

FORUM FOR TRUTH AND RECOGNITION

TERMS OF REFERENCE

OBJECTIVES

- 1 The objectives of the Forum are to:
 - a) provide a state-wide forum that provides victim-survivors of historical child sexual abuse suffered at government school and certain non-government schools an opportunity to share their experiences in a safe environment, and in turn create an independent public record of their accounts;
 - b) support the individual and collective healing of affected victim-survivors;
 - c) contribute to a shared understanding, among all Victorians, of the significant and far-reaching impacts of historical child sexual abuse in Victorian schools; and
 - d) allow the Victorian Government to learn from the experiences and information shared, to better prevent and respond to child sexual abuse in government schools now and into the future.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- 2 The Forum is required to inquire into and report on the following terms of reference:
 - a) the experiences of victim-survivors of historical child sexual abuse who were abused by a relevant employee in any Victorian government school; and
 - b) the experiences of victim-survivors of historical child sexual abuse in a Victorian non-government school where the alleged perpetrator was previously a relevant employee of a Victorian government school and allegedly committed child sexual abuse while employed at that government school.
- 3 Consistently with the objectives of the inquiry, the Forum may make recommendations on the form of any restrictions to be placed upon public

access to the report and any records of the inquiry.

REPORTING

- 4 The Forum is required to deliver a report to the Premier of Victoria in May 2026.

RELEVANT DEFINITIONS

child means a person under 18 years of age;

government school has the same meaning as 'Government school' in the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* (Vic) but excludes schools that were attached to orphanages or group homes at the relevant time;

non-government school has the same meaning as 'non-Government school' in the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006* (Vic) but excludes schools that were attached to orphanages or group homes at the relevant time;

historical child sexual abuse means abuse of a child in a school by a relevant employee which occurred prior to 1 January 2000;

in a school means in a school context. Child sexual abuse happened in a school context if, for example:

- a) it happened on the premises of a school, where activities of that school took place, or in connection with the activities of that school; or
- b) it was engaged in by a relevant employee in circumstances (including circumstances involving settings not directly controlled by the school) where the Forum considers that the school had, or its activities had, created, facilitated, increased, or in any way contributed to (whether by act or omission) the risk of child sexual abuse or the circumstances or conditions giving rise to that risk.

relevant employee means:

- a) in relation to a government school, a teacher or other government school employee or contractor; or
- b) in relation to a non-government school, a teacher or other non-government school employee or contractor who was previously a relevant employee of a government school and allegedly committed child sexual abuse while at that government school;

victim-survivor means a person who is a victim of child sexual abuse:

- a) in government schools prior to 1 January 2000; or

- b) in a non-government school prior to 1 January 2000, where the alleged perpetrator was previously a relevant employee of a government school and allegedly committed child sexual abuse while at that government school.