



Statement

26 October 2017

Blue Knot welcomes the announcement of Redress Scheme Legislation

The tabling in Federal Parliament today of legislation for a Commonwealth redress scheme for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse is very welcome.

The legislation provides parameters for redress for survivors sexually abused in Commonwealth institutions and those within participating Institutions from territories. If the states and institutions opt in to the Scheme it will potentially provide redress for tens of thousands of victims.

Dr Cathy Kezelman, President Blue Knot Foundation said, “such a scheme acknowledges the harm done to victims of institutional child sexual abuse, in this case within Commonwealth institutions, and territory institutions. The legislation focusses on the importance of the scheme being survivor-focussed, culturally attuned and aware of the needs of vulnerable survivors. It also acknowledges the importance of an awareness of trauma dynamics.”

“Once this is passed I urge all states and institutions to opt into this Scheme without delay,” said Dr Kezelman. “This is the only way we will have a fair and equitable response to survivors of institutional sexual abuse across the nation. A response which provides redress to them, and makes governments and institutions accountable and honours the considered comprehensive work of the Royal Commission.”

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