

RECIEVED
11 Nov 2016
PETITIONS COMMITTEE



SENATOR THE HON JAMES MCGRATH
ASSISTANT MINISTER TO THE PRIME MINISTER

Reference: MC16-053592

Mr Ross Vasta MP
Chair
Standing Committee on Petitions
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Vasta

Ross,

I refer to a letter from your predecessor, Dr Dennis Jensen MP, dated 5 May 2016 to the Attorney-General regarding a petition submitted by Mr Vincent Alexander Charles Tough to the Standing Committee on Petitions (#1144/1651). The letter was referred to the Prime Minister and he has asked me to reply on his behalf. I regret the delay in responding.

Last week on Friday 4 November 2016, the Minister for Social Services, the Hon Christian Porter MP, announced the Commonwealth Government would establish a redress scheme for survivors of child sexual abuse in Commonwealth institutional settings. The Minister also announced an independent advisory council would support the Government's design and implementation of the scheme. The council will bring together a broad group of specialists, including survivor groups, legal and psychological experts.

If he hasn't already, Mr Tough may wish to make a submission to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, via www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

JAMES MCGRATH

11 / 11 / 2016