



Steve Irons MP

Federal Member for Swan

MEDIA RELEASE

2 September 2014

Child Abuse Royal Commission granted a two year extension

Federal Member for Swan Steve Irons has welcomed today's announcement that the Australian Government will commit an additional \$125 million to fund the Royal Commission's Inquiry into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse for a further two years.

As a former ward of the State, I have championed the issues of Forgotten Australians since entering Federal Parliament, and most recently wrote to the Prime Minister and the Attorney General to express my support for an inquiry extension.

"There are still a lot of people across Australia who have not had the opportunity to tell their stories to the Commission. This extension will allay these people's fears and will ensure their voices are heard," Mr Irons said.

"The extension will give the Commission the capacity to hear more stories from victims, conduct additional public hearings and issue additional interim reports, with the final report and its recommendations to be delivered to the Government by 15 December 2017."

Mr Irons said implementing a Royal Commission inquiry into what has historically been a taboo subject is an achievement in itself, but to gain a further extension is a credit to the current Government, all those who have had the courage to tell their stories, and the many organisations across Australia who have supported this inquiry on behalf of those who, until now, have had no justice and no protection.

"Many people don't understand the journey of those who have suffered at the hands of emotional, physical and sexual abuse, or the trauma they re-live when telling their stories," Mr Irons said.

"I am pleased to be part of a Government that understands the need for victims to have a voice, when for too long they have suffered in silence, and will provide additional funding to ensure the Commission can complete its work."

– End –