

## 42/18 Reporting on the National Redress Scheme

(A report from the Standing Committee.)

### Key Points

- Most institutions under the control of Synod are now participants in the National Redress Scheme (**NRS**) or are in the final stages of being accepted into the scheme. Standing Committee continues to monitor the participation status of each diocesan organisation.
- From 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019, diocesan organisations were notified of 29 applications. A total of 18 of the applicants had previously been in contact with the relevant institution.
- As at 30 June 2019 three offers had been made to applicants but none had been finalised.

### Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to provide Synod with a brief report regarding the status of applications under the National Redress Scheme (**NRS**), in accordance with the request of Synod resolution 42/18.

### Recommendations

2. Synod receive this report.

### Background

3. At its ordinary session in 2018, the Synod passed resolution 42/18 in the following terms –

‘Synod requests that Sydney Anglican (National Redress Scheme) Corporation and other diocesan organisations that become a Participating Institution under the National Redress Scheme report all applications received to the Director of Professional Standards to enable an annual report, with appropriate protections of confidentiality, to be provided to each ordinary session of the Synod throughout the life of the National Redress Scheme that includes –

- (a) the number of applications for redress which have been received,
- (b) the number and total and average amount of redress offers made,
- (c) the number and total and average amount of redress offers accepted, and
- (d) the number of persons to whom a direct personal response has been provided.’

### Discussion

4. The National Redress Scheme (**NRS**) commenced on 1 July 2018 and is scheduled to continue for 10 years until 30 June 2028. The Standing Committee is strongly encouraging all diocesan organisations which could possibly have any responsibility for claims of child sexual abuse to become part of the scheme. The arrangements for the NRS provide for institutions to be able to join the scheme at any time in the two years to 30 June 2020. Most institutions under the control of Synod are now participants in the NRS or are in the final stages of being accepted into the scheme. Standing Committee continues to monitor the participation status of each diocesan organisation.
5. In accordance with Synod motion 42/18, diocesan organisations have been asked to report to the Director of Professional Standards all applications received to enable an annual report, with appropriate protections of confidentiality, to be provided to each session of Synod. The Director of Professional Standards has been advised that during the first year of the scheme, from 1 July 2018

to 30 June 2019, diocesan organisations were notified of 29 applications. A total of 18 of the applicants had previously been in contact with the relevant institution. After consideration of an application and specified information provided by the institution, an offer of redress, counselling and a direct personal response (if requested) is made by the NRS to the applicant. The applicant then has a period of six months to accept the offer. As at 30 June 2019 three offers had been made to applicants but none had been finalised and consequentially no direct personal responses had been made at that time.

For and on behalf of the Standing Committee.

DANIEL GLYNN  
**Diocesan Secretary**

26 September 2019