

42/18 Reporting on the National Redress Scheme (to 30 June 2021)

(A report from the Standing Committee.)

Key Points

- By resolution 42/18 the Synod requested 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, including high level numbers and claim amounts averages.
- The requested information related to claims from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2021 are provided in the report.

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, 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 has strongly encouraged all diocesan organisations which could possibly have any responsibility for claims of child sexual abuse to become part of the scheme. The Standing Committee has been advised that all relevant organisations subject to the control of Synod, and all schools located in the Diocese of Sydney and known as Anglican, are participants in the NRS.
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.

6. The Director of Professional Standards has received formal reports from 22 out of 25 relevant diocesan organisations. These figures cover the three years from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2021 –
 - (a) the number of applications for redress which have been received – 94.
 - (b) the number and total and average amount of redress offers made (in addition to previous payments made by the diocese) – 61 offers made for a total of \$2,969,350.40 with an average amount of \$48,677.88.
 - (c) the number and total and average amount of redress offers accepted (in addition to previous payments made by the diocese) – 52 offers accepted for a total of \$2,668,740.07 with an average amount of \$51,321.92.
 - (d) the number of persons to whom a direct personal response has been provided – 5.
7. It is noted that there was no requirement for an organisation to report to the Director of Professional Standards in the event that no claims were made. Therefore, it is understood that organisations who did not make a report, or did not include data from earlier financial years in their report, did not have claims in the relevant periods.
8. It is noted that some diocesan organisations included provisions for counselling and administrative/legal costs in their reporting figures while other organisations did not.

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15 November 2021