



## National Redress Scheme

In December 2018, the Uniting Church in Australia provided the Federal Government with its application and supporting documentation to participate in the National Redress Scheme for people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse.

The Church's national council the Assembly submitted information from all six Uniting Church Synods to be covered through the UCA's participation in the Scheme to the Department of Social Services in Canberra.

The submission followed months of work in cooperation with the Department and Uniting Church bodies across the country.

In that time the Church has established a national vehicle for dealing with redress claims for survivors of child sexual abuse.

The Department will advise in due course when the UCA will be an operational member of the NRS.

President Dr Deidre Palmer has affirmed the Uniting Church's commitment to the National Redress Scheme and acknowledged the pain caused for survivors, who are waiting to access redress through the National Redress Scheme.

"For those who might have been concerned about our commitment, please be assured that we are working to make amends and to ensure that our Church has a strong and robust culture of child safety that empowers children and adults in our care."

"For anyone who was abused in the care of the Uniting Church, in our churches, schools or agencies, I'd again like to apologise sincerely. I am truly sorry that we didn't protect and care for you in accordance with our Christian values," said Dr Palmer."

If you need support, please contact the following 24-hour support services:

Lifeline 13 11 14

Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659 467

Kids Helpline 1800 55 1800

MensLine Australia 1300 78 99 78

If you are a Uniting Church member and would like information about safe church training, please contact your Synod or Presbytery.