



National Centre of Excellence
for Complex Trauma

Breaking Free



Welcome to the September edition of Breaking Free

COVID-19 has had a huge impact on our day to day lives, and we've had to rethink the way we do things. Sometimes when we do things differently, it opens our eyes to new opportunities and forces us to become a little bit more creative in our approach. This is particularly true for us here at Blue Knot, as we tried to work through how Blue Knot Day would look this year. The impact of COVID-19 on the well-being of the community in general but our community in particular, coupled with social distancing, inspired us to think of ways to try and build positive and engaging connection.

To this end we have created the Festival of Healing. On Wednesday the 28th of October on Blue Knot Day, we will be conducting a full day of interactive and engaging content which we hope will inform, entertain and inspire. The full-day event will be hosted on Facebook, and should have something for everyone. Feel free to pick and choose what appeals to you, and get involved as much or as little as you like.... It's up to you...

There will be sessions such as a trauma-informed yoga and meditation session, a creative interlude, panel Q&A discussions with some of our Blue Knot Helpline and Redress Support Service counsellors as well as counsellors from the National Counselling and Referral Service (disability). Included in this newsletter is information about how to submit questions for consideration for our panel. We would love to hear from you and we will try to answer any questions that you might have about our services, the support they can offer, and anything else you'd like to know about the work that we do at Blue Knot Foundation.

Most importantly, the emphasis of the day is on possibilities around healing. Everyone's journey of recovery is different, and we are here to connect with you and our community to help support that journey. We welcome you to our community, and hope that you will join us on the day.

We've also developed a new fact sheet: Emotions and Arousal (including Dissociation). It breaks down the characteristics of each of these responses when triggered. Often, people with trauma experiences can find them difficult to manage or regulate, so we hope you find the fact sheet useful and informative.

Blue Knot Day 2020

Your Festival of Healing

12 hours of inspiration, motivation and healing for survivors of complex trauma.

Blue Knot Day - Festival of Healing

Wednesday 28th October

As we approach Blue Knot Day, it is time to reflect that this year is very different to any that any of us have experienced before. It is hard to deny that these are challenging times - times of lockdown, quarantine, restrictions, and border closures. There is little doubt that these challenges can add to the trauma so many of us have already experienced. Yet this also a time during which we have observed and sometimes experienced incredible acts of kindness, of kinship and of support. This year more than ever it is important for us to all come together in support and solidarity as a community of and for survivors.

That's why this Blue Knot Day, we are planning something very special. Many of us have been physically isolated, socially distancing even from those with whom we are close. For some of us this has meant a lack of connection, as our usual supports and the nurture of contact and relationships have been less immediately available. Many of us have engaged more

in a digital world which has brought not only contact but also an often, unanticipated closeness and camaraderie despite it all. That's why this year for Blue Knot Day, Blue Knot is not only going digital but holding a whole day Festival of Healing to which anyone can tune in at any time throughout the day, or all day if you want.

Blue Knot Day is about uniting as a community in support of people who have experienced violence, abuse and neglect, from childhood but also as an adult. It is also about holding hope about the possibility of healing and recovery.

There are many ways in which people who have experienced trauma can heal. What we do know is that when we have experienced trauma at the hands of other people, it is important to connect in with others, as much as we can. As when we connect, we can start to build trust, and ultimately safe connections and the possibility of different relationships – healthy relationships that can support our healing and recovery.

“Healthy relationships can foster an improved quality of life and greater resilience.” -Donald Meichenbaum
The Festival of Healing we hope will bring people together creating connections and providing different resources and experiences to foster healing. So please mark Blue Knot Day, October 28th in your diary.

THE FESTIVAL WILL INCLUDE EXPERIENCES SUCH AS:

- An interactive Grounding Session
- A light trauma-informed yoga session
- Q&A panel discussion with our Blue Knot Helpline and Redress Support Service; and National Counselling and Referral Service (disability)
- A creative interlude with discussion on how creativity can assist healing
- Survivor stories of healing and hope
- Plus much more....

We will be in touch in the coming weeks with more details on the final program and how you can join in. The program will be conducted through our Facebook page. Please feel free to join for as much or as little of the day as you choose.

And remember, this is about you and what you want and need on the day. We all have different needs and different ways to heal. We hope that you will join us and the Festival of Healing community!



Blue Knot welcomes Rida Aleem Khan as our Ambassador

“It is extremely exciting to become an Ambassador of the Blue Knot Foundation that has a legacy of helping adult survivors recover from childhood trauma, especially child sexual abuse that leads to complex trauma. I look forward to expanding this Ambassadorship to Multicultural Australia and become the face of the People of Colour (POC) who struggle with childhood trauma.” - Rida Aleem Khan

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that we welcome Rida Aleem Khan as ambassador for the Blue Knot Foundation.

Rida is a proud Pakistani-Australian-Baloch-Muslim Sufi-Chocoholic with first language Japanese and seventh language Chinese Mandarin. She wholeheartedly embraces her intersectionality and the complex trauma that comes with it. She is a multicultural and youth advocate and is the recipient of 2018 Sir John Monash High Commendation Award for Youth Leadership. She works at a multicultural women’s organisation called Wellsprings for Women, and is

currently the youth chair for Federation of Ethnic Communities of Australia (FECCA). In her book “Living & Loving in Diversity”, Rida speaks about the struggle that women of colour experience with mental health, and regularly appears on Australian and Pakistani media highlighting the emerging issues of multicultural communities and youth.

For more information on Rida’s work, check out her website: <https://ridaaileemkhan.com>

Copies of the Awards & Certificates:
<https://ridaaileemkhan.com/gallery/>



New Fact Sheet - Emotions and Arousal (including Dissociation)

People with trauma experiences often have strong emotions. They can find them difficult to manage or regulate. When triggered, a range of arousal response can be experienced, including dissociation which is a type of freeze response. This fact sheet outlines the characteristics of emotions, arousal and dissociation.

Download the PLAIN ENGLISH Arousal fact sheet [here](#)

<https://www.blueknot.org.au/Portals/2/Newsletter/September%202020/Fact%20Sheet%20Arousal%20PLAIN%20ENGLISH.pdf>

Download the PLAIN ENGLISH Feelings fact sheet [here](#)

<https://www.blueknot.org.au/Portals/2/Newsletter/September%202020/Fact%20Sheet%20Feelings%20PLAIN%20ENGLISH.pdf>

Download the PLAIN ENGLISH Dissociation fact sheet [here](#)

<https://www.blueknot.org.au/Portals/2/Newsletter/September%202020/Dissociation%20PLAIN%20ENGLISH.pdf>

BLUE KNOT FOUNDATION

FACT SHEET: Emotions and Arousal (including dissociation)



Emotions

- People with trauma experiences often have strong emotions. They can find them difficult to manage or regulate.
- Struggling to manage emotions can start in childhood. This is because when children don't receive the care and nurture they need, they don't learn to manage their emotions.
- When people are triggered, they can experience sudden strong feelings. These feelings include terror, rage, distress and panic.
- Some triggers cause flashbacks; i.e. the sudden reliving of previous trauma experiences. Flashbacks often bring strong emotions, sensations and body movements. This is because trauma is often stored in the body.
- Flashbacks can be frightening. They come on unexpectedly and can throw a person back into past feelings of being overwhelmed.

Arousal

- When people are triggered, they go into fight/flight/freeze (survival) mode. In survival mode, people can be agitated (hyper-aroused) or shut down (hypo-aroused). People with complex trauma swing between being hyper and hypo-aroused at different times.
- Changes in arousal can lead to strong emotions. People use different coping strategies and behaviours to try and manage their emotions.
- There is a level of arousal at which a person functions at their best and can tolerate their emotions. This is called the 'window of tolerance'. When a person is hypo or hyper-aroused they are outside of their window of tolerance.

BLUE KNOT FOUNDATION

FACT SHEET: Emotions and Arousal (including dissociation)



Dissociation

- Dissociation is a type of freeze (hypo-arousal) response. A freeze response is harder to recognise than hyperarousal because there may be no visible signs.
- Most people are not aware that they are dissociating because it is an automatic response. Everyone dissociates at times. Examples of everyday dissociation include daydreaming or being absorbed in a task. This is 'normal' and does not cause a problem for the person.
- Dissociation can also occur as a survival response to severe trauma. Trauma-related dissociation causes 'disconnects' between thoughts, feelings, sensations and behaviour. These disconnects occur outside of conscious awareness.
- Dissociation can mean that a traumatised person can't function in a smooth integrated (working together) way. This can cause challenges for the person.
- Some people with trauma-related dissociation are diagnosed with different conditions. These are called Dissociative Disorders, of which Dissociative Identity Disorder is the best known.



Blue Knot Helpline 1300 657 380 | blueknot.org.au | 02 8920 3611 | admin@blueknot.org.au



National Counselling and Referral Service (Disability)

The National Counselling and Referral Service is now not only supporting people affected by the Disability Royal Commission. It is a key trauma-informed support for people with disability, family members, carers, advocates and workers who have experienced or witnessed abuse, neglect, violence and exploitation during these difficult times. Anyone who wishes to access this support does not need to make a submission or have any prior involvement with the Disability Royal Commission.

Who can call?

If you are living with disability (or are a family member of or caring for a person with disability) and

- Have experienced abuse, neglect, violence or exploitation
- Are currently experiencing abuse, neglect, violence or exploitation
- Are distressed or anxious about coronavirus
- Are affected by the Disability Royal Commission

If you are a family member of or caring for a person with a disability

If you are a support worker, advocate or provide a legal or financial service

You can call the National Counselling and Referral Service on 1800 421 468.

This service operates from:

- 9am-6pm AEST/AEDT Mon-Fri and
- 9am-5pm AEST/AEDT Sat, Sun and public holidays.

The service provides:

- Short-term trauma-informed phone counselling and support
- Education around trauma and distress
- A gateway to frontline services
- Supported transfers with the Disability Royal Commission
- Supported transfers to advocacy and legal services
- Information and referrals to other services

What happens when you call?

- Our counsellors are here to listen and support you
- Everyone's experience of trauma is different, and everyone has different needs
- Counsellors will provide support in your call based on your needs

Ways you can contact us

Telephone:

You can call **1800 421 468** or **02 6146 1468** to speak with a counsellor

Video Conference (VC):

You can use videoconference if you can not or find it hard to use the phone.

Please first email us at ncrcounsellors@blueknot.org.au or call **1800 421 468** with a support person

Webchat (WC):

Webchat is for people who need support, information or referrals. It is found at the bottom of our webpage. It is not a counselling service.

SMS:

SMS is for people we have connected with by phone or webchat. We use it to provide information or referrals. For SMS contact **0451 266 601**. It is not a counselling service.

If in crisis, in need of immediate support or concerned for your safety:

Call Lifeline on **13 11 14**. If you are currently experiencing any form of violence or abuse, or are concerned for your safety, call 000.

Accessibility

If you find it difficult to hear or speak you can contact us through the National Relay Service (NRS). Please phone **133 677**.

If you need support in another language you can use the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS National) for free by:

- Calling the National Counselling and Referral Service on **1800 421 468** and asking for an interpreter, OR
- Calling TIS on **131 450** and asking to be connected to National Counselling and Referral Service on **1800 421 468**

National Redress Scheme Review Feedback Study

The National Redress Scheme review is seeking responses from survivors and support services/carers/advocates to a feedback study on experiences with the Scheme and especially with the application process. The findings from this study will inform the findings of the review and are therefore very significant. The study is being conducted by the University of New South Wales and is confidential. The review needs your input to inform its findings and recommendations to improve the operation of the Scheme. The links to the study are as follows – there is one for survivors and the second is for survivor supports – advocates, carers, family members and support services. Please have your say.

Survey of survivors

https://unsw.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_emNiwYrPCohn91X

Survey of advocates, family members, carers and other support people

https://unsw.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_e2QMWWmEKEaVQUZ



Seeking people who are interested in speaking to the media

From time to time Blue Knot Foundation is asked to speak to the media around a range of different topics related to complex trauma, childhood trauma and abuse, the redress scheme and others. This can involve print, radio, TV media as well as social media channels. As part of some of these interviews, journalists ask if Blue Knot knows of any survivors or family members, partners or friends who would be comfortable being interviewed either anonymously or using their name. If you would like to register your interest in speaking to the media should an opportunity arise and feel well enough supported and ready to do so please email ckezelman@blueknot.org.au with your contact details and we will get back to you.

It is important to know that the media often wants to explore a particular topic and angle and in this case, that will be the focus of a particular interview, rather than your full story. Every survivor's experience and story deserves to be honoured and we will always do what we can to ensure that the media we work with is sensitive and informed.

National Redress Scheme Falls Short For Survivors

The Healing Foundation says the National Redress Scheme for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse is falling short of delivering trauma aware healing informed responses.

Because the majority of submissions published by the Joint Select Committee reflect the views of non-Indigenous survivors, or the interests of the institutions, The Healing Foundation has lodged a submission to ensure the experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander survivors are considered as part of the review.

The Healing Foundation CEO Fiona Petersen is today appearing before the Joint Select Committee in Parliament to ensure that the redress process reduces re-traumatisation and is delivered in a trauma aware and healing informed way.

"As the voices of Stolen Generations survivors have made clear, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities carry a heavy burden of trauma and disadvantage arising from institutional abuse," she said.

"The National Redress Scheme is a fundamental part of the healing journey for survivors. However, unless trauma is actively addressed at every point of contact in the redress response, there is a significant risk that survivors of institutional abuse will not be allowed to heal."

"A key weakness in the Scheme's administration is the response that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander survivors receive when engaging with formal agencies such as Centrelink – survivors report discrimination and alienation in their contact with both staff and application processes, which can contribute to trauma and create a barrier to accessing redress."

Particular attention must be given to ensuring support is available for applicants who have been rejected, and to making review processes accessible.

Unfortunately, the current processes do not meet this expectation, which could re-traumatise Stolen Generations survivors, many of who are already at a disadvantage.

"The breakdown of family and social structures caused by removal and abuse decimated communities and it deeply impacted Stolen Generations survivors," Ms Petersen said.

"Survivors did not know where to go to seek support for anything, they no longer belonged to a community, held no memories of belonging to one and were not able to draw on the strengths of a community to help them."

"The voices and experience of Stolen Generations survivors need to be the touchstone we keep returning to when reviewing implementation of the National Redress Scheme."

Ms Petersen said The Healing Foundation has considerable

data and evidence to illustrate the trauma and disadvantage experienced by Stolen Generations survivors, their families and communities.

"The Healing Foundation commissioned a series of reports from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), which form Australia's first demographic study of the Stolen Generations and their descendants," she said.

"The reports have uncovered an alarming and disproportionate level of disadvantage and prove that the negative impact of past atrocities is having a flow-on effect to later generations, therefore creating an escalating cycle of disadvantage.

"The AIHW data estimates that 17,150 members of the Stolen Generations are still alive today and that they experience higher levels of adversity in relation to almost all of 38 key health and welfare outcomes.

"Even compared to their Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders contemporaries, who are already at a disadvantage in Australia, Stolen Generations members are suffering more – financially, socially and in areas of health and wellbeing."

BACKGROUND

The Healing Foundation made a submission to the Joint Select Committee on Implementation of the National Redress Scheme in June 2020. The submission can be found [here](#).

In response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, The Healing Foundation released a discussion paper titled Restoring our Spirits – Reshaping our Futures. The paper can be found [here](#).

To coincide with Prime Minister Scott Morrison's apology to victims and survivors of institutional child sexual abuse, The Healing Foundation released a cultural framework, titled Looking Where the Light Is: creating and restoring safety and healing. This report can be found [here](#).

The AIHW Report – Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Stolen Generations and descendants: Numbers, demographic characteristics and selected outcomes – is available [here](#).

The Healing Foundation is a national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation that partners with communities to heal trauma caused by the widespread and deliberate disruption of populations, cultures and languages over 230 years. This includes specific actions like the forced removal of children from their families.

New Approach Needed To Prevent Human Rights Violations For People With Disability

Luke Michael

Australia needs to remedy its flawed interpretation of the UN's Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) which is allowing human rights violations to occur, a new research paper says.

A report from the University of NSW Social Policy Research Centre (SPRC) said Australia has not made adequate progress achieving rights for people with disability since the early days of the disability rights movement in the 1960s.

Researchers focused on Australia's implementation of the CRPD, which they said was "critical to fulfilling the right of people with disability to be free from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect and exploitation".

Australia signed the CRPD in 2008, pledging to protect and promote disability rights, but the report said the nation's interpretations of the convention was flawed.

These interpretations relate to article 12 (equal recognition before the law) and article 17 (protecting the integrity of the person).

"When Australia ratified the CRPD, it made interpretative declarations on articles 12 and 17 that set out how Australia interprets these articles. This does not reflect the current interpretation by the CRPD Committee," the report said.

"This has meant that Australia's interpretative declarations restrict implementation of the CRPD, prevent reform, and allow for human rights violations including the denial of legal capacity, arbitrary and indefinite detention, and forced treatments and medical interventions of people with disability."

Researchers said there should be a new focus that recognises impairment as a "valued part of human diversity and human dignity" and accepts people with disability as "critical to all aspects of life".

The report said this will require embracing the legal and policy standards provided by the CRPD to realise that disability is socially constructed, and that transformative equality is needed to dismantle underlying power imbalances in society.

"If the focus continues to be on fixing, reforming or maintaining existing systems that are built on ableism, the necessary social transformation required by the CRPD will never be understood or realised," the report said.

This research paper was commissioned by the disability royal commission to describe the international human rights context in which the commission operates.

The full report can be seen here: <https://disabilityroyalcommission.gov.au/system/files/2020-09/Research%20Report%20-%20Convention%20on%20the%20Rights%20of%20Persons%20with%20Disabilities%20Shining%20a%20light%20on%20Social%20Transformation.pdf>



Principal To Be Extradited To Australia To Face Sex Charges

By CAROLINE SCHELLE

A court has ordered former principal Malka Leifer be extradited to Melbourne from Israel to face dozens of charges of child sexual abuse allegedly committed during her time at an ultra orthodox school.

he is wanted on 74 charges related to child sexual abuse from her time as the head of the Adass Israel School in Elsternwick, in Melbourne's southeast.

The decision was made in the Jerusalem district court on Monday afternoon that the former principal can be returned to Victoria to face court proceedings.

Leifer has been fighting an extradition request lodged by Victoria Police for years, stalling the pursuit of justice for her alleged victims.

The 53-year-old fled Australia in 2008 after allegations against her surfaced. After allegations of sexual abuse arose in 2008 against Leifer, the school where she worked bought her tickets and flew her to Israel where she has remained ever since.

An extradition request was made by Victorian Police in 2014.

In 2017, an Israeli court declared Leifer was unfit to stand trial due to mental illness, but she was arrested again in 2018.

A sting operation found that she had been living a normal and healthy life, with hidden camera footage showing her going about her business with ease.

She is accused of dozens of counts of sexual assault and rape of students at the ultra-Orthodox Adass Israel school in Melbourne, where she was principal.

Leifer has maintained her innocence.

"Exhaling years of holding our breath! We truly value every person standing with us in our refusal to remain silent! Today our hearts are smiling!" one of her alleged victims Dassi Erlich wrote on social media after the finding.

Ms Erlich and her sisters Nicole Meyer and Elly Sapper are among those who have accused the principal of abuse.

They were the first to be granted permission by the courts to identify themselves since new Victorian laws were introduced in February to gag sexual abuse victims from speaking out even if they consented to identification.

"It's a relief to be honest," Federal Labor MP Josh Burns, who has been one of the most vocal supporters of Malka Leifer's alleged victims, told the ABC's Matt Doran.

"This has been over nine years since Dassi, Nicole and Elly gave their statements to police and over nine years of a rollercoaster of justice being dangled in front of these sisters and then being ripped away.

"It has been such a rollercoaster of emotions for three extraordinary, brave Australian women who have at every stage fought for justice and at every stage fought for Malka Leifer to face the 74 counts of child sex abuse in an Australian court and today's decision means she will and it is a huge relief."

Child abuse activist Cathy Kezelman said the Blue Knot Foundation supported the extradition decision, saying it was long overdue.

"For her victims to stand up and courageously speak of the unconscionable crimes against them as children is enormously difficult," she said.

"To have to withstand a rollercoaster of court machinations and inexplicable delays for a chance at justice is torturous.

"The rejection of Malka Leifer's appeal against extradition on the grounds of mental illness, in the face of video evidence to the contrary, was a watershed moment in this saga.

"It is time for Malka Leifer to face the 74 charges against her."

It comes more than a decade after Leifer fled and more than 70 court hearings.

Lawyers for the woman have already flagged an intention to appeal the finding.

"There are a couple of stages that still can be appealed, but in recent times the higher courts have thrown out the appeals really quickly and they've also mentioned in those decisions to dismiss the appeals, that this case has gone long enough," Mr Burns said.



Sisters Elly Sapper, Dassi Erlich and Nicole Meyer in Melbourne in May.
Picture: James Ross

Disability Care Watchdog Has Issued Just One Fine

By Rob Harris

Just one fine has been issued and only one provider banned by the disability watchdog despite more than 8000 complaints being lodged in the past two years.

The scandal-plagued disability sector will get \$22 billion from the federal government this financial year, but an independent review found the system left vulnerable people open to harm and neglect.

New figures provided by the National Disability Insurance Scheme Quality and Safeguards Commission reveal the solitary \$12,000 fine was handed to now-banned provider Integrity Care after its client Ann Marie Smith died in "appalling circumstances" earlier this year.

The South Australian woman, 54, died on April 6 from severe septic shock, organ failure, severe pressure sores, malnutrition and issues connected with her cerebral palsy.

Her death remains subject to a criminal investigation by South Australia Police, which has resulted in a charge of manslaughter against her former carer.

The figures also reveal that on more than 200 occasions providers failed to notify the watchdog of the death of a

person with disability within five days of the fatality.

Labor's NDIS spokesman Bill Shorten said the new data revealed the "shocking secret" about the Morrison government's "much-vaunted" disability watchdog.

"It is simply not doing its job and Australians with disability are dying as a result," Mr Shorten said.

"Only one solitary fine, only one provider banned and only 22 individuals banned in two years despite thousands and thousands of tip-offs."

An independent review into the circumstances into the failings of care for Ms Smith by Alan Robertson SC this month issued 10 recommendations to improve the quality and safeguards for NDIS participants. They included appointing a specific person with overall responsibility for a vulnerable person's safety and well-being, a ban on sole carers and implementing a community visitor scheme.

The watchdog's own data, provided to Federal Parliament's joint standing committee on the NDIS, shows 22 individual carers were banned between July 1, 2018, and June 30 this year, including 13 in NSW and five in Queensland. Two of those bans were later withdrawn following a "change of information", the commission said.

More than 5700 complaints led to 8168 investigations into alleged abuse and neglect, provider practice and worker conduct, the commission said.

In about 47 per cent of cases there was no further action taken, while in 42 per cent the commission provided "advice and assistance" to the person with disability affected by the issue and the NDIS provider to which the issue related.

In about 11 per cent of cases a resolution process was undertaken, with 85 per cent of those resolved. The remaining 15 per cent were closed for other reasons including the complainant withdrawing the complaint, or the commission initiated compliance action.

About 24 per cent of those cases remain open while 76 per cent have been closed, the figures show.

The \$35 million-a-year independent agency, which has more than 300 staff, was established to improve the quality and safety of NDIS supports and services.

It has access to a wide range of compliance and enforcement provisions including seeking injunctions and civil penalties, revoking registration and issuing banning orders on a case-by-case basis.

It chalked up more than \$1.5 million in travel costs last year and has an executive team paid more than \$2 million.

Mr Shorten said NDIS Minister Stuart Robert had presided over a "toothless and sleepy" watchdog that in reality is "more like a very expensive purse poodle".

He called on the government to accept and implement recommendations of its own Robertson Review and detail its plan to address dangerous holes in the disability safety net.

Mr Robert said earlier this month the government would consider the review changes in consultation with people with disability and state and territory governments.

He last week announced he would commit 100 more staff and an additional \$92.9 million to the commission over the next four years in the Budget.

'We currently have a Bill before Parliament to strengthen the banning powers of the NDIS Commission, so that we can prevent unsuitable providers and workers from working with NDIS participants, regardless of whether they are active in the sector or not,' he said.

A commission spokesman said people with disability had the right to complain about the services they receive.

More Institutions Now Covered By National Redress Scheme

Minister for Families and Social Services Anne Ruston announced additional institutions are now covered by the National Redress Scheme allowing more than 50 applications to be processed.

"I would like to acknowledge the significant number of institutions and sites which have joined the Scheme so far, including those not named in the Royal Commission or in an application," Minister Ruston said.

"I encourage all institutions with a history of working with children to join the Scheme. It is never too late to show leadership and commit to child safety."

To date the Commonwealth, all state and territory governments and 257 non-government institutions are participating which covers more than 51,500 sites across Australia.

A further 156 institutions have committed to join and finalise on-boarding by no later than 31 December 2020.

"I expect all institutions that have submitted their intent to join the Scheme to finalise the process to join the Scheme as soon as possible," Minister Ruston said.

Minister Ruston also thanked the New South Wales, Victorian and Western Australian governments for agreeing to be a funder of last resort for a number of

institutions in their states.

It means survivors of abuse at the Marella Mission Farm, Waverley Emergency Adolescent Care, Alexandra Babies Home, Shiloh Home, Roelands Native Mission Farm and Valima Hostel and Gilead Boys Home could now access redress.

A review of the National Redress Scheme is currently underway with Ms Robyn Kruk AO appointed as the independent reviewer.

Minister Ruston said the second anniversary review intends to help drive practical improvements to the Scheme.

"The review will focus on understanding what is working and how we can address the challenges and barriers that remain," Minister Ruston said.

"We want to improve the Scheme and we want to do that together."

People can connect with the review by making a submission online, via email, in writing or over the phone.



National Centre of Excellence
for Complex Trauma

TELL US YOUR
STORY!

Breaking Free is Blue Knot Foundation's monthly eNewsletter for survivors of childhood trauma, their supporters and community members. For feedback or to contribute, please email newsletter@blueknot.org.au or call (02) 8920 3611.

Blue Knot Foundation makes every effort to provide readers of its website and newsletters with information which is accurate and helpful. It is not however a substitute for counselling or professional advice. While all attempts have been made to verify all information provided, Blue Knot Foundation cannot guarantee and does not assume any responsibility for currency, errors, omissions or contrary interpretation of the information provided.