

MEDIA RELEASE

COAG committee urgently needed to get redress scheme off the ground



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The Truth Justice and Healing Council has called for a separate COAG committee to urgently consider the issues currently blocking the establishment of a national redress scheme which would provide fair and just compensation for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse.

Speaking shortly after the release of the communique from last Friday's COAG meeting, TJHC CEO, Francis Sullivan said the meeting had failed miserably to advance the redress scheme and the interests of survivors.

"Despite the Prime Minister's rhetoric the day before, which gave some indication that the COAG meeting might deliver something, as it turns out redress for child abuse survivors hardly got a look in.

"The COAG agenda was heavily committed, and I'm sure all the issues for discussion were worthy," Mr Sullivan said.

"But it was disappointing to see the outcomes from the discussion on a national redress scheme warranted just one paragraph.

"And beyond this there was no further insight into how the stalemate currently facing the states and the Federal government might be resolved.

"Politicians have been dodging this issue for far too long. They have had the Commission's redress report for well over two years. All the talk about support for the Commission from state and federal leaders means nothing unless survivors see some action," Mr Sullivan said.

The Council reiterates its call for the establishment of a dedicated COAG committee to implement the recommendations of the Royal Commission's final report, urgently focusing on the achievement of a national redress scheme to begin on 1 July 2018.

The Council's submission to the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee's inquiry into the *Commonwealth Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Bill 2017* notes the Bills currently under consideration will not deliver a scheme which operates nationally.

As presently understood, the ability of non-government institutions, including Church authorities, to opt in to the scheme is limited as no state government has chosen to participate.

A copy of the Council's submission is available [here](#).

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