

STATE BUDGET

2018-19

ATTORNEY-GENERAL VICKIE CHAPMAN MP MEDIA RELEASE

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Healing the wrongs of the past

The Marshall Liberal Government's first budget commits substantial funds to address two damning issues of past injustice affecting the most vulnerable members of our community.

The \$146.4 million committed to the National Redress Scheme and the \$14.5 million over four years to support the Independent Commissioner Against Corruption (ICAC) ensures sufficient resources are available to meet the care, compensation and support for survivors of child sexual abuse in state care as well as for ICAC to undertake appropriate investigations into corruption, misconduct or maladministration in public administration, including public hearings.

The National Redress Scheme is an acknowledgement that existing civil litigation systems and past and current redress processes have not provided a just outcome for many survivors of institutional child sexual abuse.

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse revealed appalling cases of abuse of children that required a compassionate response.

The stories presented to the Commission opened our eyes to the prevalence of institutional child sexual abuse, the failure of institutions to respond and the lifelong impact on its innocent victims.

The Royal Commission was conducted in public aiding the process of healing for the victims.

In contrast the ICAC hearing into the scandalous abuse of elderly mental health patients at Oakden were held behind closed doors.

Providing the ICAC Commissioner with the power to conduct this type of hearing in public provides greater comfort for the families of the victims.

The additional \$14.5 million over four years in the 2018-19 State Budget will support the operations of the ICAC and the Office for Public Integrity and enable the ICAC to hold public hearings.

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This includes \$7.5 million for IT systems upgrades, the establishment of a public hearing facility and funding for the Ombudsman to relocate enabling the ICAC to expand its operations into space currently occupied by the Ombudsman.

The State Government will make arrangements for the design and establishment of a public hearing facility which will allow access to both the media and the South Australian public.

South Australians voted for open and transparent government and that's why we have allocated additional funds and introduced legislation to ensure hearings can be undertaken publicly when it is in the public interest to do so.

The Marshall Liberal Government is delivering on its election commitment to facilitate open ICAC hearings in the interests of openness and accountability.