

# Can I get compensation?

## Northern Territory

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Free advice line 1800 605 762 | Website [knowmore.org.au](http://knowmore.org.au)

**If you have been injured in a violent act, including if you survived childhood sexual abuse, you may be able to get compensation. You might want compensation to recognise the wrongdoing done to you and to recover money you've paid or will need to pay to help you get better.**

**You might be able to get compensation by:**

- making an application for financial assistance
- making an application for restitution or compensation with a court
- taking legal action against the person and/or institution responsible for your injuries (civil claims)
- applying to an institutional redress scheme
- from 2018 through the Redress Scheme.

**It is important that you get legal advice about the best option, so contact *knowmore***

### What is an application for financial assistance?

Financial assistance is available to victims of crime to help them with expenses and recovery from injury.

### Can I make an application?

If you've been injured in a violent crime, you may be able to apply for financial assistance and other support, such as counselling services.

You may also be able to make an application if you saw someone else being injured or if you suffered an injury upon discovering that your child was injured in a crime.

### What support can I get?

If you were injured, you can make an application for financial assistance to help you cover the costs of medical treatment, damage to clothing and other things from when you were injured.

If you were working at the time of the injury, you may also be able to get some help for lost wages.

You may also be able to get some money to recognise the wrongdoing done to you.

### How long do I have to make a claim?

Usually you have two years from when you were injured or from when the crime took place to make an application for compensation.

If it has been longer than this, you can still make an application, but you need to explain your delay in applying.

You should get some legal advice to see whether you can make a claim, so contact knowmore for legal help.

### How do I make an application?

You can make an application by filling in a form and sending it to the Crime Victim Services Unit.

You will need to include specific evidence with your application, so contact knowmore for some legal help.

### Can I get counselling?

Yes, any victim of a violent crime can get counselling. You can contact knowmore or call the Crime Victim Services Unit on 1800 460 363 to discuss your situation.

### Does someone have to be charged?

No, the person who injured you does not have to be charged for you to get financial assistance.

### Do I have to have made a report to the Police?

Usually you will need to report the crime to police to get financial assistance. You might not need to do this if you have good reasons.

### Will the person who injured me find out?

They might. Sometimes the criminal is given a copy of your application and a chance to respond to it.

If you are worried about the person finding out, contact **knowmore** for help.

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### Will I have to go to Court?

No, because the decision about whether you can receive financial assistance is made only on your written application and evidence.

### What is an application for Crimes Compensation?

If the person who injured you has been found guilty of the crime, you may be able to make an application for crimes compensation with the court that convicted them.

An application can only be made at the time the person is being sentenced, and is usually made by the prosecutor.

### Taking legal action against the person or institution (civil claims)

You might be able to sue the person and/or institution responsible for your injuries in the civil courts. These claims are often called “civil claims”.

### How long do I have to make a civil claim?

If you experienced Child abuse in the Northern Territory, there is now no time limit for making a civil claim. “Child abuse” can mean serious physical or sexual abuse or psychological abuse arising out of the physical or sexual abuse suffered.

If you have already made a claim and a judgement or settlement was made on the ground of a limitation period, then you are allowed to bring another civil claim forward.

Civil claims are very complicated and you should get a lawyer to help you with the claim.

**knowmore** can help you find lawyers who are experienced with childhood sexual abuse claims.

### What is an institutional redress scheme?

Some institutions like the Catholic Church might accept complaints about physical, emotional and sexual abuse committed by their staff.

These complaints go through what is often called an “institutional redress scheme”. Sometimes these schemes will pay compensation and provide other support, such as counselling.

These schemes are very different to the options already talked about. If you would like to know more about them and whether one is available to you, contact **knowmore**.

### Redress Scheme

The Australian Government is establishing a Redress Scheme for survivors of institutional childhood sexual abuse. Subject to the passage of the legislation, the scheme will be open for applications from July 1 2018. A telephone information line and dedicated website will be available soon. The Northern Territory Government is being encouraged to ‘opt in’ to the scheme. The scheme will be open for applications once the law setting up the scheme has been passed. It is hoped the scheme will start in July 2018.

**More information is available at**

[www.dss.gov.au/redress](http://www.dss.gov.au/redress)

**or by phoning the**

**National Redress Information Line –  
1800 146 713**

### Contact knowmore

Free advice line 1800 605 762

[www.knowmore.org.au](http://www.knowmore.org.au)

Email [info@knowmore.org.au](mailto:info@knowmore.org.au)

#### Brisbane

Suite 1, Level 16, 141 Queen St,  
Brisbane QLD 4000  
PO Box 2151, Brisbane QLD 4001  
t 07 3218 4500  
f 07 3218 4590

#### Sydney

Suite G02, Ground Floor,  
233 Castlereagh St, Sydney NSW 2000  
PO Box 20319, World Square NSW 2002  
t 02 8267 7400  
f 02 8267 7490

#### Melbourne

Level 1, 180 Flinders St,  
Melbourne 3000  
PO Box 84, Flinders Lane VIC 8009  
t 03 8663 7400  
f 03 8663 7490

**knowmore** is a program of National Association of Community Legal Centres ABN 67 757 001 303 ACN 163 101 737.

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