

12 March 2019

BCYF agrees 'in principle' to join the National Redress Scheme

BCYF is pleased to announce that the organisation's Board have agreed 'in principle' to join the National Redress Scheme, subject to clarification on a number of issues by the Department of Social Services, the operators of the scheme. This means that past care leavers of BCYF's founding organisation's, Barwon Youth (BAYSA), Time for Youth and Glastonbury Community Services who may have experienced sexual abuse while in our care will be able to apply for redress through the Scheme.

The National Redress Scheme was introduced in July 2018 by the Commonwealth Government, in response to recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The scheme will run for 10 years and will provide eligible applicants with access to counselling and psychological services, a monetary payment, and a direct personal response, such as an apology.

Participation in the Scheme is voluntary for non-Government organisations such as BCYF.

There are a number of administrative steps that BCYF must undertake in order to formally join the Scheme and the organisation will now commence work to complete these necessary steps as quickly as possible. A further announcement will be made on the BCYF website (www.bcyf.org.au) once BCYF's participation is signed off by the Department of Social Services.

For further information regarding the National Redress Scheme please go to: www.nationalredress.gov.au. Anyone wishing to contact BCYF to share their experience of being in care with us or one of our founding agencies, Glastonbury Community Services, Barwon Youth or Time for Youth, can contact 5226 8900 and ask to speak to the Complaints Officer or alternatively contact complaints.officer@bcyf.org.au.

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