

Can I Get Compensation? Australian Capital Territory

If you were sexually abused as a child, you may be able to get compensation. Compensation can recognise the wrong done to you and help you to recover money.

What are my compensation options?

In the Australian Capital Territory, the compensation options for survivors of childhood sexual abuse may include:

- the National Redress Scheme
- a civil claim
- Victim Support
- an institutional redress scheme
- a criminal court reparation order.

How knowmore can help

It is important that you get legal advice. knowmore can give you more information and help you work out your options for compensation.

Please contact knowmore on 1800 605 762 for free legal advice.

National Redress Scheme

The Australian Government established the National Redress Scheme for survivors of institutional childhood sexual abuse that occurred prior to 1 July 2018.

The scheme is accepting applications until 30 June 2027. You can find more information or request a form by calling 1800 737 377 or visiting www.nationalredress.gov.au.

Civil claims

A civil claim is where you 'sue' the person and/or institution responsible for your injuries. There is no time limit for making a civil claim for child sexual abuse in the Australian Capital Territory.

Civil claims are complicated and knowmore can help you find a lawyer to advise you.

Victim Support

You may be eligible to receive victim support, including payments and access to services.

When an act of violence happened to you as a child, you have until the day you turn 21 to apply for financial assistance. However you can ask the Victims of Crime Commissioner if you can apply after this; you would have to say why you were not able to apply within the time limit.

You can find more information by calling Victim Support ACT on 1800 822 272 or visiting www.victimsupport.act.gov.au.

Institutional redress scheme

Some institutions offer a type of compensation for abuse committed by their staff via an 'institutional redress scheme'.

These schemes may make a payment and provide other support, such as counselling.

Criminal court reparation order

If the offender is charged and they are found guilty of an offence, the court may order the offender to pay you money or make reparation in another way.

A prosecutor from the Director of Public Prosecutions can ask for a reparation order before the court sentences the offender. Let the prosecutor know if you want a reparation order.

With all of these options it is important to seek legal advice.

Please call knowmore on 1800 605 762 or email info@knowmore.org.au

* Disclaimer: The information provided in this fact sheet is for information only. It must not be relied on as legal advice. You should seek legal advice about your own particular circumstances. | Last updated March 2024
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