

# Child Protection Responsibilities

## Redress & Support

The Diocese of Broken Bay recognises and apologises for the failings of the Catholic Church in the past. The Diocese wishes to ensure survivors are welcomed to engage with our Diocese and tell their story, and that our response will provide the survivor with a sense of safe engagement and will take all concerns seriously.

The Diocese will comply with civil requirements to report allegations of abuse to police and other authorities.

The Diocese through its learnings from the past and current commitment to Safeguarding today wishes to build culture and raise awareness of safe communities.

Survivors have a right to seek legal advice and this is encouraged. Professional legal input may assist to make the most informed decision possible going forward. However, if this is not a feasible course of action, we welcome contact with the Office for Safeguarding (CSBB) who will discuss further options with you.

If anyone has been abused by a member of Clergy or Workers from the Diocese of Broken Bay we encourage them to bring their complaint forward and to consider the following pathways for redress:

### **NATIONAL REDRESS SCHEME:**

The National Redress Scheme is in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and allows eligible survivors of institutional child sexual abuse to apply for redress in the form of monetary payments, counselling and support and direct personal responses from the responsible institution.

One of the key recommendations of the Royal Commission was that a National Redress Scheme be set up. This has been established as at 1 July 2018 and the Catholic Diocese of Broken Bay is a part of this Scheme. Visit the [National Redress Scheme](#) website for further information about the Scheme, or call 1800 737 377.

Who can apply? You can apply to the Scheme if:

- ◆ you experienced sexual abuse when you were a child (under 18 years of age) and
- ◆ the abuse happened before 1 July 2018, and an institution was responsible for bringing you into contact with the person who abused you, and
- ◆ you were born before 30 June 2010, and
- ◆ you are an Australian citizen or permanent resident.

For more information on eligibility please click [here](#).

## CIVIL REDRESS:

If you are considering, or wish to commence, a claim for compensation in court and you are a person who has suffered child sexual abuse by Church personnel and are considering making a claim against the Diocese in relation to a claim of sexual abuse, we recommend obtaining legal advice about your options for compensation. Subject to the advice you receive, your lawyer may initiate contact with us directly in relation to the nature of your claim.

## SUPPORT SERVICES

The Royal Commission have listed support [services](#).

Within the Church in Australia there are already a number of established services for victims and survivors of sexual abuse;

- ◆ The [National Response Protocol](#) is a framework for Catholic entities across Australia to respond consistently to people raising concerns or allegations of child sexual abuse.
- ◆ Catholic Social Services Australia is the national network of Catholic social services. The majority of their members provide counselling and support services.
- ◆ General support is also available [Support Services Brochure](#)

