

Civil claim or National Redress Scheme?

If you already have a lawyer helping you with a civil claim, you may want to consider whether to continue with that claim or apply to the National Redress Scheme (NRS) instead.

Asking questions can help you decide the best option for you.

Questions to ask your civil lawyer about your civil claim

- Have you signed a costs agreement? (See box below)
 - How long until your civil claim is finished?
 - Have you got a strong claim?
 - How much money might you get at the end of your claim after legal costs and other fees? Will this be more than what you might get from the NRS?
 - What needs to happen between now and the end of your civil claim? For example:
 - Will you have to get medical reports? How much will this cost you?
 - Will you have to provide more information, for example about your work history or any medical treatment you have had?
 - Will you have to speak at a settlement conference with the institution?
 - Will you have to give evidence in court?
- Can you apply under the NRS and continue with your civil claim at the same time?
 - Can you get an apology?
 - If you decide to apply under the NRS instead of continuing with your civil claim, will you owe your civil lawyer any money? How much?
 - If you will owe your civil lawyer money, will they need this to be paid before they give any documents from your file to your new lawyer or knowmore?
 - What option does your civil lawyer think will be best for you?

WHAT IS A 'COSTS AGREEMENT'?

This is the legal document you sign when a civil lawyer takes on your civil claim. It might also be called a 'no win – no fee' or 'conditional' agreement. This is an important document. Ask your lawyer for a copy if you don't have it.

- When you sign this document you agree to pay your lawyer their fees and other costs at the end of your claim. These fees and costs would be taken out of any money you receive from your claim.
- Your agreement might say that you have to pay the legal fees if you get a 'successful outcome'. This might mean that even if you stop your civil claim and apply for redress, you still have to pay the legal fees if you receive a payment from the NRS.

How knowmore can help

We can help you:

- understand your options for compensation
- make a decision about which is the best choice for you
- make an application under the (NRS).
- understand your costs agreement and explain what you might have to pay your civil lawyer if you choose to make a redress application instead of continuing with a civil claim.

	CIVIL CLAIM	NATIONAL REDRESS SCHEME
How much can I receive?	In some states/territories there is no limit to what you may receive. Payments under a civil claim can be much greater than a payment under the NRS.	Up to \$150,000, the average payment is \$81,000.
How much will it cost me?	You will probably have to pay lawyers' fees and other costs out of any settlement money you receive	No charge if knowmore assists you or if you lodge the application yourself
Will I have to go to court?	Maybe, if your claim is not settled out of court	No, a decision is made based on your paper application
How long will it take?	Some claims can settle quickly, however some may take years	Approximately 12 months for the National Redress Scheme to make a decision

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