

Can I get compensation? Victoria

If you were sexually abused as a child, you may be able to get compensation. Compensation can recognise the wrong done to you and help you to recover money.

What are my compensation options?

In Victoria, the compensation options for survivors of childhood sexual abuse may include:

- the National Redress Scheme
- a civil claim
- Victims of Crime Assistance
- an institutional redress scheme
- criminal court compensation.

How knowmore can help

It is important that you get legal advice. knowmore can give you more information and help you work out your options for compensation.

Please contact knowmore on 1800 605 762 for free legal advice.

National Redress Scheme

The Australian Government established the National Redress Scheme for survivors of institutional childhood sexual abuse that occurred prior to 1 July 2018.

The scheme is accepting applications until 30 June 2027. You can find more information or request a form by calling 1800 737 377 or visiting www.nationalredress.gov.au

Civil claims

A civil claim is where you 'sue' the person and/or institution responsible for your injuries. There is no time limit for making a civil claim for child sexual abuse in Victoria.

Civil claims are complicated and knowmore can help you find a lawyer to advise you.

Victims of Crime Assistance

You may be eligible to receive victims of crime assistance. Usually you have 2 years from when the act of violence happened. In some circumstances, this time limit can be extended. There is no time limit to make an application for physical or sexual abuse that happened when you were under 18.

You can find more information by calling the Victims of Crime Helpline on 1800 819 817 or visiting the Victims of Crime Assistance Tribunal website at www.vocat.vic.gov.au

Institutional redress scheme

Some institutions offer a type of compensation for abuse committed by their staff via an 'institutional redress scheme'. These schemes may make a payment and provide other support, such as counselling.

Criminal court compensation

If the offender is charged and they are found guilty of an offence, the court may make an order for the offender to pay you compensation. The prosecutor (the police or the Office of Public Prosecutions) would claim for you. Usually a claim must be made within 12 months of the offender being sentenced.

With all of these options it is important to seek legal advice.

Please call knowmore on 1800 605 762 or email info@knowmore.org.au

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