

Joint Select Committee on the Implementation of the National Redress Scheme - Inquiry into the operation of the National Redress Scheme

Public Hearing – 09 March 2023

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Joint Select Committee on the Implementation of the National Redress Scheme - Inquiry into the operation of the National Redress Scheme

Question reference number: IQ23-000020

Question asked by: David Shoebridge

Type of Question: Spoken. **Hansard Page/s:**

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 22 March 2023

Question:

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: There is one institution, the Yeshiva College Bondi, before 2003 which was notorious in the royal commission. Case studies made it a notorious institution. If I go to your website, it just says that it is an institution that has not yet joined the scheme. There is no information; no detail—nothing. It was notorious. Do you accept that that is reasonable?

Mr Griggs: I will have a look at it, Senator. We will have a look at the information that is provided around the list.

Answer:

The National Redress Scheme (the Scheme) has been working with the Yeshivah Centre, and has found it is unable to meet the legislative requirements to join the Scheme regarding for financial reasons*. Yeshivah College Bondi is a defunct institution. The Scheme is now exploring options for the Yeshivah Centre to partly participate in the Scheme under the expanded Funder of Last Resort (FOLR) provisions.

Where the Scheme has applications on hand that name an institution that is unable to join the Scheme, the Scheme contacts the survivor/s by phone to advise them of this prior to the publication on the Scheme's website.

Scheme staff advise the applicant of the next steps that the Scheme will take. Applicants are also encouraged to contact Redress Support Services.

The applicant is advised, if applicable, that expanded FOLR provisions may enable the institution to be represented in the Scheme. They will also be advised of the potential for the institution to partly participate in the Scheme.

**Yeshivah Centre has given consent to provide this information publicly*

Partly participating institutions can respond to requests for information and provide Direct Personal Responses. An institution can only partly participate if the relevant jurisdiction agrees to act as FOLR for it. FOLR costs are shared between the relevant jurisdiction and the Commonwealth government.

If applicable, the Scheme will progress a request under expanded FOLR for the institution. The applicant will be advised if the institution joins the Scheme in future as either a partly participating or fully participating institution.

Yeshivah Centre and Yeshivah College Bondi were listed on the Scheme's website as institutions that were named in the Royal Commission. The Scheme's website has been updated to also reflect the current status of the Yeshivah Centre as an institution that is unable to join the Scheme at this time.

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Department of Social Services

Topic: Joint Select Committee on the Implementation of the National Redress Scheme - Inquiry into the operation of the National Redress Scheme

Question reference number: IQ23-000019

Question asked by: David Shoebridge

Type of Question: Spoken. **Hansard Page/s:**

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 22 March 2023

Question:

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: Of the applications which aren't awaiting further information that are ready to be decided, what is the longest that one of those applications has been sitting in the system?

Mr Griggs: Between the decision of the IDM to the offer being made? Is that the time frame?

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: From the initial application, what is the longest delay that we've seen for matters where the applicant has been cooperative and you've got all the information—and none of those reasons exist? What's the longest delay?

Ms McGuirk: We'd have to take on notice what we can give you.

Answer:

As of 13 March 2023, there were 17 redress applications at the stage where they can be progressed to an Independent Decision Maker (IDM), where an institution is participating and the Scheme has all required information.

The longest period for one of these 17 applications from initial application to progressing to the IDM stage is 362 days. This includes time outside the Scheme's control (such as when the application was on hold or while the Scheme awaited information from an institution or applicant). Subtracting these periods outside of the Scheme's control, the time taken to progress to this stage was 280 days.

The average time for these 17 applications to reach this point, less those periods outside the Scheme's control, is 160 days.

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Department of Social Services

Topic: Joint Select Committee on the Implementation of the National Redress Scheme - Inquiry into the operation of the National Redress Scheme

Question reference number: IQ23-000018

Question asked by: David Shoebridge

Type of Question: Spoken. **Hansard Page/s:**

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 22 March 2023

Question:

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: Can you tell us the number of cases where a review has led to a worse outcome for the applicant?

Ms McGuirk: I'll take that on notice.

Answer:

There have been 426 reviews of determinations completed since the commencement of the National Redress Scheme (the Scheme). Of these, 425 resulted in either no change or an increase in the redress monetary component offered. One review determination resulted in a decreased monetary component being offered, relating to incorrect treatment of a prior payment.

There have been 133 revocations completed since the commencement of the Scheme. A revocation can be made when a redress applicant provides further information not originally included in their application. Of these, 124 resulted in no change or an increase in the redress monetary component offered. In 8 matters, the monetary component offered was less than the original determination. Five relate to the Scheme being made aware of prior payments late in the application process, two relate to indexation calculation matters and one was at the direction of the applicant.

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Topic: Joint Select Committee on the Implementation of the National Redress Scheme - Inquiry into the operation of the National Redress Scheme

Question reference number: IQ23-000017

Question asked by: Henry Pike

Type of Question: Spoken. **Hansard Page/s:**

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 22 March 2023

Question:

Mr PIKE: My question was very much on the same theme. I was wondering how many staff the department actually has engaged in the scheme.

Ms McGuirk: In terms of bodies, we have around 480, including our independent decision-makers. Naturally, that comes and goes; that is not a full-time equivalent. I am happy to take on notice to provide some more accurate data.

Answer:

As at 28 February 2023, there were 480 staff (in headcount terms) working on the Scheme. This included 333 APS (322.8 in Full Time Equivalent terms) and 147 contractors (including 51 Independent Decision Makers).