



Australian Government
Attorney-General's Department

MC18-010212

19 September 2018

Ms Elizabeth Stone
Level 7, 379 Kent Street
SYDNEY NSW 2000
estone@ncca.org.au

Dear Ms Stone

Thank you for your email of 11 September 2018 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, regarding the participation of Australia's National Church Leaders in the National Apology to Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (National Apology). Your email was referred to the Attorney-General, the Hon Christian Porter MP, as matters relating to the National Apology fall within his portfolio responsibilities. I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Attorney-General.

The National Apology will be delivered by the Prime Minister in the House of Representatives in Parliament House, Canberra, on Monday, 22 October 2018. A viewing of the National Apology will be held in the Great Hall in Parliament House. After the Apology, it is expected that the Prime Minister and Leader of the Opposition will address guests in the Great Hall.

The National Apology is a day for survivors, families and supporters. A national consultation process was undertaken by the National Apology Reference Group to reach out to survivors, their families and support persons, to inform the content of the National Apology and the delivery of the ceremony. These consultations made it clear that representatives from institutions, particularly those in official attire, risk traumatising survivors. Accordingly, institutions will not be invited to represent their institutions at the National Apology in Canberra.

Members of institutions who wish to attend Apology events in their personal capacity as a survivor, or as a support person to a survivor, are respectfully asked to not wear a uniform or any clothing that identifies their association with an institution.

It is a matter for individual institutions as to how they wish to mark this important occasion within their locality.

For further information on the National Apology please visit the National Apology website at www.nationalapologyconsultation.gov.au or call the National Apology Information Line on 1800 604 604 between 9:00am-5:00pm AEST.

I hope this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Byng', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Samantha Byng
Assistant Secretary A/g
Royal Commissions Branch
Attorney-General's Department