

## 1. Introduction

I am a survivor of child sexual abuse and I am making this submission to share my experience with the National Redress Scheme (NRS), particularly in relation to excessive and unexplained delays, poor communication, and the impact this has had on my wellbeing.

I lodged my application with the National Redress Scheme in April 2024. As at 8 January 2026, my application has still not been allocated to a decision maker.

## 2. Background and Evidence Provided

My application relates to sexual abuse perpetrated by a notorious and prolific convicted paedophile, who is currently serving multiple life sentences for child sexual offences involving hundreds of victims over a period of 30 years.

Key facts of my case include:

- The perpetrator used his role as a youth leader with the Boys' Brigade to gain access to me.
- The Boys' Brigade is a participating institution in the National Redress Scheme.
- My name appears in the statement made by the perpetrator to police after he was caught identifying victims.
- Police were the ones who contacted my mother to advise that I was involved.
- Police subsequently attended and took my statement.

I have provided the National Redress Scheme with:

- A detailed personal statement describing what occurred
- A photograph of me in the uniform from the time the abuse was occurring
- The taskforce name and police station name where both police statements were made.
- All information requested to corroborate my identity

In my view, and based on the Scheme's stated intent, my application should be considered highly substantiated and straightforward.

## 3. Delays and Communication Issues

Despite this, my application has been left unresolved for nearly two years.

When I contact the National Redress Scheme for updates, I regularly receive:

- Conflicting or contradictory information
- Inconsistent explanations about where my application sits in the process
- No clear timeframe for allocation to a decision maker
- No clear timeframe on when I can expect an outcome

I have not been provided with any reasonable explanation as to why my application has not progressed, nor have I been given accurate or consistent information about what remains outstanding.

#### **4. Impact of the Delay**

The prolonged delay has caused significant distress.

The National Redress Scheme is meant to be a trauma-informed process that recognises the harm done to survivors of institutional child sexual abuse. Instead, the uncertainty, lack of transparency, and ongoing need to chase basic information has compounded my trauma.

It is extremely difficult to reconcile the Scheme's stated purpose with the reality that:

- A case involving a convicted offender,
- Police-led identification of the victim, and
- A participating institution,

can remain untouched by a decision maker for this length of time.

#### **5. Broader Concerns for the Inquiry**

I am deeply concerned about what this experience suggests for other survivors, particularly those whose cases may be less well documented or whose perpetrators were never prosecuted.

If a case such as mine cannot progress in a timely manner, it raises serious questions about:

- Whether the Scheme is adequately resourced
- Whether applications are being triaged appropriately
- Whether survivors are being retraumatised by administrative delay

#### **6. What I Am Asking For**

I ask the Inquiry to consider:

- Mandatory timeframes for key stages of NRS applications
- Improved transparency and consistency in communication with applicants
- Clear escalation pathways for long-delayed cases
- Greater accountability where applications remain idle without explanation

Most importantly, I ask that the voices and lived experiences of survivors be placed at the centre of any reform.

#### **7. Closing**

I did everything asked of me. I engaged with police. I provided evidence. I trusted that the National Redress Scheme would operate fairly and efficiently.

The continued delay in my case has eroded that trust.

Thank you for the opportunity to make this submission and for considering my experience as part of this Inquiry.