



The Uniting Church in Australia
NORTHERN SYNOD

Telephone: (08) 8982 3400
Fax: (08) 8982 3499
ABN: 64 423 343 545
2 Railway Street
PO Box 38221 Winnellie NT 0821
Telephone: (08) 89823 400

Ms Colleen Geyer
General Secretary
Uniting Church in Australia Assembly
PO Box A2266
Sydney South NSW 1235

26 October 2021

REDRESS MATTERS IN THE NORTHERN SYNOD

Dear Colleen,

This letter is to confirm the conversations we have had recently concerning Redress matters in the Northern Synod. As you are aware, the Northern Synod at our recent meeting passed the following resolution by consensus:

PROPOSAL 7.3.

Regarding Redress

That Synod expresses its concern in regard to some Redress payment claims that have been sent to the Northern Synod for which the Synod may not be responsible.

The Synod tasks the Synod General Secretary to:

- a) undertake further intentional conversation with the Assembly/UCA Redress regarding some of the Redress claims that have been sent to the Northern Synod for payment;*
- b) report to the Synod Standing Committee and the FAPS Committee as appropriate.*

The Northern Synod has joined and continues to support the national Uniting Church approach in response to institutional child sexual abuse and the Redress process to which the Synod is a party. However, the Synod has concerns that some payments being sent by the UCA Redress Ltd to the Northern Synod may not be the responsibility of the Northern Synod.

For example, some Redress claims relate to matters which occurred before 1977 and we believe these claims may be the responsibility of other parts of the UCA which are the successor organisations to the parties in question, rather than the Northern Synod, specifically, the Methodist Overseas Mission (MOM) work. Hence the need for further conversation with the Assembly/UCA Redress to provide clarity as to the Redress responsibilities of the Northern Synod.

I hope that this matter can be put before the ASC for consideration and an opportunity for discussion can be arranged with the appropriate parties.

Sincerely

Rev Dr Andrew Williams
General Secretary (Interim)
The Uniting Church in Australia -Northern Synod

I would like to acknowledge that I live and work on the traditional lands of the Larrakia people and pay my respects to all Elders past, present and future generations.