

# Applying for redress for people under 18

**This fact sheet helps people who are under 18 understand whether they can apply for 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 people who are under 18 apply for redress?

A person under 18 can apply for redress under the National Redress Scheme (NRS). However, they can't make a decision about an offer until they have turned 18. This is to make sure they are old enough to fully understand the consequences of the decision.

The NRS will stop accepting applications after 30 June 2027 unless the special process applies.

Your options are different depending on if you were born, before or after 30 June 2010.

## People born after 30 June 2010

Anyone born after 30 June 2010 is not eligible to apply for the NRS. They will not turn 18 in time to make a decision about accepting an offer. There may be other compensation options available. For information about these options, please contact knowmore.

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**knowmore** free legal help  
for survivors

1800 605 762 | [knowmore.org.au](https://knowmore.org.au)

Image inspired by original artwork by Ngunawal man Dean Bell, depicting knowmore's connection to the towns, cities, missions and settlements within Australia.

knowmore acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the lands and waters across Australia upon which we live and work. We pay our deep respects to Elders past and present for their ongoing leadership and advocacy.

## People born on or before 30 June 2010

People born on or before 30 June 2010 are eligible to apply to the NRS if they experienced the sexual abuse before 1 July 2018. There is a **'special process'** for these applications.

If a person is 17 years and 8 months or older when making an application, their application will be processed as if they were an adult.

### What is the 'special process'?

The NRS will do a 'preliminary assessment' of the application before a survivor turns 18.

The survivor and the institution(s) are told the outcome of the preliminary assessment. This indicates whether the survivor may be eligible for redress after turning 18, and estimates any possible payment. This is not the same as a formal offer.

People should get legal advice and financial counselling at this point to help them understand their options. For free legal advice, please contact knowmore.

The NRS will make a final decision on the application soon after the person turns 18. If there is an offer of redress, it may be different to the estimate in the preliminary assessment.

## Can young people apply towards the end of the NRS?

If a survivor is eligible for the special process they can apply after 30 June 2027, but before the NRS shutdowns on 30 June 2028. However, if you apply after 30 June 2027 the NRS might not have enough time to process the application.

Applying to the NRS early will give the NRS time to consider their application. People should apply to the NRS as early as possible.

We strongly recommend that people who will turn 18 in the 12 months before the NRS shuts down get legal advice. Please contact knowmore for free legal advice.

## Other compensation options

A person under 18 may be able to file a civil claim for damages for injury and loss arising from the sexual abuse they suffered. An experienced civil lawyer can provide advice about this. knowmore can provide free advice and refer survivors to a civil lawyer.

## About knowmore

knowmore provides free and independent legal advice and support for survivors of child sexual abuse.

## How to contact knowmore

- Visit: [www.knowmore.org.au](http://www.knowmore.org.au)
- Free call: 1800 605 762
- Email: [info@knowmore.org.au](mailto:info@knowmore.org.au)

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