

Recognising the 'I' in justice: Political subjects, public inquiry and child sexual abuse in institutions

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Abstract Template

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Formal state Inquiries have increasingly been commissioned, in Australia and internationally, as a way of seeking justice in response to child sexual abuse (CSA) by personnel in Christian Institutions (PICIs). The ways in which victim/survivors engage with neoliberal states as political agents is central to understanding the pursuit and construction of justice in this area. This paper explores the ways in which justice is constructed and understood through such state inquiries. Data for this study includes submissions, by survivors and their advocates, to recent the Australian public inquiry, the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and other organisations (The Victorian Inquiry). This work utilises feminist frameworks of governance, and critiques of neoliberal governance, to explore the themes of justice as restoration and accountability, that emerged from the Victorian Inquiry.