

## *MEDIA RELEASE – 03.09.14*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Commission extension gives more victims a voice**

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The Australian Association of Social Workers (AASW) congratulates the Government on their decision to extend the Royal Commission into Institutional Response to Child Sexual Abuse by a further two years.

The AASW was part of a concerted community response to urge the Government to extend this crucial process, and help ensure that the tragedy of institutionalised sexual abuse will never reoccur.

With thousands of child sexual abuse survivors continuing to come forward, the extension will allow for an additional 3000 private sessions, bringing the commission's total to 7000 by 2017.

President of the AASW Professor Karen Healy says the decision is a step forward for the victims of child abuse.

“The Royal Commission is a ‘once-in-a-lifetime’ opportunity to uncover systemic abuses, give voice to victims of abuse and ultimately challenge the systems that have fostered such widespread abuse of children in the very institutions designed to care for them,” Professor Healy said.

“Extending the Commission by a further two years means it will have the capacity to hear more stories from victims who have been deprived of justice for so many years.”

***AASW submissions and press releases relating to the Commission are available on our website.***

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