



MEDIA RELEASE

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CREATE WELCOMES VIC GOV INCREASE IN CAPACITY FOR CLAIMS AGAINST PREDATORS

CREATE Foundation commends the Victorian Government for supporting abuse victims in making claims against the injustice that has ruined the lives of thousands of Australian children. The timeframes for compensation being extended will enable all young people to have the opportunity to hold to account the predators who devastated their lives.

These positive steps by Victoria's Napthine Government offer hope for abuse victims in out-of-home care (i.e. foster, kinship and residential care) and indicate government are clearly placing the interests of victims and people affected by abuse as a top priority said Ms Jacqui Reed, CREATE Chief Executive.

"The impact of such a crime on the lives of children is most often devastating, particularly when the abuse has happened at a young age," said Ms Reed.

"This type of injustice often leads to a child being removed from family and in turn hinders relationships with extended family and community. The flow-on effects continue into adulthood and the extent of the impact of this type of crime is unknown."

Victims of abuse being enabled to make a claim for compensation can potentially receive some justice after years of feeling they were without a voice when this abuse occurred.

"CREATE believes that in addition, relevant government departments must endeavour to pursue the most appropriate means of assisting and enabling young people so that they have the opportunity to make claims in the future, such as providing information and preserving case records," continued Ms Reed.

Another of the Victorian Government's commendable means of strengthening defences against predators is through requiring members of the clergy who are in contact with children and minors to undergo Working With Children Checks.

"Working With Children Checks are an important screening and defence mechanism to stop predators. This is good news for the safety and wellbeing of children and young people, both past and present," commented Ms Reed.

"Yet, Working With Children Checks are just one part of a range of child safety standards that should be in place to protect children and young people."

In Australia, over 39,000 children and young people live in care, increasing by 9% every year. Through no fault of their own, children and young people may be placed in care due to neglect or abuse.

CREATE Foundation is the peak body representing the voices of children and young people in out-of-home care. Learn more at www.create.org.au

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