

The National Redress Scheme Policy

GS04-CP



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1. Purpose

This policy outlines:

- 1.1. The MacDonnell Regional Council's (MRC) obligations as part of The National Redress Scheme (*the Scheme*)
- 1.2. MRC's steps to ensure the safety of children

2. Scope

- 2.1. Anyone who was abused in the care of any Australian institution prior to 30 June 2018 can apply for the *Scheme* up until 30 June 2027.
- 2.2. Any incidents occurring in the care of MRC between 1 July 2008 and 30 June 2018 can apply to *the Scheme* as per the dates in item 2.1.

3. Objectives

The aim of this policy is to:

- 3.1. Explain what *the Scheme* is and how MRC will implement *the Scheme* as it applies to the Council.
- 3.2. Explain what measures, controls and steps the Council currently takes to ensure the safety of children
- 3.3. Outline the roles and responsibility of identified employees to refer anyone that is wanting to apply for *the Scheme*.
- 3.4. State any relevant confidentiality and privacy legislation.

4. Definitions

Institution	Means any entity, body, group of persons or organisation (whether or not incorporated), but does not include a family or an individual.
Applicant	Someone who has applied to the National Redress Scheme

5. Statement

5.1. The National Redress Scheme

The National Redress Scheme is a response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. It recognises that many children suffered as a result of the abuse they experienced in Australian Institutions. To make 'redress' is to make wrong right and it does this via three main elements:

- a. Access to counselling
- b. A monetary payment
- c. A direct personal response from the institution

An applicant can apply for any or all of these supports. It is an alternative to seeking legal compensation and the applicant must be over 18 when they apply.

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5.2. MacDonnell Regional Council Services:

The following is a, non-exhaustive list, of services, utilities and programs that MRC runs including prior to 2008 when MRC was established (for example 'the Shire'):

- a. Libraries
- b. Swimming Pools
- c. Early Learnings Centres/Childcare centres: MacKids
- d. Aged and Disability Services: MacCare
- e. School Nutrition (SNP)
- f. Youth Services: MacYouth
- g. Community Development Scheme (CDP)
- h. Community Safety and Night Patrol: MacSafe
- i. Municipal Services including – animal management, cemetery management, Council Works Depots, internal roads management, parks and open spaces, sports grounds, waste management, weed control and fire hazard reduction.
- j. Maintenance works
- k. Commercial contracts/external contractors including some essential services such as power, water and sewage, postal services, Centrelink services and community airstrips.

5.3. MacDonnell Regional Council obligations

As a participating institution of *the Scheme*, MRC will:

5.3.1. Refer anyone enquiring about *the scheme* to the following (MRC do not record personal details or provide advice):

- a. The National Redress Scheme
 - 1800737377
 - <https://nationalredress.gov.au/>
- b. Relationships Australia NT
 - 08 8923 4999 or 1300 364 277
- c. Knowmore
 - 1800 605 762
- d. EASA (if current employee)
 - (08) 8953 4225
 - easaalicesprings@easa.org.au

5.3.2. Respond to any correspondence from *the Scheme* or The NT Redress Coordination Team.

5.3.3. In the case someone has received redress, the NT Redress Scheme will work with the Northern Territory Government to repay costs associated with the following:

- a. Counselling services
- b. Monetary payment

5.3.4. The CEO, will work with the NT Coordination Team to offer a direct response to the individual in the most appropriate way chosen.

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5.4. MRC Child Safe Steps:

MRC's seeks to provide a safe and healthy workplace for all its employees and to protect young people, children and all vulnerable people that MRC interacts with. The following policies ensure that we comply with the relevant legislation:

- 5.4.1. Child Safety and Domestic Violence Policy
- 5.4.2. Criminal History Check and Working with Children Clearance
- 5.4.3. Work Health and Safety Policy
- 5.4.4. Code of Conduct – Employee Policy
- 5.4.5. Code of Conduct – Members
- 5.4.6. Specific protocols for MacYouth, MacKids and MacCare

6. Policy Details

Replaces Policy No: (if applicable)	NA
Responsible Directorate/Department:	Corporate Services/Governance and Engagement
Approval Date:	26 February 2021
Minutes Reference and Resolution number:	Resolution OC2021-014 – Item # 15.1
Review Cycle:	February 2025. Review every four (4) years or after changes to relevant legislation or Council policy

7. Legislation and References

Related Legislation:	National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018
Related Policies:	CP148 Child Safety and Domestic Violence Policy HR13-OP Criminal History Check and Working with Children Clearance Policy RS01-CP Work Health and Safety Policy OP231 - Code Of Conduct - Employee Policy CP102 - Code of Conduct - Members
Associated Documents:	

8. Version Control

Version No	Approval Date	Policy No.	Minutes reference and Resolution number (previous version)
1	28 February 2021	GS04-CP	Resolution # 014 Item # 15.1 Ordinary Council Meeting.