
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 6 March 2015 12:39 PM
To: redress
Subject: My thoughts on the redress paper - from a survivor's perspective

Hi Folks,

Thanks for letting us have input to this. The following are my thoughts regarding the paper.

With the counselling and psychological care, I'm concerned about having to exhaust all other means before funding can kick in. When you identify that you need counselling, it's usually an immediate need and your body is in a heightened state of distress. With people having to exhaust all other means first, before they can get funding, that could lead to people becoming more discouraged because of how difficult it is to get appropriate care, especially if you fall into the lower socioeconomic group. Even the ability to afford treatment and be reimbursed is really difficult.

Will funding cover treatment such as biofeedback and TSM and other treatment that come in the future, especially those designed for severe PTSD or Trauma? More and more research is being done into the effectiveness of different treatments and the newer treatments are often out of the price range of those who could really benefit from them.

And when identifying that people need counselling, it needs to be immediate, not waiting for weeks before counselling can begin.

Redress should be available for future institutional child sexual abuse for Abuse will never go away.

Regarding Monetary payments, if people have difficulty with managing lump sums, maybe there could be offer of financial counselling to help them manage.

With identifying some people may be difficult to reach, maybe the service of Centrelink could help? They could place on their website or in their offices that a redress scheme is available for those who have experienced childhood institutional sexual abuse, and who to contact.

In regards to Institutional involvement, how are you going to handle situations where paperwork has disappeared? I know with my file, although I have asked to see it, and have finally been able to see it after about 15 years that there are important parts missing and no one knows where they are or if they exist anymore.

I plausibility test or a test of reasonable likelihood that the abuse has occurred is a good idea. The Safe Place Services Victorian Seventh Day Adventist Conference have a good test they use now in dealing with has abuse likely occurred. That might be worth a look at.

I think it would be a good idea for redress to cover physical, emotional and spiritual abuse as sexual abuse often is connected with all of these. It can have a devastating effect on these aspects of a person's life.

If the institution is looking after the administration in relation to determining the claim, what's stopping the institution from undermining or dismissing the claim so the institution doesn't have to pay, or doesn't have to pay as much?

Fee for service basis of obtaining redress, or even going through court for litigation, often a victim does not have the fees upfront to pay for the service. In my case, although a person has been convicted and spent time in jail, I don't have the money it takes to sue him directly, and if I choose to go down the path of no win - no fee, if I win, depending on how much is awarded how much would it cost and is the pain and stress

of going through the procedure worth the money? Litigation costs money as well as time, emotional, physical and spiritual energy, there is no guarantee that a survivor would win.

And would the fee be a percentage of the redress amount awarded or a set fee?

It mentions Child abuse occurring in the course of employment, but what about abuse perpetrated by volunteers of the organisation as well? Abuse is abuse and devastating be the perpetrator an employee or a volunteer, and in some cases the perpetrator can be an employee or a volunteer of an institution and related to the victim.

Regards,

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