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MEDIA STATEMENT

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Statement on the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

The NSW Government welcomes the final report on redress and civil litigation by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Over the past two years, the Commission has shone a light on the abuse of many children and young people. We acknowledge the strength and courage shown by the survivors of institutional child sexual abuse and their families to tell their stories.

The NSW Government will closely consider all of the Commission's findings and recommendations, in particular the recommendation of a national redress scheme. The Commission has called for a decision on a national redress scheme to be made by the end of the year. We look forward to discussions with the Commonwealth and other States and Territories on this issue over the coming months.

Importantly, the NSW Government has already acted to give the survivors of institutional child sexual abuse the compassion and care they need and deserve. So far, we have;

1. Offered unlimited counselling for survivors through the Victims Support Scheme;
2. Provided extra resources to the Department of Family and Community Services to improve and fast track access to care records;
3. Commenced consultations on a place of recognition for the then residents of Parramatta Girls Home;
4. Adopted Guiding Principles to guide NSW Government agencies on how to appropriately respond to civil claims for child sexual abuse; and
5. Released a discussion paper in January on options for legislative reform to limitations periods in civil claims for child sexual abuse. In addition to the feedback received, the Government will consider the Commission's recommendations on this issue.