

██████████. My responses to the Royal Commission's points of particular interest in Issues Paper 7 are as follows:

What are the advantages and disadvantages of statutory victims of crime compensation schemes as a means of providing redress or compensation to those who suffer child sexual abuse in institutional contexts?

No comment

What features are important for making statutory victims of crime compensation schemes effective for claimants?

Offering counseling or any form of clinical help as a government funded service

Understanding that the aftermath of child sexual assault is ongoing, and can be, or is a lifetime of suffering.

Are there elements of statutory victims of crime compensation schemes, as they currently operate, that raise particular difficulties for claims by people who suffer child sexual abuse in institutional contexts?

I don't believe the ██████████ had any reasonable checks in place in 1977 that entitled any children at the time to receive a safe family home. I am personally unaware of their level of checks now, and a police check as such would not be suffice as pedophiles live within the community undetected.

- a. Child sexual assault at the moment is the taboo subject. It is the secret. In order for a victim to come forward not only do they need trust in whom they are telling, they also need time to find their voice with confidence that they will be safe in doing so, and remove the fact sexual assault is seen as a taboo subject and stop the secret.
- b. Again, the suffering can be life long and funding for help is not forthcoming throughout.
- c. Like pointed out in section 3.a. time is something a victim needs, and deserves. There should be no penalty on time due to fear, and trust the victim needs to work through. Today, I am still remembering new incidences, and I personally feel I should not be penalised for keeping those horrific times in my life buried safe, and deep inside. I now feel safe in my life, and maybe that is why they are coming up.
- d. I do believe to an extent an offense needs to be reported to the police, if the course of action is to proceed to court. However I do not believe that old offences newly remembered by victims need to be reported if the victim is unwilling to press charges but requires funded help and support. The victim has the right to share their story with the clinical help provided to victims of a crime. The clinical help should have the experience to be able to diagnose the affects of the crime on the victim.

- e. The criminal abuser should be billed for any compensation awarded to the victim and any ongoing support needed by their victims. A pedophile tax/surcharge/levy/copayment should be introduced to accommodate victim's ongoing needs.

4. What changes should be made to address the elements of statutory victims of crime compensation schemes that raise particular difficulties for claims by people who suffer child sexual abuse in institutional contexts?

No comment

5. What forms of redress, including services and payments, should be offered through statutory victims of crime compensation schemes?

No comment

6. To what extent, if any, should those who suffer child sexual abuse in institutional contexts be eligible for additional or different compensation and services, compared to victims of other crimes? Why?

As stated in my personal story, a survivor of child sexual assault can live with their abuse for a lifetime. Anything from smells, new memories, old memories, everyday life experiences etc. can bring back memories that may have been safely buried for years. If suffering within a school, you can then suffer later in life when you have your own children, whilst they live their own school years. For example, I have been involved in helping my own children's school to acknowledge sexual assault by holding their own mufti day on White Balloon Day. This was personally a great achievement, and at the same time has brought back memories of what my teachers and school did not do for me at the time of living the trauma of child sexual assault.

7. Are the levels of verification or proof required under statutory victims of crime compensation schemes appropriate for claims by those who suffer child sexual abuse in institutional contexts?

No comment

I would be happy at any stage, or time to share my story, my experiences, and how the sexual assault still affects me today during, and anytime after the current Royal Commission.

Yours Sincerely,

Hayley Blease

