



MEDIA RELEASE

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Society Close to joining National Redress Scheme

The St Vincent de Paul Society National Council of Australia reaffirms its strong support for the Federal Government's National Redress Scheme for people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse.

The Society has made significant progress and is close to finalising its application to join the Scheme as a participating group. All documents but one, are with the Commonwealth Department of Social Services for review.

National Council President, Claire Victory, said the Society is committed to the acknowledgement and proper care of the victims and survivors of child sexual abuse.

'In March of last year, the National Council agreed to join the National Redress Scheme as a single participating group.

'That group includes the National Council, each state and territory council, and all other separately incorporated special works under the control of the Society in Australia.

'Establishing a single participating group will draw in all of the Society's entities including all of those that may have offered support services to children going back 90 years.

'The Society has been working with the Commonwealth Department of Social Services to ensure it can join as a single entity so that in the event of a claim, that person's experience with the scheme is as seamless and as straightforward as possible.

'It's imperative that all institutions which have a history of working with children provide access to redress counselling and a direct personal response through the scheme.

'Institutions have until June 2020 to join the scheme.

'Finalising a national response has been a complex exercise.

'I am very confident the Society will deliver within the timeframe.

'We are in the final stage of completing our application as a participating group and hope to be admitted to the scheme by the Department of Social Services in the weeks ahead,' Ms Victory said.

The Society of St Vincent de Paul consists of 60,000 members and volunteers who operate on the ground through over 1,000 Conferences located in individual parishes across Australia.