

# Direct Personal Response under the National Redress Scheme

Approval by: Diocesan Council

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## 1. Context

The Diocese joined the National Redress Scheme (the Scheme) in February 2019, through its membership of Anglican Redress (National Redress Scheme) Limited. The National Redress Scheme was established by the Australian Government in response to recommendations of the *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse*. The Diocese's participation in the Scheme is voluntary and provides an avenue for redress in addition to the Diocese's own redress scheme, *Healing Steps*.

Participation in the Scheme requires the Diocese to offer a Direct Personal Response (DPR) as part of redress for people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse. The purpose of a DPR is to provide an opportunity for those who have experienced abuse in our Diocese to engage with us to share their experience and have the Diocese hear, recognise and acknowledge their story.

## 2. Scope

This policy applies to those persons who have made an application to the National Redress Scheme and have requested a Direct Personal Response as part of their application.

It will be administered by the Registrar and Secretary of Synod.

## 3. Policy Principles

The fundamental principle that should underpin all actions in the Diocesan DPR process is to '*do no further harm*'.

The Act requires participating institutions to adhere to the following principles in providing a DPR:

- *All participating institutions should offer and provide on request by a survivor:*
  - *A meaningful recognition of the institution's responsibility by way of a statement of apology, acknowledgement or regret;*
  - *An assurance as to steps taken to protect against further abuse.*
- *Engagement between a survivor and a participating institution should occur only if, and to the extent that, a survivor wishes it.*
- *Participating institutions should make clear what they are willing to offer and provide by way of a DPR to survivors.*
- *In offering DPRs, participating institutions should be responsive to survivors' needs.*
- *Participating institutions that already offer a broader range of DPRs to survivors and others should consider continuing to offer those forms of DPR.*
- *DPRs should be delivered by people who have received training about the nature and impact of child sexual abuse and the needs of survivors, including cultural awareness and sensitivity training where relevant.*

- *Participating institutions should welcome feedback from survivors about the DPRs they offer and provide.*

The Australian Government has produced a *Direct Personal Response Guidance Handbook*. To the extent practicable the Diocese will follow the Handbook in provision of DPRs.

DPRs will be undertaken by a Bishop of the Diocese wherever possible, unless that is not appropriate in the specific circumstances.

#### **4. Responsibility**

Diocesan Council is responsible for the oversight and review of this policy.

The Registrar and Secretary of Synod will be responsible for reporting to both Diocesan Council and the Scheme on the application of this policy.

#### **5. Terms used in this Policy**

***Direct Personal Response*** means:

- an acknowledgement of the impact of the abuse on a survivor;
- an apology or statement of acknowledgement or regret
- the opportunity to meet with a senior official of the Diocese, and/or
- an assurance as to the steps the Diocese has taken, or will take, to prevent abuse occurring again

***Direct Personal Response Guidance Handbook*** means the document of that name published by the Australian Government, as amended from time to time

***Healing Steps*** means the redress scheme established by the Anglican Diocese of Adelaide, as amended from time to time

***National Redress Scheme*** means the Australian Government's National Redress Scheme established under the *National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018 (Cth)*

***Survivor*** means people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse.

#### **6. Related Legislation and Policies**

*National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018 (Cth)*

*National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Assessment Framework 2018 (Cth)*

National Redress Scheme Direct Personal Response Handbook (Cth)

*Healing Steps* (Anglican Diocese of Adelaide)

#### **7. Review**

This policy will be reviewed every three years.