



The Secretariat  
Royal Commission into Child Sexual Abuse  
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CANBERRA ACT 2600  
AUSTRALIA

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Dear madam/sir,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on “the scope of the Terms of Reference” for the coming “Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse”.

A4 welcomes this Royal Commission. It will provide an opportunity for our nation to examine and review, and possibly to recognise, acknowledge and provide some redress to victims of past wrongs.

We hope, as a result of the Royal Commission, that both Government and non-government institutions will take far more responsibility first for the prevention of abuse of vulnerable people, and second for minimising the *damage* to victims when abuse occurs.

From our perspective, the focus on “child sexual abuse” is far too narrow. A4 is concerned by abuse of all forms, including the lack or protection from abuse and systemic neglect (another form of abuse) of essential needs, and the consequent effects on all vulnerable people including people with a disability.

A4 believes Australia should examine carefully institutional responses to all form of abuse (including neglect) of all vulnerable people, not just children.

A4 suggests, once this Royal Commission is underway, that there be additional action on inadequate and inappropriate Institutional Responses to abuse and neglect of vulnerable Australian more broadly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'R Buckley'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bob Buckley  
Convenor

25/11/2012