



In pursuit of justice

Dr Vivian Waller
BA (Hons) LLB SJD
PRINCIPAL SOLICITOR

Telephone: 03 9415 9999

Facsimile: 03 9011 6133

Email: vivian.waller@gmail.com

Enquiries: info.wallerlegal@gmail.com

www.vivwaller.com.au

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday 4 November 2016

Waller Legal welcomes the announcement of the National Redress Scheme, but calls for more detailed information.

Dr Vivian Waller, Managing Partner of Waller Legal, a law firm dedicated to assisting those who have experienced sexual abuse, may be quoted as follows.

We welcome the Federal government announcement that it will be following the recommendations of the Royal Commission to introduce a Redress Scheme for survivors of sexual abuse.

Our clients are already calling the office to ask for information about the Redress Scheme and we would like some more information about how it will work. It is our wish that the Redress scheme might bring hope, healing, closure and compensation to those who have suffered greatly.

We note that the redress scheme is not compulsory for institutions and that institutions have to elect to "opt in". We hope that victims will not be left out in the cold by organisations or governments who refuse to participate.

We hope that the announcement of the Federal Redress Scheme will sound the death knell for the Catholic Church's unfair "in house" schemes such as Towards Healing and the Melbourne Response. Those schemes have never provided a level playing field for victims. Leaving the Catholic Church in charge of investigating and assessing sexual abuse claims is just wrong – you may as well leave Dracula in charge of the blood bank.

The Melbourne Response scheme designed by Cardinal Pell has a cap of \$75,000. Although a review of the Melbourne Response scheme was initiated by the Archdiocese of Melbourne, the results of the review have never been announced. We hope that the Redress Scheme will overtake the slow and clandestine reviews being conducted within the Catholic Church.

We are concerned that the Federal Government has not been able to compel all of the states and territories to participate in the Redress Scheme, so in that sense, it may not ever be a truly "national" scheme.

It is important that law reform continues, in order to allow survivors of institutional sexual abuse to be able to litigate against negligent institutions for compensation.

WALLER LEGAL

ABN 17 167 030 757

2/57 Keele Street, Collingwood VIC 3066

The redress scheme looks like it won't be comprehensive, so it is important that survivors do not fall between two stools. Only genuine law reform allowing negligence claims to proceed will provide proper access to justice for abuse survivors.

Dr Vivian Waller



WALLER LEGAL

0409 517 639

<http://www.wallerlegal.com.au>