

23 May 2023

Four Corners  
Australian Broadcasting Corporation  
PO BOX 9994  
ULTIMO NSW 2007

Thank you for your invitation to be interviewed on camera. I regret that as the matter remains before the court, I am only able to give you a written statement.

Scouts NSW acknowledges that Mr Barker was the victim of an inexcusable and abhorrent crime.

Our organisation has offered verbal and written apologies to Mr Barker and acknowledges the trauma he has suffered as a result.

We know our words cannot change the past, but we want to reassure Mr Barker and everyone watching your program that our primary focus is the safety and well-being of every child in Scouting. Our organisation has changed since the late 1970s and has put in place processes that educate our youth members to recognise and report inappropriate behaviour.

Scouts NSW co-operated fully with NSW Police at the time of investigation leading to a successful prosecution. At no stage have we disputed that the crimes occurred.

Scouts NSW actively encourages victims of child abuse to access the Federal Government's National Redress Scheme, which helps people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse gain access to counselling, a direct personal response, and a Redress payment.

Scouts NSW has actively engaged with Mr Barker in attempts to resolve his civil claim. Unfortunately, those attempts to mediate failed and, subsequently, the Court determined that Scouts NSW would not be able to respond to the claim as it was put by Mr Barker.

The Court's determination is subject to appeal and the issue of costs will be revisited by the Court as part of the appeal.

Yours sincerely,



Carolyn Campbell  
Chief Executive Officer  
Scouts NSW



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Member of the World  
Organization of the  
Scout Movement