

Survivor Public Apology & Redress Committee (SPAR) Vision Statement and Principles of Commitment

This committee has been formed to provide strategic advice to ensure the Marist Brothers work with the interests of survivors at the heart of this process. The Marist Brothers are committed to understanding and acknowledging the needs of survivors that were harmed in their care. We hope to find the best way of offering an apology that will support those harmed in their care to move forward.

Our work will require us to be humble, show compassion, and profound respect for the bravery of those who experienced harm and to those who have shared their experiences. Our workplaces survivor needs and voices at its core. We pledge to listen deeply, acknowledge harm, and promote healing through responses that are both meaningful and enduring.

We affirm that listening to survivors is essential for healing and supporting them to move forward in as positive way as possible. We are dedicated to principles that ensure safety, prevent further harm, and build trust through ethical conduct, cultural sensitivity, and a survivor-first approach.

Our vision is to ensure that the apology is grounded in meaningful action. We are committed to developing and upholding a robust, accessible redress process as an essential part of moving forward with integrity.

We will advise the Marist Brothers on developing a survivor-focused apology that meaningfully supports those affected by abuse. Our advice will provide insights into key issues related to apology and redress, including engaging with survivors and their representative organisations, ensuring survivor voices are recognised and reflected in all aspects of the work, and co-designing solutions where appropriate.

To ensure maximum value from this relationship, it is essential that SPAR is involved from the early stages of advice, preparation and operational decision-making related to the apology and redress. Early engagement offers the best opportunity to deliver meaningful and impactful outcomes.

As members of the Committee, we agree with the following principles:

1. We acknowledge the significant abuse and cover ups by the Marist Brothers. They recognize these wrongs and are committed to making a public apology.
2. We pledge to respect one another and honour each other's experiences, no matter how they differ from our own.
3. We commit to transparency, fostering open communication between the committee, Survivors, Marist Brothers, and all those impacted by abuse.
4. Every intention, action, and word will be offered with dignity and care.
5. We will listen with compassion, offering empathy and understanding
6. We vow to honour the confidentiality of all, treating their stories with the utmost respect.
7. We take responsibility to ensure the committee remains a safe space for everyone.
8. We adopt sensitivity, supporting and recognizing our diversity in culture, experiences, backgrounds, and visions.
9. We are committed to holding the Marist Brothers to account to continue to do better in futures to come.