

How is it at all possible that in 2013, a most senior person from Scouts New South Wales can give evidence at the Royal Commission (public hearings) that they are not mandated to report child abuse? Why isn't this legislated for? Suffer the little children. To improve any system, you must first acknowledge the level of damage that has been done in the past. You must ask all religious bodies and Government Departments and past providers (on notice) what are your national figures of child abuse of children who have been sexually abused in care and how much money has been paid out? This must be asked in an open public hearing, how can you possibly have an inquiry if you don't know how big a problem you have? There is a recent ombudsman's report that the Department of Human Services in Victoria had boxes of records marked to be destroyed. These boxes contained police statements from boys of allegations who had been sexually abused at the Tally Ho boys home. When the Victorian Government held an inquiry recently into child sexual abuse in children's homes they deliberately left Government homes out of the inquiry. There were 17 State Government homes in Victoria, are they somehow trying to claim that the sexual abuse of children only happened in religious and other provider homes. This is a deliberate ploy to conspire and hide the truth. D.H.S. needs to be asked in a public hearing How long had they been destroying records? What other records have been destroyed? Who ordered the destruction of these records? Social workers need to study in their training the Forgotten Australians to fully understand the past history and failings of the system of caring for children in out of care and in their training they must be taught about grooming of children and encouraged at all levels to whistle blow. There should be serious consequences if they don't come forward with any knowledge of abuse and there should be accurate record keeping. There should be laws in place for any person who is found guilty of not reporting child abuse and any person that helps to cover up child abuse. Victoria Police gave evidence in the Victorian Inquiry that it can take decades for victims of child abuse to come forward so it is vitally important that detailed records of who comes in contact with children should be stored on computer records for a very long time. There must be severe penalties for any organisation or government department who fails to record information accurately to save their own brand or to help cover ups. It is interesting to see that a lot of past providers for children in out of home care have submitted to the commission on this subject. We have a massive problem in this country with all the various State laws that are ad hoc in the protection of our children. There are at least two States in Australia that do not have working with children checks, or until recently. Nick Xenophon tried to get a law passed recently in South Australia that it would be illegal to lie about your age on social media, the law failed to be passed. How better away could we protect children from online predators. If the Royal Commission is serious about stopping the sexual abuse of children, then you must have Federal laws in place that will override the States to help keep children safe. Why is the Ellis defence allowed to stay in place? Why is the Statute of Limitations still valid? Why are records of sex abuse allowed to be destroyed by Government Departments? Why are records of children who are or have grown up in out of home care still being held by these religious and other providers and they can do whatever they like with them? There must be a Federal Agency to run the Working with Children check nationally. They must be given unprecedented powers to seize records of children who are or have grown up in out of home care. This agency must make recommendations to the Federal Government in relation to protection measures and changing legislation. These laws must override State laws and give power back to the victims of child sexual abuse and enable them to sue these religious and other organisations who allow this crime to happen. These religious and other organisations should face the most severe penalties if they fail to do working with children, police and previous employment checks. Any religious or organisation that is guilty of child abuse or covering up child abuse should have their charitable tax exemption removed, the sexual abuse of children is not a charitable act, it is the worst kind of human suffering that can be done, it eats away at your soul. Online predators are prolific and tough Federal laws need to be in place to stop this

incidious act. All of these claims that I have made have been written about in the media so it is already in the public domain. Evil prospers when good men fail to do nothing. Brian Cherrie [REDACTED]
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