

OPEN LETTER FROM INDEPENDENT REVIEWER

On Wednesday 24 June 2026, the Minister for Social Services, the Hon Tanya Plibersek MP, announced the Eighth Anniversary Review of the National Redress Scheme (the Scheme).

I am honoured to have been appointed to lead this important Review, which I will undertake in the coming months supported by a small team in the Department of Social Services.

At the outset, I acknowledge the historic gravity of institutional child sexual abuse and its traumatic impact on survivors. I acknowledge the courage of those who have come forward to the Scheme since its inception, which in turn followed the landmark Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Over the course of the eight years since its inception, the Scheme has provided a means of redress, in the form of payments, access to a direct personal response from institutions, or support with psychological or counselling services for over 22,000 survivors. Despite the best efforts of the Scheme operator and the engagement of thousands more survivors, there remains a long queue of applicants who are waiting for an outcome from the Scheme. This needs to change, not least because the Scheme is scheduled to come to its legislated end date soon. Specifically, the Scheme is legislated to cease receiving new applications from 30 June 2027, and to conclude processing applications by 30 June 2028.

In undertaking the Review, I will focus on two particular dimensions.

First, I am required pursuant to Section 192 of the *National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018*, to consider a list of matters that were earlier subject to the legislated Second Anniversary Review. I am also required to consider subsequent reviews and evaluations that have been conducted since that time, of which there have been several. In particular, the Review will look back at not only the Second Anniversary Review, but also at a series of reviews of the Scheme conducted by Joint Standing Committees of the Australian Parliament and a performance audit conducted by the Australian National Audit Office. I will examine what happened as a result of all of those earlier reviews to inform an assessment of what else ought now occur.

The terms of Section 192 and links to each of the earlier published reviews can be found here:

- [National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018](#)
- [National Redress Scheme Reports](#).

Second, given the scheduled closure of the Scheme to new applicants, and its subsequent processing sunset date, I will particularly be casting forward so as to provide such advice as I can about how to bring the Scheme to a safe, orderly and timely conclusion, whilst also considering whether there are other arrangements that ought endure after the Scheme ends.

The [terms of reference](#) for the Review have been released by the Minister.

To inform the Review, I welcome submissions particularly from survivors, whether applicants to the Scheme or not, and from affected institutions, support services or other interested parties. Information on how to [make a submission](#) to the Review, or to otherwise engage with us, will be welcome by 31 July 2026.

Stakeholders can be assured, however, that I will take a close interest in submissions to and hearings of the most contemporary review, ie that being conducted by the Joint Standing Committee on Implementation of the National Redress Scheme. Should you wish to make a submission to the Eighth Anniversary Review, you may wish to cross-reference earlier submissions or evidence, while also considering the immediate question: what needs to happen next, as the Scheme heads towards its conclusion?

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Lead Reviewer