

Australian Council of Social Service

24 December 2020

Treasury
Langton Cres
Parkes ACT 2600

Via email: dgr@treasury.gov.au

Submission – Incentivising relevant charities to join the National Redress Scheme for Child Sexual Abuse – New ACNC Governance Standard

The Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS) is a national voice in support of people affected by poverty, disadvantage and inequality and the peak body for the community services and civil society sector. ACOSS consists of a network of approximately 4000 organisations and individuals across Australia in metro, regional and remote areas. Our vision is an end to poverty in all its forms; economies that are fair, sustainable and resilient; and communities that are just, peaceful and inclusive.

ACOSS welcomes the opportunity to contribute to this process, noting our strong support for the National Redress Scheme. The Scheme plays a crucial role providing a measure of justice for survivors of institutional child sex abuse and accountability for institutions that perpetrated abuse.

ACOSS supports the proposal to introduce a governance standard that would require a registered entity to take reasonable steps to become a participating non-government institution if the entity is, or is likely to be, identified as being involved in the abuse of a person either in an application for redress made under section 19 of the National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018; or in information given in response to a request under section 24 or 25 of that Act. We acknowledge that charities that have or are likely to have a claim made against them will be required to take reasonable steps towards joining the Redress Scheme to meet the governance standard.

If the Department has any questions regarding this submission, the ACOSS contact person is Senior Advisor Dr John Mikelsons, on 02 9310 6212 or john@acoss.org.au.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edwina MacDonald', is positioned above the typed name.

Edwina MacDonald
Deputy CEO, ACOSS