

Joint Select Committee on Implementation of the National Redress Scheme

Private Briefing – 15 April 2020 ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Department of Social Services

Topic: Joint Select Committee on implementation of the National Redress Scheme - Question 2

Question reference number: SQ20-000371

Type of Question: Spoken. Hansard Page/s:

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 24 April 2020

Question:

Are you allowed to tell us, without revealing the identity of the organisations, why they thought they shouldn't be obliged to join?

Answer:

As of 17 April 2020, there are 12 non-government institutions (NGIs) that have declined to join the National Redress Scheme (the Scheme). The following reasons have been provided:

No.	STATUS	REASON FOR DECLINING	NAMED IN THE ROYAL COMMISSION	NUMBER OF APPLICATIONS
1	Declined	NGI has advised that they do not believe they can meet the financial requirements of the Scheme and they believe they have the right supports in place to deal with claims.	No	1
2	Declined	NGI has advised that their main funder has withdrawn funding due to the impact COVID-19.	No	1
3	Declined	NGI continues to be unresponsive. They have recently closed due to COVID-19.	No	1
4	Declined	NGI has advised that they do not believe they can meet the financial requirements of the Scheme. The	No	22

		institution does not want further contact with the Scheme.		
5	Declined	NGI has advised that they believe that matters of sexual abuse should be managed through the legal system. They also have doubts about the claims against them and their insurance policy will not provide cover.	No	3
6	Declined	NGI has advised that their Board has voted against joining the Scheme. This institution is unwilling to continue to engage with the Scheme.	No	1
7	Declined	NGI has advised that due to limited membership they are not in a financial position to join the Scheme.	No	2
8	Declined	NGI has advised that they will not join the Scheme, as they are satisfied with their current process of distributing funds to survivors of child sexual abuse.	No	4
9	Declined	NGI does not consider participating in the Scheme necessary.	Yes	1
10	Declined	NGI has decided not to join the Scheme, as they believe that applicants will have better outcomes through their current process.	No	1
11	Declined	NGI has decided not to join the Scheme. No further reasons provided.	No	1
12	Declined	NGI has advised that they believe that they are dealing with claims appropriately and as a result do not need to join the Scheme.	No	1

Officials continue to engage with these institutions to encourage them to join the Scheme.

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Department of Social Services

Topic: Joint Select Committee on implementation of the National Redress Scheme -
Question 3

Question reference number: SQ20-000372

Type of Question: Spoken. Hansard Page/s:

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 24 April 2020

Question:

And how many applications are they responsible for?

Answer:

Please refer to SQ20-000371 for answer.

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Department of Social Services

Topic: Joint Select Committee on implementation of the National Redress Scheme - Question 19

Question reference number: SQ20-000388

Type of Question: Spoken. Hansard Page/s:

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 24 April 2020

Question:

What is the administrative cost of the scheme to date?

Answer:

In the first two years of Scheme's operation, funding of \$86.2 million has been provided to the Department of Social Services, Services Australia and the Attorney-General's Department to administer the Scheme.

The funding is used for all aspects of application processing, including interaction with applicants and relevant institutions throughout the process and the costs associated with Independent Decision Makers. The funding also supports engagement with institutions during the on-boarding process and over the life of the Scheme, ongoing support for governance arrangements, communication and reporting and management of redress support services and free legal services.

Participating Institutions pay an administrative charge for each application for which they are responsible. From 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2019, participating institutions (including jurisdictions) have contributed \$7.466 million for the scheme administration element. This is made up of \$6.550 million for the administration charge and \$0.916 million for the contribution to legal costs.

In addition, funding has been provided for services to assist and support survivors throughout their redress journey. In the first two years, this includes \$39.8 million to fund redress support services, and \$25.2 million to fund free legal services.