




Speech By
Julianne Gilbert

MEMBER FOR MACKAY

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**NATIONAL REDRESS SCHEME FOR INSTITUTIONAL CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE
(COMMONWEALTH POWERS) BILL**

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (3.52 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Commonwealth Powers) Bill 2018. Every September I am very honoured to be invited by the survivors who live in my region to a remembrance ceremony to acknowledge and remember the adult survivors of childhood abuse in institutional care.

At first glance, that group of forgotten Australians from my electorate and surrounding regions look okay, but once you sit down and have a short chat to them you realise that they are carrying the burdens and scars of their childhoods. Most were former Neerkol orphanage children. Their stories of beatings, rapes and humiliations are horrific by any standard. As children, they were shunned and punished because their parents died or had become too unwell to care for them. That must never ever happen again.

The national redress scheme stands to benefit many thousands of people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse in Queensland and offers the closure and support that they may not otherwise receive. On behalf of Francis, Cindy, the many Davids and Johns, Colin, Natalie, Janet, Shirley and their families, as well as many other adults, I commend the bill to the House.