



8 October, 2024

Synod Redress for Abuse Recovery Scheme – FY 23/24 Invoicing

Dear friends,

I am writing to address some of the questions we received from our August communications (dated 16th August) regarding the Synod Redress for Abuse Recovery Scheme.

As a church, we have never shied away from our responsibility to those who have been harmed in our care, or the care of our predecessor churches and organisations. We have acknowledged where wrong has been done, made our best effort to respond with compassion, and continually affirmed our commitment to safeguards and practices across the life of our church to ensure that we are a safe church for all. This remains our steadfast promise.

While the harms of the past cannot be undone, one way of acknowledging and recognising the harm is through redress. We acknowledge that no amount of money can undo the harm, but a monetary payment is a token of apology.

We acknowledge this commitment does not come without cost. The Queensland Synod is part of the national response to the Uniting Church's participation in the National Redress Scheme. This national response is one of shared responsibility, acknowledging that there are parts of the church for whom Redress has had a severe financial impact.

Playing our part in this national response has been reflected in the amounts distributed during the 23/24 financial year. We acknowledge that the FY23/24 amount is higher than in previous years but that this should be anomalous, as there has been a 'catch up' for the past 5 years in the operation of the National Redress Scheme.

From congregations to Assembly, we are one church. As Paul called the Galatians in chapter six of his epistle, our commitment to be Uniting means bearing one another's burdens in love, particularly those arising out of our shared history as a church. While we have much to celebrate in our story, there are parts of this story that remain cause for lament, sorrow and, ultimately, for redress. To those calls, we hear and respond willingly in the way of Christ.

Thank you for being part of our important commitment to the Synod Redress for Abuse Recovery Scheme. We also thank you for your commitment to our culture of safety through Safe Church policies and practices, ensuring that our church is a safe place for all people.

Yours in Christ,

Rev Dr Adam McIntosh
General Secretary

Rev Bruce Moore
Moderator