

[insert church name]

[insert church address]

Opting in to the National Redress Scheme for Survivors of Childhood Sexual Abuse in Institutional Contexts

Dear church leader,

Our recent Assembly held at Padstow Baptist Church on Saturday 15th September was a significant day for our movement as we unanimously agreed for the Baptist Association of NSW & ACT to participate in to National Redress Scheme and to form a participating group that individual churches can join. This initiative of the Commonwealth Government was recommended by the recent Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The National Redress Scheme has been designed to give survivors of childhood sexual abuse in institutional contexts an opportunity to receive redress for wrongs perpetrated against them without needing to resort to legal action.

The Assembly Council of the Baptist Association of NSW & ACT strongly encourages each local church to opt in and join the Baptist Association's participating group in order to participate in the National Redress Scheme.

Enclosed with this letter you will find:

- a copy of the National Redress Scheme Information Booklet which was distributed at Assembly
- an Opt In Declaration for your church
- a Notice of Redress Support Pool Levy Contribution for your church

We encourage you to access our Redress Information Portal <https://nswactbaptists.org.au/redress/>

The portal includes links to video resources including:

- Video of Redress Scheme Information Session held at Thornleigh Baptist
- Video of discussion regarding National Redress Scheme at Assembly
- 6 minute Redress Scheme Information Summary video for you to use with your church, eg. during a leaders or members meeting.

We will be emailing key leaders within your church shortly with these links. We strongly encourage your church leadership team to discuss this matter and to schedule a church members meeting, if you deem that appropriate, so that your church can opt in within this time frame.


To opt in and have access to the Redress Support Pool each church is required to complete and return the enclosed "Opt In Declaration", as well as to pay their initial Redress Support Pool Levy Contribution by 30th November 2018.

Over the page you can find the motions which passed at Assembly and updates for three Frequently Asked Questions since Assembly. If you have any questions regarding participating in 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

Redress Scheme Motions Agreed to by Assembly on Saturday 15th September

1. That the Baptist Union of NSW (currently known as the Baptist Association of NSW & ACT) together with participating churches, fellowships, church plants, simple churches, defunct institutions, and other entities
 - a. agrees to participate in the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse;
 - b. in a participating group with the affiliated churches, fellowships, Newstart church plants, simple churches, defunct institutions and other entities, as will be determined by the Assembly Council of the Union
 - c. with the Baptist Union of NSW as the representative for the group; and
 - d. declares that each member is willing to and capable of discharging any obligation to provide a direct personal response to a person who accepts an offer of redress (otherwise these obligations will be discharged by the representative identified above).
2. That the Assembly Council finalises the list of all the entities who will be opting in as part of the Baptist Union of NSW participating group. This list will comprise those churches, fellowships, Newstart church plants, simple churches, defunct institutions and other entities which have confirmed in writing their intention to be part of the group.
3. That a Redress Support Pool will be created and managed by the Assembly Council in line with the document presented to the Assembly.

Motions 1 and 2 were passed unanimously. Motion 3 was passed overwhelmingly.

Redress Scheme Frequently Asked Questions since Assembly

1. If a local church chooses not to opt in by 30th November 2018 can they change their mind in future?

Yes, they may be able to opt in as part of our Participating Group at a later date. However, they will not have access to the benefits of the Redress Support Pool. In addition, the National Redress Scheme has now advised that they will not admit new institutions to the Scheme after 30th June 2020.

2. Can incorporated entities associated with a local Baptist church join our participating group?

There were many questions at Assembly regarding whether incorporated entities associated with a local church could join our participating group. Whilst these associated entities will not have access to the Redress Support Pool which is for local churches only, we are still considering if and how associated entities might be able to join our participating group. We will communicate with churches further regarding this question as we are able to.

3. The burden of proof required to substantiate a Redress Claim is “Reasonable Likelihood”. What does this mean?

Under the National Redress Scheme the standard of proof for determining eligibility for redress is “reasonable likelihood.” This is defined as: “the chance of the person being eligible is real, and is not fanciful or remote and is more than merely plausible”. The Redress Scheme Operator must consider whether it is reasonably likely that a person experienced sexual abuse as a child, and that a participating institution is responsible for an alleged abuser/s having contact with them as a child.

National Redress Scheme - Opt In Declaration

Party: [Insert local Church name] ('the participating institution')

[Insert church address]

ABN: [Insert local Church ABN]

The participating institution:

- a. agrees to participate in the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (the Scheme);
- b. agrees to being a member of the participating group proposed by the Baptist Union of NSW (currently known as the Baptist Association of NSW & ACT), and each other institution (as specified by the Assembly Council of the Baptist Union of NSW) being a member of the participating group;
- c. agrees to the Baptist Union of NSW being the representative for the participating group; and
- d. declares that it is willing to and capable of discharging any obligation to provide a direct personal response to a person who accepts an offer of redress (otherwise these obligations will be discharged by the representative identified above).
- e. agrees to make levy contributions to the Baptist Union 'Redress Support Pool' annually for the life of the scheme as requested by the Baptist Union of NSW in accordance with the National Redress Scheme Information document presented to Baptist Assembly on 15th September 2018.
- f. agrees that if the participating institution fails to make its redress levy contribution in future years, the Assembly Council of the Baptist Union of NSW may remove the participating institution from the participating group.

I declare that I have been authorised to sign this declaration for and on behalf of the [Insert Church Name].

NAME

SIGNATURE

DATE

Please attach to this declaration a copy of any relevant minutes from church members or leadership team/diaconate meetings.

Please return this Opt In Declaration by 30th November 2018 to
redress@nswactbaptists.org.au

Notice of Redress Support Pool Levy Contribution

[Insert local Church name]

[Insert church address]

ABN: [Insert local Church ABN]

Your initial Redress Support Pool Levy contribution is: [insert levy amount]

This levy is based on Insured assets value of: [insert insured assets]

Please ensure that the Redress Support Pool levy contribution is received into the following account by 30 November 2018, and with the following as your reference: [Insert ref number]

Baptist Union NSW Redress Support Pool 704 922

100 017 414

ACCOUNT NAME

BSB

ACCOUNT NUMBER

**Please ensure this payment is received by 30th November 2018
and email confirmation of payment to redress@nswactbaptists.org.au**

If necessary cheques can be posted to: Baptist Churches of NSW & ACT
PO Box 122
Epping NSW 1710