

Can I get compensation? Victoria

If you experienced childhood sexual abuse, you may be able to get compensation. Compensation can recognise the wrongdoing 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:

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

It is important that you get legal advice. Please contact knowmore on 1800 605 762 for free legal advice.

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.

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Criminal court compensation

If there is a criminal prosecution against the person responsible for what happened to you and they are found guilty of an offence, the court may make an order for them to pay you compensation. Applications must usually be made within 12 months from when the offender is found guilty. Please contact knowmore for legal advice.

knowmore free legal help
for survivors

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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.

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 with relevant experience.

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.

Please contact knowmore for more information.

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.

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