



Attention Baptist Church Pastors and Leaders:

BCSA and the National Redress Scheme –November 2018

At the Annual Assembly of Baptist Churches S.A., held on Saturday 17th November 2018, the following motions were passed unanimously:

- 1. That Baptist Churches of South Australia Inc. together with Member churches, church plants, missional communities and defunct churches:**
 - a) agrees to participate in the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse;**
 - b) in a participating group with the Member churches, church plants, missional communities and defunct churches, as will be determined by the Baptist Churches of South Australia's Assembly Board;**
 - c) with Baptist Churches of South Australia Inc. as the representative for the group; and**
 - d) declares that each member is willing to and capable of discharging any obligation to provide a direct personal response to a person who accepts an offer of redress (otherwise these obligations will be discharged by the representative identified above).**

- 2. That the Assembly Board finalises the list of all the entities who will be opting in as part of the Baptist Churches of South Australia participating group. Should Assembly pass the motion to opt into the Scheme, churches will be notified that if they choose not to be a part of the Baptist Churches of South Australia Participating Group they will need to give written notice of this decision by end January 2019.**

- 3. That a Redress Support Pool be created and managed by the Assembly Board in line with the document presented to the Assembly (Info Sheet 2 – September 2018).**

Next Steps

BCSA to Finalise List

Over the coming months the BCSA team are going to finalise the list of entities that will form the Participating Group and advise the Scheme Operator. BCSA will also provide the Operator with all the additional information required to enable the entry of the BCSA Participating Group into the Scheme.

Contributions to the Redress Support Pool

In the new year, once the list of the Participating Group is finalised, churches will be issued with the first round of invoices for contributions to the Redress Support Pool, as per the model adopted in motion 3 above.

Choosing to Opt Out

As per motion 2 above, churches who are Member churches of BCSA are automatically opted in by the Assembly decision. However, to respect our ecclesiology of autonomy of the local, should a church choose to opt out then written notice must be received by BCSA by no later than 31 January 2019.

Once written notice has been received, as advised in previous settings, robust conversation will be held with the Member church. These conversations will be about why such a decision has been taken and what the implications of such a decision might be – including risk to the wider family of churches and the meaning of belonging to BCSA as an association.

Where do we find more information?

Over the past months information forums have been offered, information sheets have been distributed to all our churches together with a list of FAQs and these can be found on the Baptist Churches of SA website – <http://sabaptist.asn.au/national-redress-scheme/>

To discuss anything to do with BCSA's engagement with the National Redress Scheme please contact Mike Mills (State Executive Minister) at Baptist Churches of South Australia.

Email: redress@sabaptist.asn.au Phone: (08) 8357 1755