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The Hon Michael Baird MP  
 Premier  
 NSW Government  
 52 Martin Place  
 SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Premier

We are writing in relation to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, specifically its Report on Redress and Civil Litigation, which was released last year.

By way of background, Scouts is the largest youth development organisation in NSW. Supported by industry accredited adult training, our progressive and values-based program provides important educational development opportunities for youth to become leaders, as well as confident, resourceful and resilient members of our community. In recognition of our Movement's contribution to Australia's national development for over 100 years, 2008 was declared as the Year of the Scout.

Scouts is a part of almost every NSW community. Our members come from a wide variety of socio-economic, cultural and religious backgrounds, and include youth with disabilities. We are a voluntary, not-for-profit, community based organisation, completely dependent on recruiting volunteers who are conscious of the events the Royal Commission has brought to light and who are committed to implementing processes Scouts have introduced to protect against child abuse. These processes were recognised in the Commission's first interim Report. Indeed, Scouts was the first volunteer organisation to subject its current practices to the scrutiny of the Commission.

We welcome the Royal Commission's Report on Redress and Civil Litigation. It is a constructive roadmap for the development of a scheme to provide relief and healing to survivors of child sexual abuse. Each Branch of Scouts Australia accepts its responsibilities towards survivors harmed in past years.

Although our clear preference was for a single national scheme, we note the Australian Government will now lead the development of a national approach to redress. We understand negotiations will begin shortly with States and Territories around a nationally consistent approach, delivered through State and Territory-based schemes.

We strongly support the proposal that all Governments commit to core principles and processes for the assessment and payment of redress. It is only in this way we believe there will be equal access and treatment of survivors, regardless of the organisation or location in which the abuse occurred – a key tenet of the Royal Commission's report. We therefore urge the NSW Government to commit to nationally consistent principles for redress schemes.



We are ready to assist your Government in any practical way with the development of a nationally consistent approach to redress. To this end, we would be grateful for the opportunity to assist with the development of, or to comment on, draft national principles for the assessment and payment of redress.

Our contact person is Neville Tomkins, National Co-ordinator (Redress) who is working closely with our Branch. Your Office is most welcome to email him at REDACTED or call REDACTED

We have also written to the NSW Attorney General, the Hon Gabrielle Upton, MP, in similar terms.

Thank you for your consideration of our issues, and we look forward to any opportunity to work with the NSW Government.

Yours sincerely



Kerry McGoldrick  
Chairman  
Scouts Australia (NSW Branch)



Doug Menzies  
Chief Commissioner  
Scouts Australia (NSW Branch)

20<sup>th</sup> April 2016