



Final Report

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On 12 November 2012 the then Prime Minister, Julia Gillard, announced that she would recommend to the Governor-General that a Royal Commission be appointed to inquire into institutional responses to child abuse.

Following this announcement, the [Terms of Reference](#) were established and six Commissioners were appointed on Friday, 11 January 2013 by Her Excellency Quentin Bryce, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia. The Hon. Justice Peter McClellan AM was the chair of the Royal Commission and worked with the five other Commissioners, Mr Bob Atkinson AO APM, Justice Jennifer Coate, Mr Robert Fitzgerald AM, Professor Helen Milroy and Mr Andrew Murray. Visit [Our Commissioners](#) to read their full biographies.

On 15 December 2017 the Royal Commission presented a final report to the Governor-General, detailing the culmination of a five year inquiry into institutional responses to child sexual abuse and related matters.

The Final Report structure

Click the heading of the volume to read more information.

- [Recommendations](#)
- [Preface and Executive Summary](#) includes a summary of the final report and a complete list of all recommendations. Final information update contains statistics

from the group of survivors we heard from in 8,013 private sessions, held between May 2013 and November 2017.

Our inquiry

- **Volume 1, Our inquiry** introduces the Final Report, describes the establishment, scope and operations of the Royal Commission.

Understanding child sexual abuse in institutional contexts

- **Volume 2, Nature and cause** describes what the Royal Commission has learned about the nature and cause of child sexual abuse in institutional contexts. It includes **one** recommendation.
- **Volume 3, Impacts** explains the impacts of child sexual abuse in institutional contexts on survivors and often on their family members, friends, and entire communities.
- **Volume 4, Identifying and disclosing child sexual abuse** describes what we learned about survivors' experiences of disclosing child sexual abuse.
- **Volume 5, Private sessions** examines survivors' experiences of child sexual abuse as told to Commissioners during private sessions.

Child safe institutions

- **Volume 6, Making institutions child safe** describes the need for a national child sexual abuse prevention strategy and proposes child safe standards, including how they should be implemented. It includes **24** recommendations.
- **Volume 7, Improving institutional responding and reporting** looks at institutions' responses to complaints of child sexual abuse and how they report these matters to external government authorities. It includes **12** recommendations.
- **Volume 8, Recordkeeping and information sharing** examines the records, recordkeeping and information sharing of institutions that care for or provide services to children. It includes **23** recommendations.

Support and treatment

- **Volume 9, Advocacy, support and therapeutic treatment services** looks at what we learned about survivors' needs in terms of advocacy, support and treatment and offers recommendations for improving service systems to better respond to survivors' needs. It includes **nine** recommendations.
- **Volume 10, Children with harmful sexual behaviours** examines what we learned about institutional responses to children with harmful sexual behaviours. It includes **seven** recommendations.

Particular institutions

- **Volume 11, Historical residential institutions** describes what we learned about survivors' experiences of, and institutional responses to, child sexual abuse in residential institutions pre-1990.
- **Volume 12, Contemporary out-of-home care** examines what we learned about institutional responses to child sexual abuse in contemporary out-of-home care. It includes **22** recommendations.
- **Volume 13, Schools** describes what we learned about institutional responses to child sexual abuse in schools. It includes **eight** recommendations.
- **Volume 14, Sport, recreation, arts, culture, community and hobby groups** looks at what we learned about institutional responses to child sexual abuse in sport and recreation contexts. It includes **four** recommendations.
- **Volume 15, Contemporary detention environments** reviews what we learned about institutional responses to child sexual abuse in contemporary detention environments. It includes **15** recommendations.
- **Volume 16, Religious institutions** examines what we learned about institutional responses to child sexual abuse in religious institutions. It includes **58** recommendations.

Beyond the Royal Commission

- **Volume 17, Beyond the Royal Commission** describes the impact and legacy of the Royal Commission and discusses monitoring and reporting on the implementation of our recommendations. It includes **six** recommendations.

Summary fact sheets for different audiences can be found below:

Fact sheets

[A brief guide to the Final Report \(PDF\)](#)

[A brief guide to the Final Report - Children and young people \(PDF\)](#)

[A brief guide to the Final Report - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities \(PDF\)](#)

[A brief guide to the Final Report - Disability \(PDF\)](#)