Sullivan – 10 August 2017**

This past week has seen news that the Commonwealth will introduce legislation in the spring session of federal parliament to effect a Commonwealth administered redress scheme for victims of sex abuse within institutions.

This is an important first step in achieving what is essential, a national redress scheme.

The Catholic Church leadership has been emphatic an independent national redress scheme is the way ahead.

The Royal Commission has been definite that only when a national redress scheme is available to all victims of historical child sexual abuse within institutions can there be any equity in regards to reparations and institutional apologies.

Obviously this means that all institutions need to participate so that victims have access to the same redress regardless of postcode or the nature of the institution where the abuse occurred.

So now is the time for governments of all persuasions to step up. It is impossible to have a national scheme without all governments participating.

It also makes it impossible for national non-government institutions to participate if some governments refuse to participate.

So let's be clear, governments need to lead and to co-operate. Anything less will be an affront to survivors.