

Applying for redress for people in jail and people with serious criminal convictions

This fact sheet helps people currently in jail and people convicted of serious criminal offences understand the National Redress Scheme (NRS). knowmore can provide free legal advice about the NRS.

What is the National Redress Scheme?

The National Redress Scheme (NRS) was established by the Australian Government following the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The NRS:

- acknowledges that many children were sexually abused in Australian institutions
- holds institutions accountable for this abuse
- helps people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse gain access to justice and redress

The NRS can provide:

- a payment of up to \$150,000 depending on each survivor's experiences
- counselling and other support services
- a direct personal response from the institution (e.g. an apology)

Can a person in jail make an NRS application?

People currently in jail cannot make an application for redress **unless** there are exceptional circumstances. The NRS will assess whether exceptional circumstances exist when the person is either:

- likely to be too ill to complete the application process after release
- expected to be in jail until after the Scheme stops accepting applications on 30 June 2027

'Jail' includes a prison, youth training centre, remand, or community correction centre.

An NRS application requires confidential information and a jail may not be a safe space to complete an application.

People who have received a prison sentence of 5 years or more

A person who has received a prison sentence of 5 years or more for a single criminal offence can still apply for redress, but their application will be processed differently.

The NRS will seek further information from the applicant and also advice from the Attorneys-General of the jurisdictions where the abuse occurred and where the person was convicted. The NRS will then make a decision about whether or not the person can receive redress.

Are there other compensation options?

While in jail a person may be able to file a civil claim for damages for injury and loss arising from the sexual abuse they suffered. An experienced personal injury lawyer can provide advice about this.

Lawyers may offer to represent people in these kinds of claims on a 'no win, no fee' basis. This means the lawyer will only get paid if compensation is awarded.

knowmore can provide free advice about options and refer survivors to personal injury lawyers.

About knowmore

knowmore is a free legal service funded by the Commonwealth Government to help survivors of institutional child sexual abuse.

How to contact knowmore

- Visit: www.knowmore.org.au
- Free call: 1800 605 762
- Email: info@knowmore.org.au
- By mail: See postal addresses below

If the survivor has difficulties with reading or writing, they can ask offender development or prison support services to contact us to discuss alternative arrangements.

People who expect to be released from jail before 30 June 2027 and want to make an NRS application, should contact knowmore on 1800 605 762 after they are released. People can contact knowmore while in jail for free advice on other compensation options.

More help

More information about the National Redress Scheme and other support services can be found by phoning 1800 737 377 or visiting www.nationalredress.gov.au.

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