

The National Redress Scheme

For people in gaol or people who have been sentenced to a prison term of 5+ years

What is the National Redress Scheme?

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

The Scheme acknowledges that many children were sexually abused in Australian institutions, holds institutions accountable for this abuse, and helps people who have experienced this abuse gain access to justice and redress.

The Scheme offers eligible survivors of institutional child sexual abuse a limited monetary payment, counselling and psychological support, and a direct personal response from the institution/s.

Can a person in gaol apply?

In most cases people in gaol cannot make an application for redress. However applications can be made if any of the following apply:

- They are so ill that they will not be able to make an application for redress or respond to a request for information after being released from gaol
- They are expected to remain in custody after 1 July 2027, which is the closing date for applications
- They meet "exceptional circumstances" decided by the National Redress Scheme Operator with reference to advice provided by the relevant Attorney-General or their nominated representative and any other matters considered relevant.

Sentences of 5 years or more

A person who has been convicted of a crime in Australia or overseas and sentenced to 5 years or more imprisonment can still apply for redress, however they will be asked to provide extra details about the nature of the offence, the sentence, and rehabilitation.

The application will then be reviewed by the Attorney-General in the state or territory where the sexual abuse occurred, the Attorney-General in the state or territory where the applicant was convicted of the offence and sentenced, and/or by the Commonwealth Attorney-General if the offence and sentencing occurred overseas.

The National Redress Scheme's Operator will consider the advice received and then take into account the following:

- Community expectations, the nature of the offence and length of imprisonment, period of time since the offence was committed and rehabilitation since then, and any other relevant information.
- Whether providing redress to that person under the scheme would bring the scheme into disrepute or adversely affect public confidence in, or support for, the scheme.

If the application is accepted, the Independent Decision Maker from the National Redress Scheme will then make an assessment as to the amount of redress to be paid.

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

Other compensation options

If you are in prison or have been sentenced to a prison term of 5+ years there may be another option available to you.

Instead of applying for redress, you may be able to file a civil claim for damages for injury and loss arising from the sexual abuse you experienced.

People in prison can get legal advice from an experienced personal injury lawyer about a civil claim. The lawyer may be able to negotiate a settlement with the institution responsible for the abuse.

Generally lawyers will offer to represent people in these kinds of claims on a 'no win, no fee' basis. This means that the lawyer would not charge you upfront for their work. If you have a successful outcome the lawyer will take their fee from the compensation you are awarded.

knowmore lawyers can advise you on whether this might be right for you, and can refer you to a personal injury lawyer.

About knowmore

knowmore is a free legal service funded by the Commonwealth Government to help survivors of institutional child sexual abuse by providing information and advice about the options available to them.

These options include claims under the redress scheme, access to compensation through other schemes or common law rights and claims.

If you decide to make a claim under the National Redress Scheme, knowmore can assist and represent you through that process.

How to contact knowmore

Visit: www.knowmore.org.au

Free call: **1800 605 762**

Email: info@knowmore.org.au

By mail:

SYDNEY
PO Box 267,
Darlinghurst, NSW 2010

MELBOURNE
PO Box 504,
Collins St West, VIC 8007

BRISBANE:
PO Box 2151,
Brisbane, QLD 4001

PERTH:
PO Box 7072
Cloisters Square, WA 6850

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

If the survivor is expected to be released before 1 July 2027, they can contact knowmore on 1800 605 762 after they are released.

More information

More support services and more information about the National Redress Scheme can be found at www.nationalredress.gov.au or by phoning **1800 737 37**

Brisbane

Level 20, 144 Edward Street
Brisbane QLD 4000
t 07 3218 4500

Melbourne

Level 15, 607 Bourke Street
Melbourne VIC 3000
t 03 8663 7400

Sydney

Level 7, 26 College Street
Sydney NSW 2000
t 02 8267 7400

Perth

Level 5, 5 Mill Street
Perth WA 6000
t: 08 6117 7244