



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

JACS No. 38

STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

JEREMY HANSON CSC MLA (CHAIR), MARISA PATERSON MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JO CLAY MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Ms JoClay MLA: To ask the Attorney-General:

In relation to: **National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse**

JCSAR p22

In 2019-20, ACT Government received 20 requests for information from the Scheme Operator about the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse. Is this the expected level of inquiries or are there likely to be many more claims underreported?

Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

As of 3 March 2021, the ACT Government had been requested to respond in relation to 39 applications on the basis of having reasonable grounds to believe that the ACT government institutions may be responsible for the abuse or have information that may be relevant to determining the application.

This is significantly fewer applications than had been anticipated, at this stage. However, other jurisdictions have also experienced a lower than anticipated number of applications.

Reasons for the relatively slow uptake of the Scheme may include a lack of community awareness about the Scheme. In addition, some institutions where abuse took place have not yet joined the Scheme.

The ACT Government continues to work with the Commonwealth Government and all jurisdictions to encourage non-government institutions to join the Scheme, and on other methods to enhance the operation of the Scheme in order to ensure as many survivors as possible can access redress. The report from the legislated independent two-year review of the Scheme is expected to be released shortly and the ACT Government looks forward to considering its recommendations.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Signature:

Date: 15/3/21

By the Attorney-General, Shane Rattenbury MLA