
From: Child Safeguarding <childsafeguarding@dlgsc.wa.gov.au>
Sent: Friday, 17 April 2020 3:07 PM
To: Child Safeguarding
Cc: Kirstie Davis; Mark Batty; Candy Choo; Ben Armstrong
Subject: National Redress Scheme - Participation of WA Local Governments - Key Decisions and Action
Attachments: Redress Council Report - Final - April 2020.docx; Redress Database Template for WA Local Governments.xlsx; National Redress Scheme - DLGSC Information Paper FINAL.pdf
Importance: High

Good afternoon

The Department of Local Government, Sport and Cultural Industries (DLGSC) is part of the Western Australian Government (State Government) implementing reforms from the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The establishment of a National Redress Scheme (Scheme) was a key recommendation of the Royal Commission to recognise the harm suffered by survivors of institutional child sexual abuse. DLGSC consulted with WA local governments throughout 2019 and early 2020 focusing on raising awareness of the Scheme (including an Information Paper – copy attached) and identifying how participation of the sector may be best approached.

Following this consultation and in line with the WALGA State Council resolution on 3 July 2019, the State Government (December 2019):

- Noted the consultation undertaken with the WA local government sector about the National Redress Scheme;
- Noted the options for WA local government participation in the Scheme;
- Agreed to WA local governments participating in the Scheme as State Government institutions and to include local governments (that formally indicate a desire to do so) within an amended State Government participation declaration;
- Agreed to the State Government covering payments to the survivor (LGs that receive an application will cover their own information search / administration costs and the delivery of an apology, if requested by the survivor).

A Memorandum of Understanding has now been signed with WALGA that sets out the key principles of the WA local government sector participating in the Scheme with the State Government.

DLGSC acknowledges the current situation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and the challenges being faced by the WA local government sector and the communities you work with and support. Given the priority is to make redress available to as many survivors as possible and that organisations have until 30 June 2020 to join the Scheme, local governments are asked to progress some key actions even during this difficult time.

Attached to this email correspondence is 2 documents to assist each local government to complete the actions necessary:

1. A template Council report – local governments are requested to use the template Council report through the May 2020 round of meetings and for each local government to make a formal decision regarding Scheme participation.

Critical note – The financial and administrative coverage offered by the State will only be afforded to WA local governments that decide (via a resolution of Council) to join the Scheme as a State Government institution, as part of the State’s amended participation declaration.

Should a local government formally decide (via a resolution of Council) **not** to participate with the State or in the Scheme altogether, considerations for the local government include:

- Divergence from the Commonwealth, State, WALGA and the broader local government sector’s position on the Scheme (noting the Commonwealth’s impending intent to name-and-shame non-participating organisations);
- Potential reputational damage at a State, sector and community level;
- Complete removal of the State’s coverage of costs and administrative support, with the local government having full responsibility and liability for any potential claim;
- Acknowledgement that the only remaining method of redress for a victim and survivor would be through civil litigation, with no upper limit, posing a significant financial risk to the local government.

2. A spreadsheet - seeking specific details of each local government’s facilities and services – this information will be loaded into the Scheme database of participating organisations and is used in the Redress application process.

The following information needs to be completed in the spreadsheet by each local government:

‘Current’ tab:

- The name, address and details of each local government;
- The same details as above for all local government run organisations and / or facilities (e.g. libraries, sports / youth / aquatic and community facilities etc);
- Ensure that column B is completed if an organisation or facility is (or was) known under other names. This will be true if a local government previously was known under a different title.

‘Defunct’ tab:

- The name, address and details of any organisation or facility previously run by local government, that no longer exists;
- Ensure that column B is completed if an institution was known under other names.

Each WA local government is requested to inform the State (DLGSC) of their Council’s decision (regarding participation) and return the completed spreadsheet by 31 May 2020. Information to be returned to Attention – Gordon MacMile on email to childsafeguarding@dlgsc.wa.gov.au

Thank you sincerely for your work and assistance regarding redress for survivors of institutional abuse, particularly during this difficult time.

Please contact me if there are any questions or if any support is needed.

Regards, Gordon

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