

MEDIA RELEASE

Friday, 29 June 2018

Barnardos Australia joins National Redress Scheme

Barnardos Australia announced today it will join the National Redress Scheme for the survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse.

Barnardos welcomes and supports the National Redress Scheme, as recommended by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, in acknowledging the harm caused and provide support to people who were sexually abused as children while in the care of an institution.

Since their beginnings in Australia, Barnardos has been strongly committed to good child welfare practice with long-standing internal systems in place to visit and speak directly to children in their care.

Barnardos remains committed to their current practice to protect the children in their care, including robust staff and carer selection, rigorous monitoring processes and the long held commitment to always listening to children. Barnardos remains dedicated to ensuring all children in their care are safe from any form of abuse.

Barnardos joins six major non-government institutions committed to join the Scheme, including the Catholic Church, the Anglican Church, the Salvation Army, YMCA, Scouts Australia and the Uniting Church. All state and territory governments have committed to join the Scheme.

The Redress Scheme will be run through the Department of Social Services and will start on 1 July 2018, and run for 10 years. Further information about accessing the Scheme can be obtained through the Department's website www.dss.gov.au or by calling 1800 146 713.

About Barnardos Australia

Barnardos Australia believes all children and young people deserve caring families in which they can grow safely and fulfil their potential. We work together with children, young people and families to break the cycle of disadvantage, creating safe, nurturing and stable homes, connected to family and community. Our intensive family support programs combat family and domestic violence, drug and alcohol abuse, mental health, poverty and homelessness, to strengthen families and keep children safe at home. For those children whom the courts have ruled cannot safely return home, we provide safe homes through foster care and kinship care. Since 1985, Barnardos has pioneered open adoption for non-Aboriginal children, giving them the permanency and security they need, for life.

www.barnardos.org.au