

National Redress Scheme \$10,000 advance payment

Some people applying for a National Redress Scheme (NRS) Payment are eligible for a \$10,000 advance payment. This fact sheet will help you understand how these payments may affect you.

Eligibility

Some NRS applicants are now eligible for a \$10,000 advance payment. An advance payment may be available for you if you have applied for the NRS and you:

- are terminally ill
- are aged 70 years or over
- are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and 55 years of age or over
- have exceptional circumstances that justify the payment (to be determined by the scheme on a case by case basis).

Risks

An advance payment will need to be repaid if:

- you withdraw your NRS application
- you do not accept the final offer
- you provide false information on your application.

You should consider this before accepting an offer.

How to access the advance

You will be contacted by the NRS with an offer of an advance payment if you are eligible.

knowmore offers free financial counselling and legal advice for people considering accepting an advance payment offer.

It is important to understand your legal rights and risks to work out if this is the best option for you.

It is important to speak with a financial counsellor about your advance payment, especially if you have debts or receive a Centrelink payment.

Contact knowmore on 1800 605 762.

Other things to be aware of

The advance payment has protections and obligations similar to a full NRS payment. Please see the knowmore factsheet '*Things to consider if you receive a National Redress Scheme payment*'.

- Applicants are not able to apply for an advance payment. The NRS will contact you if you are eligible.
- If you believe you are eligible for exceptional circumstance, you can provide this information to the scheme. You can talk to a knowmore financial counsellor about this.
- If you accept an advance payment, the \$10,000 will be taken off any final offer.
- If the final offer is less than \$10,000 (or nil), you will not need to repay the advance payment.
- You may be eligible for the advance payment even if the institution named in your application has not joined the scheme or it no longer exists.
- Accepting a final offer from the Scheme involves giving up your right to proceed with a civil claim against the responsible institution(s). This does not apply to accepting an advance payment. You should seek legal advice before accepting an offer.

Bank Account

You will need to provide a bank account to have your advance payment paid to. We recommend opening a new bank account in your own name.

You will need to provide some proof that the account is in your name but the NRS does not need to see the account balance or transactions.

How long will it take?

Once you have signed to accept the advance payment and included your bank account details, you will need to send the paperwork back to the NRS.

It can take some weeks for the money to be put into your account.

**** Disclaimer:** The information provided in this fact sheet is for information only. It must not be relied on as legal advice. You should seek legal advice about your own particular circumstances. | Last updated September 2023
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