



Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce

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July 2021

COMMUNIQUE

The second and final term of membership to the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce (the Taskforce) was finalised on 4 March 2021 by the Premier and Minister for Trade. The Taskforce is made up of 10 members, with one position currently vacant. Some members have continued and three new members were appointed. Membership of the Taskforce comprises of:

- Mr Bob Atkinson AO APM, Chair
- Mrs Joan Isaacs
- Ms Diane Carpenter
- Mr Mike Wragge
- Ms Karyn Walsh, Micah Projects
- Reverend David Baker, Queensland Churches Together
- Ms Carly Jacobitz, Life Without Barriers
- Ms Jacqui Reed, CREATE Foundation
- Ms Yvette Salam, Link-Up QLD

The Taskforce have held three formal meetings in March, April and June, where members reflected on the work of the first term of the Taskforce and re-visited its priority areas of work. A key focus of the final term of the Taskforce will include the statewide 'Listening Tour' and the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Grants Program.

We engage with key stakeholders and have presentations from key departments such as the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Queensland Police and Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs (DCYJMA). The Taskforce have been provided with an update on the implementation of the Queensland Government Intermediary Scheme, consulted on the implementation of the Child Safe Standards in Queensland and had the opportunity to speak with an officer from Queensland Police and discuss reporting of institutional child sexual abuse.

The Taskforce have also had the privilege of meeting with both the Honourable Leanne Linard MP, Minister for Children, Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Ms Deidre Mulkerin, Director-General of DCYJMA at recent meetings. Both the Minister and Director-General spoke of the importance of the work of the Taskforce in raising community awareness of institutional child abuse and congratulated the Taskforce on the roll-out of its statewide 'Listening Tour.'

Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce workplan

The first two years of operation for the Taskforce and its workplan was impacted by COVID-19. Members have continuously expressed the need for engagement and community awareness raising of institutional child abuse and its impacts. The Taskforce hope to release in the second half of 2021 an online consultation to seek the views and concerns of people with lived experience, their supports and service providers on the implementation of the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (the Royal Commission).

Statewide 'Listening Tour'

In early 2020 the Taskforce held its first statewide 'Listening Tour' community forum in Toowoomba. With forums placed on hold due to COVID-19, the Taskforce held its second forum on the Gold Coast in May 2021, with over 50 people in attendance. Followed by forums in Townsville and Cairns in June with approximately 100 people in attendance across the two locations. The Taskforce were privileged to work alongside knowmore Legal Service to ensure information was provided on the National Redress Scheme (the Scheme). Redress support Services were also in attendance at all forums and provided an overview of what an application to the Scheme may look like for a person applying, including the types of supports available. Discussions were also had on the impacts of institutional child abuse and how services and individuals can better support people with lived experience.

Planning is underway for forums in Brisbane, Sunshine Coast, Rockhampton, Mount Isa and Cherbourg, with other locations to be added.

National Redress Scheme

A National Indigenous Engagement Toolkit developed by the Scheme is now available online. Resources including a video, posters and leaflets have been developed to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples awareness and engagement of the Scheme. Further resources include a radio announcement and supporting resources have also been developed in collaboration with Cape York/Gulf Remote Area Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Care Advisory Association (RAATSICC) and local community members from Cairns, Doomadgee, Mt Isa and the Torres Strait.

Two year review of the National Redress Scheme

The final report of the second year review of the National Redress Scheme (the Review) was released by the Commonwealth on 23 June 2021. The report and the interim Australian Government response to the report can be found at <https://www.nationalredress.gov.au/document/1386>

The Taskforce have provided advice on the recommendations of the Review to the Honourable Leanne Linard MP, Minister for Children, Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs, which takes into consideration feedback that the Taskforce has heard from people with lived experience, their supports and service providers.

Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Grants Program

The postponed 2020-21 Grants Program was released in February 2021 with 20 applications for grant funding received. Five organisations were successful in funding for activities and events to raise awareness of institutional child abuse. The five successful grant recipients are:

- SANDBAG Community Centre to develop resources for a story telling project
- Bravehearts Foundation Limited to stage a community event to promote healing for women on Palm Island who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse

- Link-Up (QLD) to engage with past and present clients to create art which promotes truth, healing and reconciliation
- The Centre for Women and Co in partnership with Redlands City Council to compile a digital story about male survivors of institutional child sexual abuse
- Pormpur Paanthu Aboriginal Corporation for a local health campaign for adults who experienced institutional child sexual abuse.

The 2021-22 Grants Program will be released in the second half of 2021.

Engagement with the Taskforce

The Taskforce continues to build good relationships with a number of service providers including:

- Daniel Morcombe Foundation
- Bravehearts
- Act for Kids
- Care Leavers Australasia Network (CLAN)
- Queensland Child Protection Advocates Group (QCPAG)
- Integrated Family and Youth Service (IFYS)

University of Southern Queensland: Vulnerable Persons Conference

In May, Mr Bob Atkinson presented on the Royal Commission, the work of the Taskforce, Youth Justice and the work of the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Council at the 2nd Vulnerable Persons Conference in Toowoomba, hosted by the University of Southern Queensland. This conference was well attended by a range of stakeholders including, but not limited to Queensland Police, Queensland Health, DCYJMA, Domestic and Family Violence Services, Queensland Education and a number of law firms.

4th National Child Protection Forum – Darwin

In late July, Mr Bob Atkinson presented virtually to over 100 people, on the importance of maintaining the momentum of the Royal Commission. Mr Atkinson discussed the role of the Royal Commission and its key recommendations, along with discussions relating to maintaining the momentum of the Royal Commission.

Getting in touch with the Taskforce

To contact the Truth, Healing and Reconciliation Taskforce please email taskforce.secretariat@cyjma.qld.gov.au or visit www.csyw.qld.gov.au/thr-taskforce