

Update on the Royal Commission and National Redress Scheme for Victims of Institutional Child Abuse

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Australian Baptist Ministries



Royal Commission
into Institutional Responses
to Child Sexual Abuse

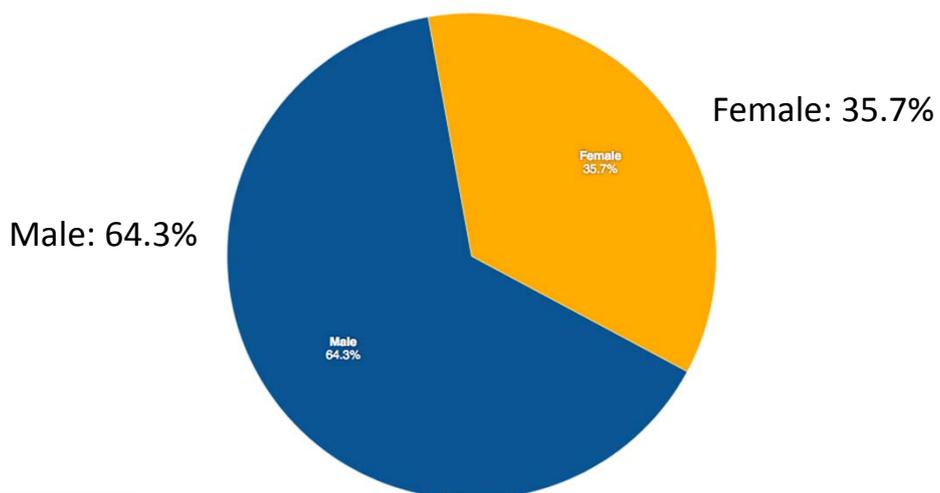


The scope of our Inquiry
Private sessions
6,961 *
Private sessions (31 May '17)
Other contacts
992
Written accounts (31 May '17)
39,700
Calls (as at 31 July '17)
2,252
Referrals to authorities (31 July '17)

Policy and research	Public Hearings
59	57
Published research reports	Public hearings
35	444
Roundtables	Hearing days
869	1,302
Submissions to issues papers	Witnesses
519	1.2m
Submissions to consultation	Documents reviewed

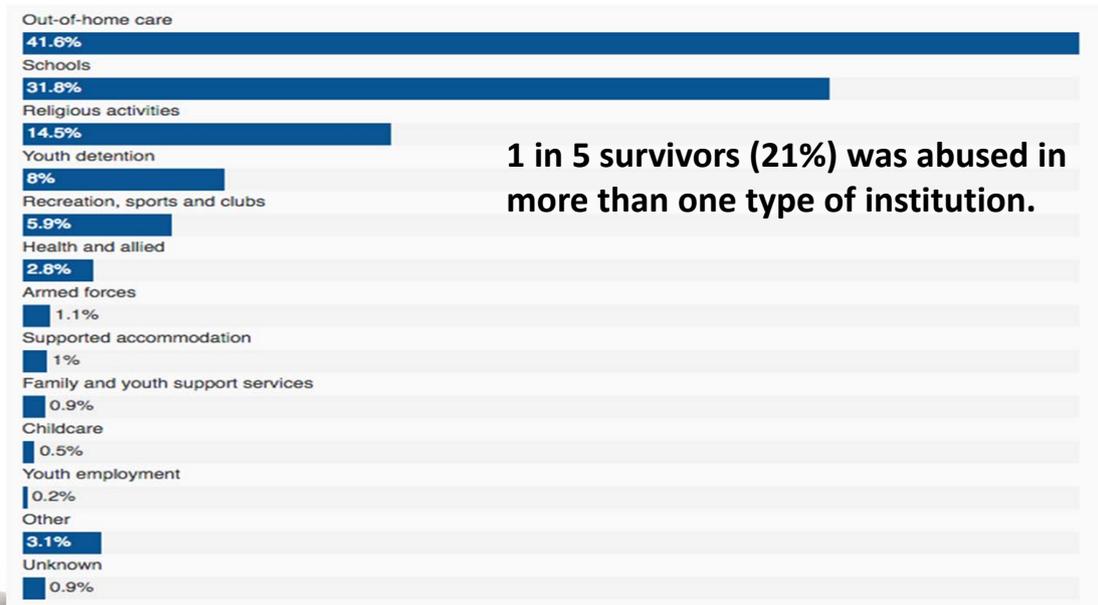


Nearly two-thirds of survivors were men



Based on private sessions with 6,875 survivors





1 in 5 survivors (21%) was abused in more than one type of institution.

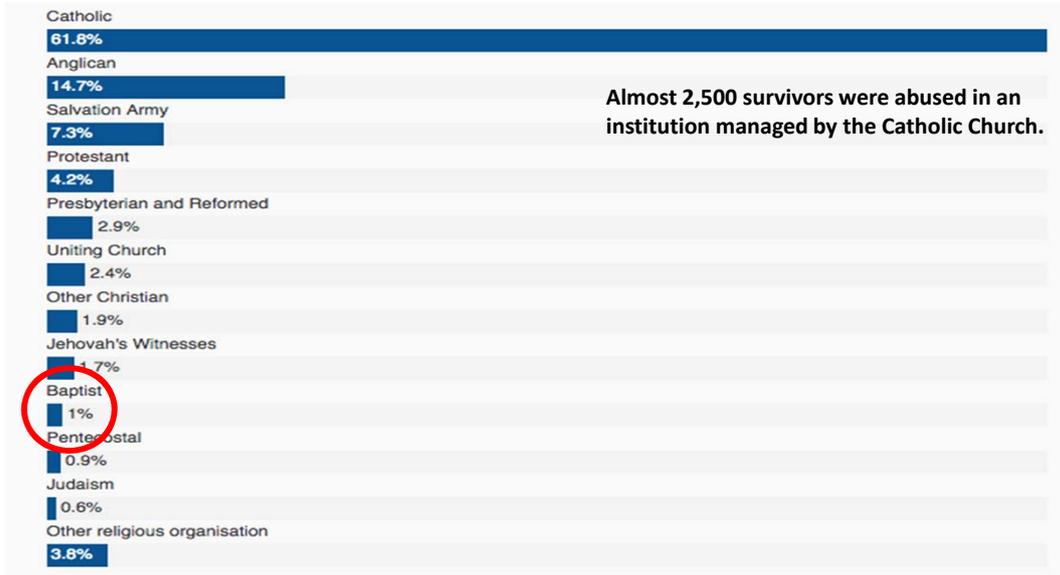


Many adult perpetrators of abuse held roles associated with positions of leadership, power and authority.

Person in Religious Ministry	2113	Sporting coach	145
Teacher	1378	Family member	140
Residential care worker	902	Adult attending institution	67
Foster carer	744	Stranger	54
Dormitory master	401	Police Officer	49
Custodial Staff	384	Church lay leader	26
Ancillary staff	266	Caseworker	21
Medical practitioner	251	Long day carer	12
Volunteer	199	After school carer	9
Youth Group leader	179		

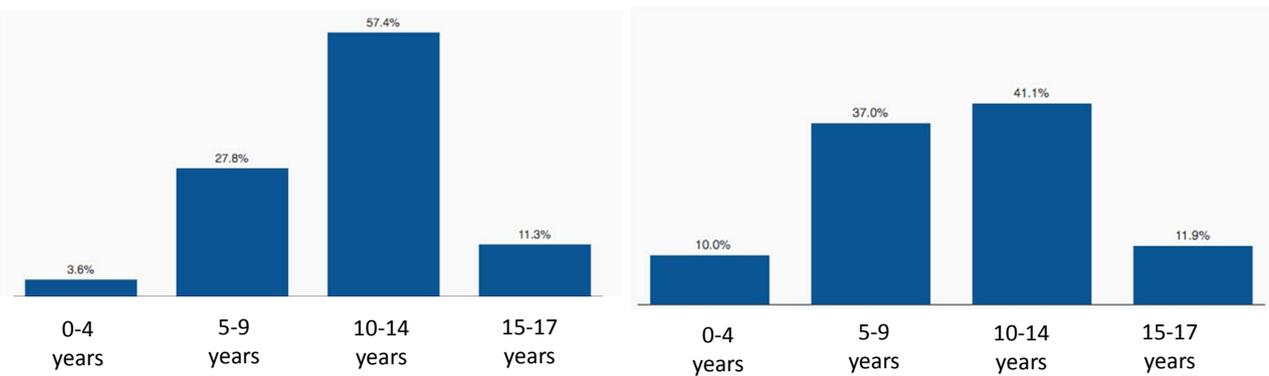


Survivors as a percentage of those who reported being abused in a religious institution

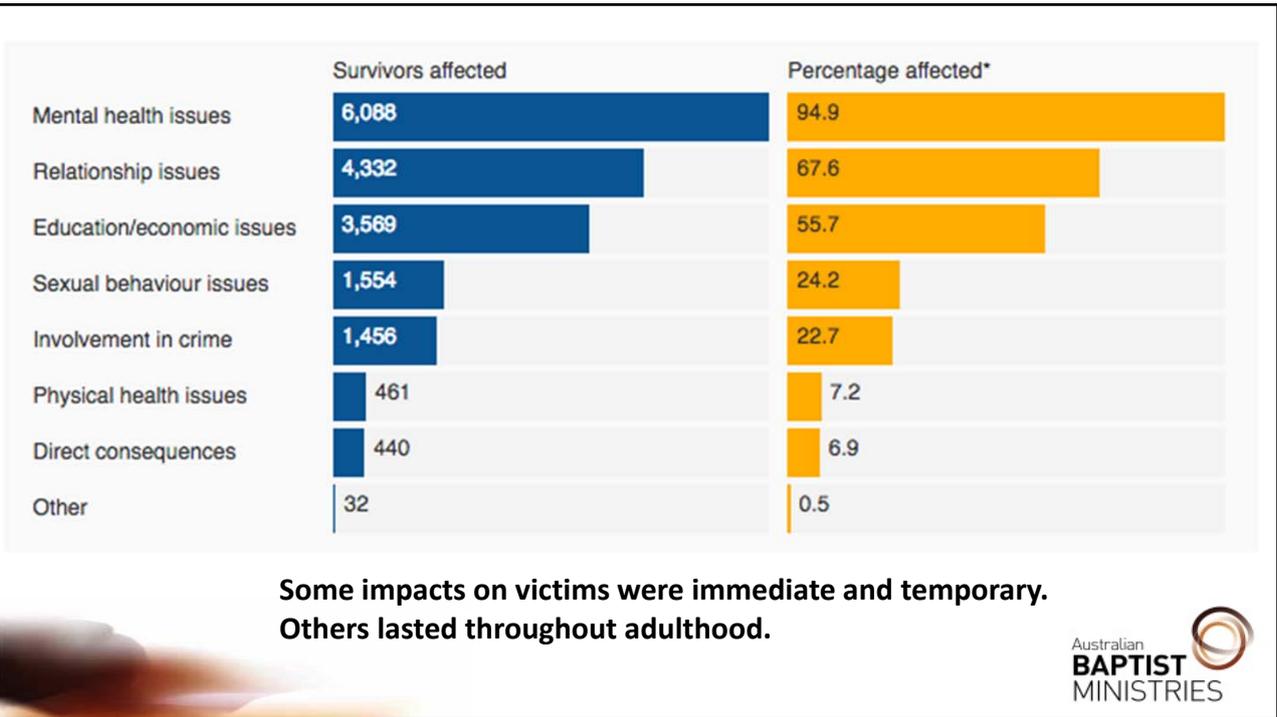


Male

Female



Age of first abuse



Recommendations from the Final Report

- Introduce new laws that sexual abuse must be reported by all health professionals, clergy, out of care workers
- Open the confessional
- Introduce new criminal offences for failing to protect children from sexual abuse
- Make celibacy voluntary
- Remove religious ministers convicted of sexual abuse
- Schools should be sued for sexual abuse committed by their staff



Recommendations from the Final Report

- Candidates for religious ministry should undergo external psychological testing
- Create a national office for child safety
- Introduce child safe standards
- Introduce national registers
- Establish a legal service for victims
- Create a national memorial
- Create a national redress scheme

Our Baptist Response

At a national level ABM has created a delegated body the Professional Standards Taskforce, which comprises the Professional Standards officers from each state/territory as well as a representatives from BCA, GiA and BWAA. The body reports directly to the National Council.

The taskforce;

- developed an agreed set of national standards
- developing responses to the recommendations of the Royal Commission vol 17 relating to faith based agencies.
- will make recommendations for the State/Territory and affiliated agencies as appropriate.

National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse

The scheme will provide redress to people who were sexually abused as children in institutional settings.

It seeks to ensure the organisation responsible for the abuse takes responsibility for past wrongdoing and takes ownership for providing redress.

The scheme will provide redress in three ways:

1. access to psychological counselling
2. the option of a direct personal response from the responsible institution
3. a monetary payment.



Key architecture of the scheme for an applicant

- provide a non-litigious process
- assessed against the test of 'reasonable likelihood'
- Evidence made by statutory declaration
- Consent required for sharing information to institution alleged against
- Scheme operator determines if conditions met
- The institution or organisation responsible for the abuse must have joined the Redress Scheme.
- Independent decision makers appointed
- For monetary payment a deed of release must be signed
- Applicant has 90 days to accept offer



The offer if accepted the redress will be provided in three ways.

Psychological counselling - Counselling will be made available through State government counselling services.

A direct personal response - A representative of the institution where the abuse occurred engages respectfully with them as a survivor.

A monetary payment - The draft payment matrix indicated 3 levels of payment depending on the nature of the sexual abuse.



Our Baptist Response to Redress Scheme

National Council - Perth on 15th May 2018 resolved

- That the model for the National redress scheme be that each state, territory and affiliated agency opt in individually.
- To establish a National Redress Support committee to assist in the implementation of the redress scheme by each of our constituent bodies.



Our Baptist Response to Redress Scheme

The National Redress Support Committee will assist the State and Territory Associations to support affiliated Baptist Churches which are found to be liable for redress through the national scheme.

Affiliated churches will have access to support to meet a request for a personal response. There will also be access to financial support from an ABM national fund established to meet financial obligations associated with redress claims.



This is an outworking of our Baptist values of:

Mission & Witness – for our response to be a gospel response that underlines God’s love and grace, and the importance of restitution and apology where we have wronged others.

Association and collaboration – that we are better when we work interdependently together in matters such as this that require a whole-of-movement response

Autonomy of the local church - where the authority and responsibility lies.



How redress payments could be funded through the Redress Support Pool

First \$25K of each payment funded by the local church

An agreed level of the current reserves of Baptist Insurance Services will be made available for the pool

BIS builds in a levy into insurance renewals for churches and these amounts are added to the pool each year.

Recognising the scheme will run for 10 years, consideration could be given to some of the future earned reserves of BIS being used to add to the pool, if possible and if needed.



How redress payments could be funded through the Redress Support Pool

If the pool is exhausted and further payments require funding, then the state unions/associations agree to fund these by contributing to the pool in proportion to the number of affiliated churches in each state/territory at the time the contribution is required.

BFS and Baplink in Queensland can offer supporting loans where there is capacity for the local church to service the loan.



Questions?