



## AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

### **Most dioceses have now entered the National Redress Scheme**

**Media Release**

**December 13, 2018**

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference is pleased that about 90 per cent of all parishes, diocesan schools and ministries have now officially joined the National Redress Scheme.

Social Services Minister Paul Fletcher has today announced that 27 of 35 dioceses are participating institutions in the Scheme, the next step in a months-long process to have Catholic dioceses ready to respond to applications for redress.

“I’m grateful that Minister Fletcher and his Department were willing to work closely with our new company, Australian Catholic Redress Ltd, to reach this milestone,” ACBC president Archbishop Mark Coleridge said.

“With more than 5000 Catholic sites eventually to fall under Australian Catholic Redress Ltd’s purview, this was a longer and more complex process than we or even the Department expected.

“We are aware that many redress claims relating to dioceses have already been lodged, so our priority will be to act swiftly to respond to them.”

Archbishop Coleridge said the Bishops Conference had called for an independent national redress scheme for some years. With the scheme now in place, he expects the remaining dioceses will be participating in the National Redress Scheme within weeks.