



Catholic Education Sandhurst Limited and Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst, Civil Claims and Redress

Background

Catholic Education Sandhurst Limited (CESL) was established in 2020 by the Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst (Bishop) to assume the ownership and operation of fifty-two Catholic schools located within the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst (Diocese) previously operated in an unincorporated form and to be responsible for the operation of any further schools that will be established by CESL.

In conjunction with this assumption of the ownership and operation of the fifty-two Catholic schools through a School Transfer Agreement entered into by the proprietor of each school and CESL (**School Transfer Agreements**), CESL also assumed the role previously undertaken by the Catholic Education Office (CEO).

CESL and the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst have developed guidelines to provide guidance on the response and management for handling claims of historic abuse and employee abuse.

Provided here is a summary of these guidelines.

Key Definitions

- **Historic Abuse Claim:** Claims about sexual, physical, or psychological abuse that happened before 1 January 2021, involving clergy, volunteers, or others under the Diocese's control.
- **Employee Abuse Claim:** Claims about abuse by employees, contractors, or volunteers of CESL or the schools, regardless of when the abuse occurred.

Responsibilities

- The Diocese is responsible for handling Historic Abuse Claims.
- CESL is responsible for handling Employee Abuse Claims.

- If a claim involves both parties, they will work together to decide who will manage it and how costs are shared.

Guidelines for Handling Claims

The guidelines apply to court cases, tribunals, mediation, and other dispute resolution processes, as well as claims made through the National Redress Scheme, and both parties (being CESL and the Catholic Diocese of Sandhurst), must follow the guidelines when responding to claims.

The guidelines do not stop either party from defending themselves if a claim is not genuine.

Cooperation and Communication

- The party responsible for a claim must notify the other party within three days of receiving notice of a claim.
- Both parties must help each other by providing documents and records needed to resolve claims, and must act quickly to avoid unnecessary delays.
- Requests for information must be acknowledged within three business days, with an estimated response time.

Settlement Commitments and Record Keeping

- Neither party can settle a claim that requires financial contribution from the other without ensuring both parties agreement first.
- Both parties must keep all records required by law that may be needed for claims.

Regular Review

Representatives from CESL and the Diocese will meet at least every quarter to review current and possible claims.

Should you have any questions about the summary of the Guidelines,
please contact the CESL Professional Standards Office via email at:
professionalstandards@ceosand.catholic.edu.au