



Dear Community Member

I am writing to you today about The Friends' School's successful application to join the National Redress Scheme (NRS).

The Friends' School Board of Governors apologises sincerely and unreservedly to any Friends' Old Scholar who has been sexually abused whilst in the care of the School. Child sexual abuse is an abhorrent crime and we acknowledge the terrible impact that it has on the lives of those abused, their friends and family.

The NRS provides support to people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse. It is a government-led response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The NRS commenced on 1 July 2018, with survivors of child sexual abuse able to approach the Scheme at any time until 30 June 2027.

Under the Scheme, applications for redress are considered by independent assessors who decide on the appropriate levels of financial and other support, such as counselling services. The NRS can also assist survivors in gaining access to a direct personal response from an institution (e.g. an apology) for those who want it.

Earlier this year, the Board of Governors confirmed their support and commitment to join the NRS and the Minister for Families and Social Services made a [declaration](#) formalising the inclusion of Friends' in the Scheme with effect from 13 August 2019.

As a caring and supportive community, our School is determined to ensure that there is an accessible, compassionate and confidential resolution process for anyone impacted by child sexual abuse. Collectively, the Board of Governors and school staff are fully committed to ensuring that our ongoing approach to child safety and the healing of historical harm is active and central in our systems and culture.

Any Friends' Old Scholar who may have experienced sexual abuse while in the care of The Friends' School can apply to the Scheme for redress online or in paper form. Free and confidential [Redress Support Services](#) are available throughout the process to help explain the Scheme and application process.

For more information about the National Redress Scheme visit www.nationalredress.gov.au or call 1800 737 377.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at principal@friends.tas.edu.au if you would like to discuss anything relating to these matters.

In Friendship

Nelson File

Principal of The Friends' School