



Press Release

Liberal Government in WA will feel the backlash at the next election

“The WA Government has sunk to the lowest, meanest pits in its callous treatment of former State Wards,” said Leonie Sheedy, President of CLAN (Care Leavers of Australia Network). Almost a year after applications of the Redress Scheme closed the Government has processed only 100 out of the 6000 eligible claims.

CLAN has been inundated with emails and phone calls from outraged Western Australians that are angry about the first round of ex-gratia payments made to care leavers.

“To add insult to injury, the Government announced a bizarre classification scheme where some former Wards will be told their abuse and neglect was only ‘moderate’ so all they will get will be a paltry \$5000. Under this criteria, somebody who was “moderately” abused and neglected everyday for 5 years in an orphanage, children’s home, mission or foster care would receive \$2.74 for each day of their abuse. The average payout for an Irish Care Leaver is \$150,000 (AUD) and CLAN has members who are Irish care survivors that have received this payout. Why aren’t the Churches and Charities of WA made to contribute to this Redress scheme?” said Ms Sheedy.

“The Redress scheme in WA shows that the government lacks sensitivity and understanding of what people suffered in government and church-run orphanages, children’s homes and missions” added Ms Sheedy

Ms Sheedy pointed out that on the Minister’s own reckoning, only 600 out of the 6000 people who were abused and neglected in orphanages, children’s homes, missions and foster care will get the full amount promised - \$45,000, a cutback from the \$80,000 promised when the scheme was first announced.

“This is not redress this is re-abusing and traumatizing the government’s own children all over again” added Ms Sheedy.

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