

Meeting of the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce

Telelink – 14 May 2020

COMMUNIQUE

The Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce (the Taskforce) held a telelink meeting, where members discussed the impact of COVID-19 on people with lived experience of institutional child abuse and their families and supporters. Members raised the importance of the National Redress Scheme continuing to process applications in a timely and sensitive manner. The Taskforce discussed the significance of legislative reforms to date and how important it is that these changes improve the way people with lived experience are able to pursue justice.

2020 Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce workplan

The Taskforce re-assessed its workplan and priorities and discussed how the Taskforce will continue to be responsive during COVID-19. The Taskforce has scheduled additional meetings via telelink to continue its work and hopes to meet face-to-face at the end of the year, should social restrictions ease.

Community forums

On 13 February 2020, the Taskforce held its first community forum in Toowoomba with over 60 people from a range of services as well as people with lived experience of institutional child abuse and their supporters in attendance. The Taskforce would like to thank knowmore Legal Service for providing information on the National Redress Scheme (the Scheme) and being available to provide advice to people with lived experience who are thinking of applying, or may have applied, to the Scheme.

While the Taskforce had planned to hold public forums across the state, with forums scheduled for Cairns, Townsville and Mt Isa, these have been postponed due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions. A full list of community forum locations will be made available in coming months on the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce webpage.

Online consultation

As the Taskforce's public forums are on hold, the Taskforce considered a shift from face-to-face forums to engaging with people with lived experience and service providers through a written consultation process. This consultation can be completed while people are staying safe at home and self-isolating to protect their health.

More information on the online consultation will be available in coming months and can be accessed from the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce webpage. *2020-21 Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Grants Program*



The Taskforce provides advice on a grants fund for truth, healing and reconciliation activities distributed by the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women. The second round of the grants program was due to be released in April 2020, however it has been postponed until early 2021 to make sure as many people with lived experience as possible can participate. More information on the grants is available on the Taskforce webpage and will include updates when the grant funding becomes available.

National Redress Scheme

At each meeting, the Taskforce is provided with an update on the National Redress Scheme (the Scheme). Advice was provided to members that the National Redress Scheme is continuing during COVID-19 and that the priority of the Scheme is to continue to process applications. Support services are also open although they are working differently by providing more support over the phone.

As institutions have until 30 June 2020 to opt-in to the Scheme, the Minister is continuing to actively encourage relevant non-government institutions to join the Scheme.

Getting in touch with the Taskforce

To find out how to contact the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce please visit <https://www.csyw.qld.gov.au/child-family/queensland-government-response-royal-commission-institutional-responses-child-sexual-abuse/truth-healing-reconciliation-taskforce>