

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

Engaging with the Royal Commission



Free advice line 1800 605 762 | Website knowmore.org.au

There are different ways you can talk to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and assist its investigations. For example, you might be able to:

- give a written statement
- attend a private session with a Commissioner (if you are already registered)

If you are unsure what to do or if you want more information or help, you can contact knowmore.

What is the Royal Commission about?

The Royal Commission is looking into Australian institutions: how child sexual abuse happened 'on their watch' and whether they responded the best they could.

What will the Royal Commission do?

The Royal Commission will hear from people who experienced child sexual abuse in institutions and will call witnesses, like organisations and survivors, to give evidence in public hearings. If you want to know more, you can read knowmore's factsheet About the Royal Commission.

How do I let the Royal Commission know I want to tell my story?

You can register your interest with the Royal Commission. You can do this by:

Phone 1800 099 340
Post GPO Box 5283
Sydney NSW 2001
By email contact@childabuse.royalcommission.gov.au.

How will the Royal Commission hear my story?

There are a number of ways you can tell your story to the Royal Commission.

You could make a written or oral statement, or speak to a Commissioner in a private session if you were registered before 30 September 2016.

Written statements

You can write down or type what you want to tell the Royal Commission and then send it to them.

This must be sent by 15 November 2017. You don't have to put your name on a statement, but you should say in your statement that you don't want to give your name.

You can get some help with writing statements. The Royal Commission has guidelines on its website at

www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au and knowmore has a factsheet called *Writing Statements – How do I prepare a statement to give to the Royal Commission?*

You can also contact knowmore for further help.

Private Sessions (if you are already registered)

In a private session, you will tell your story to one or two Commissioners. There is no-one there from the institution you are talking about. The Commissioners may ask you some questions. You cannot have a lawyer represent you but you can have a support person present with you.

The information you give in a private session is not evidence before the Royal Commission and cannot be used in other civil or criminal proceedings. The information you provide to the Royal Commission will be kept confidential unless you agree to it being made public. The exception to this is where there is a risk of harm to someone.

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www.knowmore.org.au
Email info@knowmore.org.au

Can I get into trouble for telling my story?

If you are concerned about the Royal Commission passing on your information to law enforcement agencies or concerned about getting into trouble for talking to the Royal Commission, then you should get some legal advice about what to do.

You can contact **knowmore** for legal help.

More information

You can contact **knowmore** for more information about how the Royal Commission can use your story; financial assistance for a lawyer to represent you at an interview or hearing; compensation options; and support services to help you.

Contact knowmore

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