

The National Redress Scheme

How knowmore can help

knowmore provides free legal advice and support to survivors of institutional child sexual abuse. We can help you consider your options about compensation, redress and other legal issues. We're here to help you and act in your interest.

About the National Redress Scheme

The National Redress Scheme was established by the Australian Government in response to one of the key recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The National Redress 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 can offer:

- a monetary payment up to \$150,000 – noting the average payment will be around \$76,000 and past payments for the abuse will be taken into account
- counselling and psychological support – noting access to these services will depend on where you live; if there are no scheme services where you live, you will receive a payment up to \$5000
- a direct personal response from the responsible institution/s, if you want that

What is the payment for?

It is important to remember that a payment under the National Redress Scheme is not 'common law' damages.

The redress payment will not include any amount for loss of income or pain and suffering. Its purpose is to recognise and acknowledge the impact of institutional child sexual abuse and related abuse on you.

Who can apply?

Eligible survivors of institutional child sexual abuse can apply for redress if the responsible institution has joined the scheme.

All of the States and Territories and key non-government institutions such as the Catholic, Anglican and Uniting Churches, Salvation Army, YMCA and Scouts have agreed to join the scheme.

You can check the list of participating institutions at www.nationalredress.gov.au or by calling the National Redress Line on **1800 737 377**.

The Scheme began on 1 July 2018 and will remain open for 10 years. Applications can be made any time before 30 June 2027.

How knowmore can help

knowmore will give you information and free legal advice about your options. We can help you to:

- apply for compensation or other forms of action and redress
- lodge complaints with police, find old records and understand legal processes
- connect with specialist counselling and support services

If you decide to make a claim under the National Redress Scheme, we can help you with your application and support you through the process.

If we can't help, we'll refer you to a service that can.

Why it's important to get the right advice

For many people, making an application for redress will be the right thing to do. However, it is important to remember that at the end of the process you will be asked to sign a Statutory Release.

By signing this release, you will not be able to continue or to commence any civil or common law proceedings against the responsible institution.

This is an important right that is being given up.

knowmore lawyers can give you advice about the release and about any other legal options that you might have.

Who is knowmore?

knowmore is a legal service funded by the Australian Government to provide free advice, assistance, information and referral for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse.

knowmore's specialist staff

We're a team of lawyers, counsellors/social workers, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement advisors – all experienced and trained in working with survivors of sexual abuse and people who have experienced trauma.

We deliver free services from our offices in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney and make regular visits to other states and territories.

You can speak to our specialist counsellors/social workers via a free phone call or face to face. They'll help you to access our legal services and provide you with support along the way.

How to contact knowmore

Visit: www.knowmore.org.au

Free call: 1800 605 762

Email: info@knowmore.org.au

More help

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