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Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence
Prevention Committee

health@parliament.qld.gov.au

9 July, 2018

To whom it may concern

**RE: National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse
(Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2018**

Micah Projects has worked alongside people who have experienced abuse as children in institutional settings for over 20 years. As an organisation, we have had contact with thousands of Queenslanders over this period. During the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, we formally participated through making submissions to issues papers, supporting individuals to attend personal sessions, participated in roundtables, supported witnesses in case studies on particular institutions as well as being a witness.

Micah Projects acknowledges the significant milestone that the Queensland Government has achieved in preparing the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2018. We congratulate the Government on your commitment to survivors, your advocacy for justice in joining the scheme and the allocation of \$500,000,000.

Micah Projects understands the purpose of the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2018 provides for

- a) A referral of powers to the Commonwealth Parliament to enable the National Scheme to operate in Queensland;
 - b) Information sharing to support the operations of the National Scheme;
- and

- c) An amendment to the *Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009* to provide that redress payments may not be deducted from victim assistance payments under the Act.

We understand that many of the concerns of survivors belong with the Commonwealth legislation and survivors are continually giving their feedback, through the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee, which we are sharing with you for your information.

Many survivors support the introduction of the National Redress Scheme whilst others feel that the scheme has not focused on the needs of all survivors of childhood abuse in institutional settings. They have additional concerns that the services which exist for survivors of all forms of child abuse in institutional settings are going to be diverted away to only supporting people who have experienced sexual abuse. Their concerns are in relation to -

- a) Eligibility;
- b) The exclusion of people in prison and with convictions, having to be a resident of Australia;
- c) The calculation of deductions to their payments from the Queensland Redress Scheme 2007, given that this payment was not for sexual abuse alone and is being deducted as a whole with indexation.

I would be pleased to expand on any of the points above. I can be contacted via email on _____ or phone _____.

Kind regards



Karyn Walsh AM Hon.DSocWk & Nurs Qld
CEO, Micah Projects