



Scouts Australia NSW

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1 June 2018

Dear Scouting Members, Parents and Guardians,

Scouts NSW believes that the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has been an important step in making our community safer for children.

One of the key recommendations of the Royal Commission was the establishment of a National Redress Scheme. We are committed to ensuring that all survivors of child sexual abuse have access to the Redress Scheme and that their experience of this process is restorative, and responds to the complexity of their needs.

Scouts NSW has agreed, in principle, to opting into the proposed National Redress Scheme. We recognise the best result for survivors is a National Redress Scheme independent of Scouts NSW where decisions can be made providing greater consistency for survivors. The Scheme is expected to commence on 1 July 2018.

We are humbled by those survivors who have shown courage and commitment, appearing before the Royal Commission to share their stories. They have played an important role in making Australia a safer place for children in the future.

Scouts NSW is committed to developing a culture where young people feel safe and empowered to speak up. Our priority will continue to be on ensuring the wellbeing of all children and young adults.

Scouts NSW has a zero-tolerance for abuse of any kind, and our policy is to immediately report any allegations of child abuse directly to the police. Our Adult Leaders have the appropriate working with children checks in place and undertake mandatory training in child safe practices on an ongoing basis. Our National Child Protection Policy and Procedures were developed in conjunction with Child Wise, a leading child protection authority. We continue to refine our policies and procedures in the area of child protection.

Scouts NSW applauds the Federal Government for its leadership on this matter, and for the highly consultative manner in which the Scheme has been developed. The Scheme will be run by the Department of Social Services, and further information can be obtained through the Department's website www.dss.gov.au or by calling 1800 146 713.

We welcome all your queries about child safe Scouting, as we continue to strive towards ensuring that Scouting is a fun, safe and enriching experience for all young people.

Yours in Scouting

Neville Tomkins OAM JP
Chief Commissioner

Kerry McGoldrick
Chair

Andrew Smith
CEO

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