


NATIONAL OFFICE

Level 1
 Scouts Australia House
 8 Help Street
 CHATSWOOD NSW 2067

Phone: 02 9413 1133
 Fax: 02 9413 1177
 Email: scouts@scouts.com.au

ABN 570 305 16857

Be Prepared...
for new adventure!

The Hon Christian Porter MP
 Minister for Social Services
 Parliament House
 CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

You may recall our 9 October 2015 letter regarding the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. We thank your Office, particularly Will Frost, for the follow up discussions where we were able to outline the position of Scouts Australia in greater detail in relation to many of the Royal Commission's recommendations.

In welcoming the Royal Commission's report, we stated our belief that a national redress scheme was imperative for survivors of child sexual assault. Recognising the higher cost for small not-for-profit community organisations, and the likely inequities for survivors, we also believed the Commonwealth Government has a critical role to play in establishing a single national framework for managing claims.

Scouts Australia is therefore pleased to learn that the Commonwealth Government will lead the development of a national approach to redress (29 January 2016 Joint media release). We are also pleased the Federal Government recognises the importance of developing a national approach to redress as quickly as possible, and that discussions will commence shortly with State and Territories to work through the many complex issues. We also support the proposal that all governments commit to core principles and processes for the assessment and payment of redress.

As previously stated, Scouts Australia will accept its responsibilities, and obligations, towards those who have been harmed in our care. We recognise that application of any retrospective liability as part of a redress scheme will create far-reaching implications for our organisation. Some of our Branches will be challenged in their capacity to continue delivering a contemporary, non-formal education based youth development program for Australian families.

Scouts Australia is ready to assist the Commonwealth Government, and State and Territory Governments, in any way practical with the development of a single national redress scheme. In this context, we would be grateful for the opportunity to assist with the development of, or to comment on, the draft set of national principles for the assessment and payment of redress.



Our contact person is Neville Tomkins, National Co-ordinator (Redress). Your office is most welcome to email him at REDACTED or call him on REDACTED

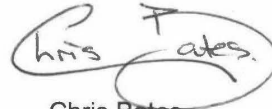
We have written to the Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, and to the Attorney General, Senator the Hon George Brandis QC, in similar terms.

Thank you for your consideration of our issues, and we look forward to any opportunity to work with the Commonwealth Government in the development of a single national redress scheme.

Yours sincerely



Dennis Green AM
Chairman



Chris Bates
Chief Commissioner

7 February 2016