

26 March 2020

Associated Entities Joining the National Redress Scheme

Dear church leader,

The Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT joined the National Redress Scheme in March 2019. We were pleased that 87% of our churches agreed to join our participating group. Since that time a small number of redress claims have been received and are now being processed by the scheme.

The participating group was established so that churches could join the scheme, however a number of church leaders have asked whether associated Baptist entities can also join our NSW/ACT Baptist participating group. Whilst separately incorporated entities can choose to opt in to the National Redress Scheme directly, there are a number of potential advantages of an associated Baptist entity joining the Scheme through our participating group. Joining our NSW/ACT Baptist participating group allows an associated entity to access advice and support from association staff who have been trained and are familiar with the requirements of the National Redress Scheme. In addition, being part of the NSW/ACT Baptist participating group allows for both the associated entity and it's local Baptist church to be included in any release from future civil damages claims when a victim of historic sexual abuse accepts an offer of redress through the scheme.

Further information about the National Redress Scheme and the NSW/ACT Baptist participating group can be found via our Redress Information Portal <https://nswactbaptists.org.au/redress/>

Associated entities will be required to pay an initial application fee of \$250 to join the participating group. If any claims against the entity are received there will be an administration fee of \$2500 per redress claim received. Associated entities will need to fully fund any liability arising from participating in the National Redress Scheme and will not have access to the Redress Support Pool which is only available for claims made against local churches. The Baptist church with which the associated entity is connected will need to agree to fully fund any redress liability in the event that the associated entity is unable to fund their redress liability.

We ask local church leaders to pass this information on to any entities associated with your church who may wish to consider joining the National Redress Scheme. We anticipate particular interest from entities who minister to children and young people including schools, preschools, and child care centres.

Entities associated with an affiliated Baptist church which has opted in to this participating group are now invited to apply to join the participating group by completing the attached documents. In order to be eligible to join the participating group entities must complete and return the following documents to redress@nswactbaptists.org.au by **29 May 2020** and pay the \$250 initial application fee when requested

- Associated Entity - Opt In Declaration
- Additional Information Form
- Church Declaration
- Deed of Indemnity
- Capacity to Fund Declaration including notice of known allegations of abuse
- Liability Estimating Tool Estimated Number of Redress Claims

If you have any questions regarding the National Redress Scheme please email redress@nswactbaptists.org.au.

Kind regards



Rev Dr Steve Bartlett
Director of Ministries


Rev Jonathan Bradford
Ministry Standards Manager