



National Redress Scheme & the Local Baptist Church Info Sheet 2

Update September 2018

This information sheet is to be read in conjunction with Information Sheet 1 published in August 2018. Unless noted in this update, the information contained in the original Information Sheet is still current.

Note: this is a summary information sheet only, and is not exhaustive. Please contact BCSA if you have any specific enquiries. [Email: redress@sabaptist.asn.au]

The Opt-In Model

Since the information sheet was produced in August, clarity has been gained with the Commonwealth Government about how the scheme can operate for our Baptist movement. Provided it is agreed at Assembly, Baptist Churches of South Australia (BCSA) will opt in to the scheme as the Representative of a Participating Group. The Participating Group will include BCSA plus the churches, church plants and ministries of BCSA who indicate their intention to opt in as part of the Group. Other associated entities may be included with the approval of the BCSA Assembly Board. BCSA will also include as part of the Group churches which are now closed.

The Commonwealth Government will accept a motion passed at the 17 November Assembly as evidence of our decision to opt in as a Participating Group, and the Assembly Board will finalise the list of participating churches subsequent to Assembly. Should Assembly adopt the motion to opt in, Churches will be given until the end of January 2019 to notify BCSA in writing if they do not wish to participate in the Group.

Churches who choose to opt out initially, may elect to individually opt into the Scheme at any time up to 30 June 2020. However, any request to join the BCSA Group in the future will be considered by the Assembly Board on a case by case basis.

Funding Redress claims and the operation of the Redress Support Pool

1. An annual levy of \$400 per church + 0.01% of church's insured asset value, each year over the 10 years of the scheme. At the 18 - 24 month mark there will be a review of the funding model in the light of the claims received to date, to see if any adjustment needs to be made (either upwards or downwards) to the levy.
2. When a claim arises for a church:
 - a. In the first instance an attempt is made to secure insurance coverage. (This would usually only be available for claims of abuse after 1990, and even for more recent abuse claims access to insurance coverage for redress claims is unlikely).
 - b. The church is invited to cover as much of the cost as it can, or else apply to the Redress Support Pool. If it applies to the pool, it would pay the first \$25,000 of the claim, plus an amount related to its 'capacity to pay'. The total church contribution would be as per the following table:

INSURED ASSET VALUE	ANNUAL INCOME		
	Less than \$200K	\$200K-\$500K	Over \$500K
Less than \$2m	\$25,000	\$30,000	\$35,000
\$2m-\$5m	\$30,000	\$35,000	\$40,000
Over \$5m	\$35,000	\$40,000	\$45,000

3. Any church unable to immediately fund its share of the redress payment could be provided with a loan from Baptist Financial Services. If the church is unable to meet the BFS lending criteria, BCSA may assist by entering into a payment arrangement with the church.
4. Churches existing prior to 1 July 2018 who affiliate with BCSA after 1 July 2018 will not be eligible to access the Support Pool. They will not be charged the redress levy and will not be included in the list of churches that are part of BCSA's Group with the National Redress Scheme.
5. BCSA will supply and keep the National Redress Scheme Operator updated with the list of churches included in the Group. The Group list will include all church entities who have opted in by making contributions to the Redress Support Pool. Approved church plants will also be included, but will not be charged the levy until they take responsibility for their own insurance premiums.
6. Churches who are still existing but no longer affiliated with BCSA will not be included in the Group list supplied to the National Redress Scheme Operator and thus will not have access to the pool, even if the abuse took place at a time when they were previously affiliated.
7. BCSA will fund the church contribution (as calculated in point 2 above) in cases of redress payments for abuse in churches that were previously affiliated but now no longer exist. However, where the assets of the closed church have since been transferred to another affiliated church, the recipient church will be responsible for this contribution.
8. The Redress Support Pool is not available for other organisations that may be associated with Baptist churches but are separately incorporated – for example schools, childcare centres, care organisations, and other legally separate entities. The pool is designed for access by our churches only.
9. BCSA will fully fund any claims made against itself directly.
10. BCSA is setting aside very significant funds to commit as needed to the support pool.
11. The Redress Scheme will operate for 10 years from 1 July 2018. Once the Scheme has closed and all liabilities are finalised, if the Support Pool stills has funds remaining in it (not including funds from BCSA) these will be returned to the churches in proportion to their levy contributions to the Pool.

Who can I talk to?

Contact the Baptist Churches of South Australia to speak to Mike Mills (State Executive Minister).

Email: redress@sabaptist.asn.au

Phone: (08) 8357 1755

This is general information only for Baptist Churches of South Australia, and is not a substitute for legal advice.