



Redress for Institutional Abuse: Australia in International Perspective

Institutional abuse of children is a significant social and legal problem in Australia and other nations. The responses have been public inquiries, criminal prosecution, civil litigation, and redress schemes. The project is gathering data on 18 countries (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, England & Wales, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Netherlands, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, Norway, Scotland, Sweden, Switzerland, the USA) and two independent polities (Åland Islands and States of Jersey), with a focus on redress schemes.

The project builds on previous redress research in Australia and Canada (Daly, 2014). It aims to produce a comparative analysis of redress for institutional abuse, to understand survivors' aspirations for justice, and to map theoretical developments in the field. The project intends to establish an authoritative and comprehensive research platform for developing redress policies and practices in Australia and elsewhere.

From 2017, project outcomes include two journal articles on Australia's National Redress Scheme and a book chapter. Daly (2018) examines the scheme's unique inclusion of care leavers and non-care leavers and its unusual focus on sexual abuse alone, Daly & Davis (2019) chart the evolution of the scheme from the Australian Royal Commission's redress recommendations to its current form, and Daly (2017) provides an overview of redress for institutional abuse in a book chapter.

Papers have been presented to the Australia and New Zealand Society of Criminology (Canberra, 2017), the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia (Melbourne, 2017), Australia and New Zealand Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abuse (Brisbane, 2019), and the Global Criminology Network (Leuven, 2019). The timely nature of the research led to articles in *The Conversation* (Daly, 8 February 2018 and 16 February 2018; Daly & Davis, 7 March 2019) and two submissions to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and four submissions to Australian parliamentary committees.

In 2020, work is underway to produce three significant publications. Building on a paper given to the Society for the History of Children and Youth conference (Sydney, 2019), one maps the world of redress, revealing variation in the content, purpose, and outcomes of redress schemes. A second shows the trade-offs between civil litigation and redress schemes for survivors, with an analysis of Australian Catholic Church decisions and monetary payments. A third analyses two Catholic Church redress schemes (*Towards Healing* and the *Melbourne Response*), placing them a broader international and temporal context of the ways in which the Catholic Church is responding to institutional abuse of children.

July 2020

Griffith University
Griffith Criminology
Institute

ARC Discovery Grant
DP170101470
2017-2021

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