

Access to the National Redress Scheme for people under 18

Can people who are under 18 apply for redress?

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

Applications to the Scheme close on 30 June 2027. The Scheme will shut down and not make any more offers of redress after 30 June 2028. This means that the options available to a person who is currently under 18 depend on when they were born.

People born after 30 June 2010

These young people are not eligible to apply for redress from the Scheme. This is because they will not turn 18 in time to make a decision about accepting an offer before the Scheme shuts down. For these young people, there may be other options such as victims of crime compensation, or legal action. For information about these options, please contact knowmore.

People born on or before 30 June 2010

These young people are eligible to apply for redress, if they experienced the relevant abuse before 1 July 2018. But a special process applies. They may apply to the Scheme but the Scheme will only make a final decision about their application after they turn 18. In the meantime, they can contact knowmore for free legal advice.

What is the process for young people who are currently under 18 (born on or before 30 June 2010)?

1. They complete and lodge an application using the **[National Redress Scheme Application Form](#)**. If they are 17 years and 8 months or older when they apply, their application will be processed as if they were an adult. If they are younger than 17 years and 8 months, the special process below will be followed.
2. The Scheme will do a 'preliminary assessment' of the application. At this point, the Scheme will request information from the relevant institution(s). This prevents records being lost or destroyed.
3. They and the institution(s) are told the outcome of the preliminary assessment. This indicates whether they may be eligible for redress after turning 18, and estimates any possible payment. [This is not the same as a formal offer.](#)
4. They should get legal advice at this point to decide whether to wait for redress or consider other options. For free legal advice, they can contact knowmore.
5. Between three and six months before they turn 18, the Scheme will contact them to remind them that a decision on their application will be made soon after their birthday. They will be given the chance to provide more information if they wish.
6. The Scheme will make a final decision on the application soon after they turn 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 Scheme?

The Scheme will shut down on 30 June 2028. If a young person wants to apply in the 12 months before the scheme shuts down, they will need special permission. They will need to show there were special reasons ('exceptional circumstances') that meant they could not apply earlier.

We strongly recommend that young people who will turn 18 in the 12 months before the Scheme shuts down apply as soon as possible. This will ensure the Scheme has time to consider their application.

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