Community Legal Centres Association (WA) Inc

MEDIA RELEASE

Community Legal Centres ready to assist WA survivors seek Redress

Today is an important day for survivors of child sexual abuse in Western Australia as they can officially access the National Redress Scheme.

As a strong advocate for a national scheme, the Community Legal Centres Association (WA) welcomed the announcement last week that Western Australia had signed on to the Commonwealth Redress Scheme.

“The State Government and the Commonwealth Government are to be congratulated for working through the issues to ensure a fairer outcome for child migrant applicants and for survivors with a serious criminal history,” Executive Director Sharryn Jackson said.

“With WA now part of the Commonwealth Redress Scheme, survivors will be able to access a redress payment as well as free specialist legal support and financial counselling as they go through the process.”

Survivors will have the option of participating in the Redress Scheme as an alternative to pursuing civil action through the courts from today.

"CLCA (WA) also welcomes the Premier’s apology to survivors of institutional abuse as a significant moment in acknowledging the horrendous mistakes of the past."

Ms Jackson went on to say she expected many member centres will be contacted by survivors in the coming weeks and months as they begin the process the of accessing Redress.

“Our centres will be working closely with knowmore (established by the National Association of Community Legal Centres) which has been funded by the Commonwealth to offer legal advice and information to survivors to consider their options about compensation, redress and other institutional child sexual abuse legal issues.

“We will support survivors to help them understand their legal options and assist them to access support during this emotional process.”

Survivors can access further information by:

- Visiting www.dss.gov.au/redress
- Call the National Redress Information Line on 1800 146 713.
- Contact your local Community Legal Centre

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