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PASTORAL LETTER

To all clergy, congregations and ministry units

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ

Participation by the Diocese of Canberra & Goulburn in the National Redress Scheme via the Anglican Representative (National Redress Scheme) Limited

Further to my Pastoral Letter of September 2018, I am now writing to confirm the participation by our Diocese in the National Redress Scheme (the Scheme) via the Anglican Representative (National Redress Scheme) Limited (the Anglican company). This is the company established by General Synod to provide one easy access point for survivors of child sexual abuse perpetrated by Anglican institutions.

A very large amount of work has been undertaken over recent months to identify and address all the various matters that needed to be considered in relation to our participation in the Scheme.

At its meeting held on 8 February 2018 Bishop-in-Council considered and unanimously passed the *National Redress Scheme Participation Ordinance 2019*. I gladly and unhesitatingly assented to this Ordinance, which enables and requires the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn and all relevant bodies associated with the Diocese to participate in the Scheme through the Anglican company.

In particular, Section 3.2 and Schedule A of the Ordinance outline that the participation of the Diocese in the Scheme will include representation of all ministry units in the Diocese.

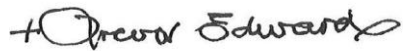
Our Anglican Diocesan Services is the corporate entity that will act on our behalf in relation to the Scheme through membership of the Anglican company. It is essential to understand that the application form and all supporting documents have been lodged and our application is currently being processed. It is anticipated that our membership in the Anglican company will be formalised and confirmed by April 2019 at the latest.

Once our membership has been confirmed, any claims through the National Redress Scheme will be sent to our Anglican Diocesan Services via the Anglican company. The Safe Ministry Unit will administer this process. Should a claim arise relating to a ministry unit of this Diocese, then the process undertaken will be similar to that of our existing and current care and assistance protocol. If any additional information is required the Safe Ministry Unit will liaise with the relevant ministry unit directly. For your information the Anglican Diocesan Services or our Safe Ministry Unit will be required to forward the relevant documentation to the National Redress Scheme within eight (8) weeks in normal circumstances and within four (4) weeks in special, urgent circumstances.

If you would like any further information to better understand the operation of the Scheme and our participation in it, then our Professional Standards Director, Peter Barnett, would be more than happy to provide this. Peter can be contacted on 0402 102 008 or via email at pbarnett@smr.org.au.

Again I once again stress that if you, or anyone you know, has experienced any type of abuse perpetrated by a church worker, I would encourage you to call our Safe Ministry Helpline 1800 070 511 to discuss options for support which now includes an application to the National Redress Scheme for those who have experienced child sexual abuse.

Prayerfully yours

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Trevor Edwards". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'T'.

Bishop Trevor Edwards

27th February 2019