

# Can I Get Compensation? Australian Capital Territory

If you experienced childhood sexual abuse, you may be able to get compensation. Compensation can recognise the wrongdoing 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:

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

It is important that you get legal advice. Please contact knowmore for free legal advice on 1800 605 762.

## Victim support

You may be eligible to receive victim support, including payments and access to services. Usually you have 3 years from when an act of violence happened to apply for financial assistance. If you were under 18 when the act of violence happened, you have until the day you turn 21 to apply. You might be able to apply after this.

You can find more information by calling Victim Support ACT on 1800 822 272 or visiting [www.victimsupport.act.gov.au](http://www.victimsupport.act.gov.au).

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## Criminal court reparation order

If there is a criminal prosecution against the person responsible for what happened to you, and they are found guilty of an offence, the court may make an order for them to pay you money or make amends for what happened in another way.

A prosecutor from the Director of Public Prosecutions can ask for a reparation order before the court sentences the person responsible for what happened. Let the criminal prosecutor know if you want a reparation order.

## 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 with relevant experience.

## 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.

Please contact knowmore for more information.

## 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](http://www.nationalredress.gov.au).

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