



Redress and RASA

An important message and apology to people who experienced institutional child sexual abuse.

Hello, I am Dr Claire Ralfs, CEO of Relationships Australia South Australia. Locally, we call ourselves RASA.

With great sadness, I want to acknowledge that a program in our organisation has been named in at least one Redress Application. RASA was not responsible for the program at the time, as it was provided by the organisation Time For Kids, previously known as Society of Sponsors.

When the Time For Kids organisation closed in 2018, we took on providing support for the Time for Kids clients. Given this connection, we believe it's important that we also take on whatever responsibility we can, for acknowledging and overcoming the impacts of any historical abuse.

Here, I'd like to describe the context for this action, and make clear our plans.

Firstly, on behalf of the RASA Board, I unreservedly apologise for any harm caused to children and their families through any involvement with Time for Kids, previously Society of Sponsors. Any harm to children resulting from contact with a program designed to support them is unacceptable.

We recognize that harm done to children by adults and services whose role it is to protect and support them has an enduring negative impact, which is not easily overcome. Trust and safety are vital for a child's wellbeing. The damage inflicted through abuse on the child's trust and sense of safety lingers and invades all other relationships without active steps for healing and repair. RASA is committed to contributing to steps for healing and repair wherever possible. While survivors have made it clear that belief in their disclosures and acknowledgement of the abuse is a vital first step in healing, too often organisations have denied, ignored, and minimized their responsibility for the abuse. Sadly, these organisational denials compound and amplify the negative consequences of the original injury.

RASA is committed to doing whatever we can to listen and understand the experiences of survivors. We know that this is an important initial contribution to healing for anyone who has been harmed. We hope that through taking responsibility for historical events we can also strengthen organisational accountability, and in turn hopefully prevent future abuse happening within services and systems

Although Time for Kids as an organization no longer exists, we recognise that all victims of institutional abuse need an organization to take responsibility for harm done to them.

Secondly, we would like to share that on learning of this report of historical abuse in Time for Kids, we have joined the National Redress Scheme. We are now working with the Scheme to understand and respond to the needs of those affected.

The National Redress Scheme is an important initiative established to create a more respectful way of responding to survivors of institutional child sexual abuse. Survivors have made it clear that, as a community, we urgently need effective processes that support recovery. A big part of this is a system that ensures organisations are held accountable for the harm they have inflicted.

The RASA Board is committed to participating in the National Redress Scheme, and to ensuring victims have access to the support they deserve. This apology is one important way for RASA to re-affirm our commitment to client safety and children's wellbeing. This is to facilitate safety for victims of abuse by acknowledging the harm they experienced. We firmly believe that unless we learn from mistakes of the past, we are doomed to repeat them.

It was a shock for the RASA board, when we were first informed that Time for Kids had been named in a Redress application. I am sure staff, clients, and organizational partners will also feel concerned about this news. My personal sadness is only steadied by the hope that through accountability for past abuse, victims will have access to support for healing and that together we can prevent future abuse.

Having joined the scheme, we will now participate in the Redress request for information processes that are designed to enable survivors to get access to the support they deserve.

If you'd like to know more about the Redress process you can make contact with us using the information provided at the end of this video. Thank you for listening.

