



Sisters of Saint Joseph
of the Sacred Heart

CONGREGATIONAL
ADMINISTRATION
CENTRE

14 September 2023

Dr D.J Honey, MLA
Chair, Community Development and Justice Standing Committee
Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
4 Harvest Terrace
West Perth WA 6005

By email: professionalstandards@sosj.org.au

Dear Dr Honey

Inquiry into options for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse in Western Australia who are seeking justice

Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart acknowledge your correspondence of the 15 August 2023 and appreciates the opportunity to respond as follows.

Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart submitted documentation to join the National Redress Scheme for those who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse in December 2018 and were confirmed as a participating institution by Ministerial Declaration on 24 January 2019.

Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart are a national organisation with the main office of the Congregation in North Sydney. All National Redress Scheme applications and civil litigation claims are managed from the National Professional Standards Office at North Sydney.

National Redress Scheme

The institution has received 12 Requests for Information (RFIs) from Western Australian applicants to the National Redress Scheme.

The institution was determined by the Independent Decision Maker to be part or fully responsible for four (4) of the applications and therefore liable for providing redress under the scheme. The institution was determined by the Independent Decision Maker to be not responsible for seven (7) of the applications and therefore not liable for providing redress under the scheme. This does not mean that the person did not receive redress. It is possible there were other institutions named in the application and those institutions were determined by the Independent Decision Maker to be responsible and therefore liable for Redress. One (1) application is not finalised.

There were allegations against one member of the institution.

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ABRN: 162 276 422 Member of the Catholic Church Religious Group

The average time taken to finalise a National Redress Scheme claim has been approximately eight (8) months. This is the time taken from the institution receiving the Redress Request for Information (RFI) to payment of claim in cases where the institution is determined to be responsible, or date of notification that the Independent Decision Maker has determined that the institution is not responsible for the abuse and therefore not liable for providing redress under the scheme.

The average National Redress Scheme payment by the institution has been [REDACTED]. This payment does not reflect the full redress payment received by the applicant. It reflects the institution's average redress payment of four (4) Western Australian matters determined by the Independent Decision Maker for redress. The redress offer may have had a total higher value. Other institutions may have also been found responsible for the abuse and liable to pay redress to the applicant.

Civil Litigation pre 2018

The institution has received 3 civil litigation claims pre the introduction of the 2018 Act. Pre 2018 it took approximately 1 year 4 months to finalise a civil claim. The average payment made by the institution was [REDACTED]. There were allegations against one member of the institution.

Civil Litigation post 2018

The institution has received four (4) civil litigation claims since the introduction of the 2018 Act. Post 2018 it has taken approximately 1 year 10 months to finalise a civil claim. The payment made by the institution in the matter was [REDACTED]. This payment does not represent the full payment to the survivor. Other institutions were represented in the matter and contributed to a final payment. There have been allegations against three members of the institution.

Summary

The Western Australian data held by this institution indicates:

1. There has been a significant increase in the number of survivors of institutional child sexual abuse seeking justice through the National Redress Scheme and post the introduction of the 2018 Act.
2. The time taken to finalise an application through the National Redress Scheme is approximately eight (8) months. However, this timeframe is not inclusive of the time taken if there is a request for a review.

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Thank you for the opportunity to make this response to the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee Inquiry into the options available to survivors of institutional child sexual abuse in Western Australia who are seeking justice.

Yours sincerely



Sister Mary Quinlan
Congregational Professional Standards Officer

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