

### CEO Update.

Welcome to our first edition for 2026. With your continued support, Knowmore remains committed to increasing awareness of free pathways to justice for survivors of childhood sexual abuse and for survivors of the Stolen Generations. Every survivor who reaches Knowmore has already carried the weight of trauma for years, often decades, and too many people still do not realise that support is available to them.

Child sexual abuse can occur in many settings, including within families, online, and in other situations where an adult holds power over a child. Survivors do not need to have experienced abuse in an institution to seek help. In this edition, we share more about the different pathways to justice available and the barriers that still prevent many survivors from accessing them.

The Western Australian Stolen Generations Redress Scheme opened for applications on 10 November 2025. While this is an important step forward, we are concerned by early reports of scammers targeting survivors and demanding upfront fees. Applying for the WA Stolen Generations Redress Scheme, as well as the Territories Stolen Generations Scheme and the National Redress Scheme, is free. No one should ever be charged to apply. We encourage you to read the related article in



this edition and to share this information widely within your communities and networks.

In December, the Knowmore team met with members of the Federal Government's Joint Standing Committee overseeing the implementation of the National Redress Scheme. Our feature article reflects what survivors are telling us about their experiences and what is needed as the Scheme enters its final years.

As demand for Knowmore's services continues to grow, ongoing funding uncertainty highlights the importance of strong community awareness and advocacy. Survivors deserve our very best, and your support helps make that possible. You can support this work by sharing this newsletter, by following Knowmore on social media, and by passing trusted information on to others.

**Jackie Mead**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Knowmore Legal Service

# Yarning with Aunty - Knowmore's Elder in Residence

Written by Jason Lawler (Gumbayngirr)



Aunty Glendra (Gallindurra) Stubbs is a Wiradjuri woman. Her mob originates from the Mudgee/Dubbo and Narrandera area.

In December of 2025, Knowmore worked alongside Kinchela Boys Home Aboriginal Corporation to host a screening of 'Genocide in the Wildflower State' – A documentary developed by Jim Morrison and Yokai Stolen Generations Aboriginal Corporation.

The film focused upon the Stolen Generations of Western Australia, missions and reservation land- presenting a protracted timeline and first-hand lived experience of those most effected yet brave enough to come forward to tell their stories.

The screening, held at NCIE in Redfern, was concluded with a Q and A with the Yokai Aboriginal Corporation.

At one point, Aunty Glendra stood up, reminding the audience of the importance of Dr Jim and his colleagues' work- reinforcing that there's still work to be done.

*"Sorry means it doesn't happen again. Those dates [in reference to certain missions being shut in the late 70's] shows these policies went on for too long. They're still going on today, now in the out-of-home care system".*

*"50-percent of our kids in NSW are in the*

*system... we are not bad parents, yet we're still labelled just like we were then".*

Aunty Glendra and Dr Jim Morrison, chair of Yokai and a Minang-Goreng Noongar Elder, initially met in 2007 as representatives of their respective states for a body developed for the eventual Apology to Australia's Indigenous Peoples to the Stolen Generations.

The work of Dr Jim and the Yokai Aboriginal Corporation is inspiring and goes well beyond this film. They, along with other Aboriginal organisations such as Yorgum Healing Services, have contributed immensely to the development of the Western Australia Stolen Generations Redress Scheme which opened in November 2025.

Despite the ongoing challenges facing Indigenous communities, Dr Jim, Aunty Glendra and others continue to work towards confronting inter-generational traumas.

This year, as an Order of Australia ambassador, Aunty Glendra has the honour of speaking to and meeting the community of Warialda, NSW. Warialda, a town located in the Northwest Slopes region of NSW, 90 minutes from Glen Innes.

Akin to last year's ambassador trip to Coonamble, Aunty Glendra would prefer to go to *"the towns that need it most- other ambassadors may prefer to go to the coast or the big cities, but I prefer to visit those most in need"*.

*"I choose these places to put my hands in the red dirt. When I put my hands in the red dirt, I feel that I'm home- my heart sings, and this is reinforced when the community shows up with warmth and welcome"*.

Australia Day means many things to Aunty

Glendra- whilst such a day holds place as one of mourning or invasion to Aboriginal communities, to her it also embodies survival and walking together towards a collective future as a nation.

*"I think what makes us unique is that people from all over the world choose to come here and are welcomed with open arms. We share our knowledge with each other, crossing cultural barriers".*

*"When I was in Coonamble, there were migrants who had children- children born in Australia. It was amazing to see the lives created here in Australia".*

As someone who has travelled the world, Aunty Glendra still finds Australia to be the best country in the world, with its support for the vulnerable and uplifting of those in need in times of crisis and disaster.



## Why Shame Doesn't Belong to Victim Survivors

For many survivors of childhood sexual abuse, speaking out can take years, sometimes a lifetime. The shame, stigma, and fear of not being believed can keep stories locked away, even from those closest to us.

Chris Coombes, Knowmore's Lived Experience Lead knows this only too well. "I felt voiceless for many years," they share. *"I didn't tell my story because I felt shame. What I later realised is that shame doesn't belong with the person who survived. It belongs elsewhere."*

Knowmore's Elder in Residence, Aunty Glendra Stubbs, has seen the same in her decades of work. She recalls an 87-year-old man who spoke publicly for the first time at a community meeting. "His wife didn't even know. For 60 years, he carried that pain, but when he finally told his story, it was empowering for him. That's what we do, we empower people, at any stage of life, to say, 'This wasn't right, and I want to keep kids safe.'"

Both Chris and Aunty Glendra emphasise that sharing is always a choice. *"You don't owe anybody your story,"* says Chris. *"But if and when you're ready, it can be powerful, for you and for others. It can take that misplaced shame and throw it off."*



At Knowmore, lived experience isn't an add-on, it is central to our work. Survivors bring insight into how services can feel safer, more respectful, and more supportive. *"It's about keeping kids safe, now and in the future,"* says Aunty Glendra. *"We can only do that by hearing the voices of those who've been harmed and traumatised in this country."*

For survivors reading this, Chris has one message: *"I believe you. I'm sorry. And when you're ready, we're here to listen."*

## Enabling Survivors to Speak Their Truth

At the heart of our work is a commitment to helping survivors reclaim their agency and tell their stories in their own words. One of our clients has generously agreed to share a poem she wrote about her lived experience. Every survivor's story is unique, and everyone has the right to be heard, or not, in whatever way feels safest and most empowering for them. We invite you to listen to Wren's poem, 'The Littlest Flower'.

**Link to video is [HERE](#).**

There's no "right" way to tell your story.

No one ever has to share their story before they're ready.

Some may choose art, poetry or music. Others may write, speak, or choose to never share publicly at all.

At Knowmore, we honour every survivor's story — however it is told.



**The Littlest  
Flower.**



## Strengthening Redress Pathways in the Northern Territory

Delivering redress in the Northern Territory requires more than information, it requires presence, trust and sustained engagement. In a region defined by vast distances, cultural diversity and complex governance structures, Knowmore's approach centres

First Nations leadership, face-to-face connection and long-term relationships.

Knowmore's Northern Territory Redress Roundtable Forums held in 2025, demonstrated how coordinated, culturally safe outreach can strengthen pathways to justice.



## Impact Snapshot: NT Redress Outreach

450+

Outreach engagements delivered across the Northern Territory and APY Lands since 2022

90+

Participants engaged through the 2025 NT Redress Roundtable Forums in Darwin, Katherine and Alice Springs



Strong Aboriginal leadership Elders, Aboriginal community-controlled organisations and Land Council representatives shaped discussions and shared solutions



Improved referral pathways Post-forum surveys showed a clear increase in understanding of how to refer survivors to Knowmore for redress support



### Why it matters

Sustained, culturally safe outreach strengthens trust, reduces confusion between schemes, and helps ensure that survivors, particularly Elders and those in remote communities' access redress before scheme deadlines.

### What works



### Face-to-face engagement



### Scenario-based learning



### Aboriginal-led, trauma-informed approaches



### Trained Aboriginal Interpreters



Watch this space:

## In Conversation with the Joint Standing Committee on the National Redress Scheme

In December, the Knowmore team hosted a panel discussion with Joint Standing Committee (JSC) Chair Ms Jodie Belyea MP and Ms Zoe McKenzie MP. A consistent message emerged from the conversation. That is, while the National Redress Scheme has provided an important pathway for many, survivors continue to face significant barriers, and time is becoming a critical factor.

Below are some key themes from the discussion, reflecting what survivors are telling us and where continued attention is needed.

### **Are survivors aware of the National Redress Scheme?**

Many are not. Knowmore regularly meets people who have never heard of the Scheme, particularly older survivors, people living in remote or regional areas, and some Aboriginal

and Torres Strait Islander communities. Awareness remains a foundational challenge: if people don't know the Scheme exists, they cannot seek support.

### **What makes the Scheme difficult to access?**

Language remains a major barrier. Legal and administrative terminology can be overwhelming, especially for people living with trauma or for whom English is not a first language. Much of Knowmore's role is to translate complex information into clear, manageable steps so survivors can make informed decisions.

The other role Knowmore plays, is to help survivors find their own voice as they provide details of abuse that may never have been spoken about. Finding words to describe an unimaginable horror often requires support.

Knowmore's team ask the right questions but remain deeply compassionate and non-judgmental as the answers emerge.

### **Why does Knowmore prioritise outreach?**

Because trust is essential. Short-term or "fly-in, fly-out" services can feel impersonal or unsafe. Knowmore takes a relationship-based approach, sometimes described as the "one, two, three cups of tea" model, which centres listening, presence, and returning as often as needed.

### **How does cultural safety affect access?**

In some communities, English may be a third or fourth language, and direct terminology about abuse may not be used. Working alongside local cultural leaders and adapting language appropriately can make the difference between silence and engagement.

### **What impact do delays have on survivors?**

Delays can be deeply distressing, particularly for older survivors or those with health concerns. Extended waiting periods can increase emotional strain and uncertainty, reinforcing the importance of timely, trauma-informed processes.

### **What distinguishes Knowmore's approach?**

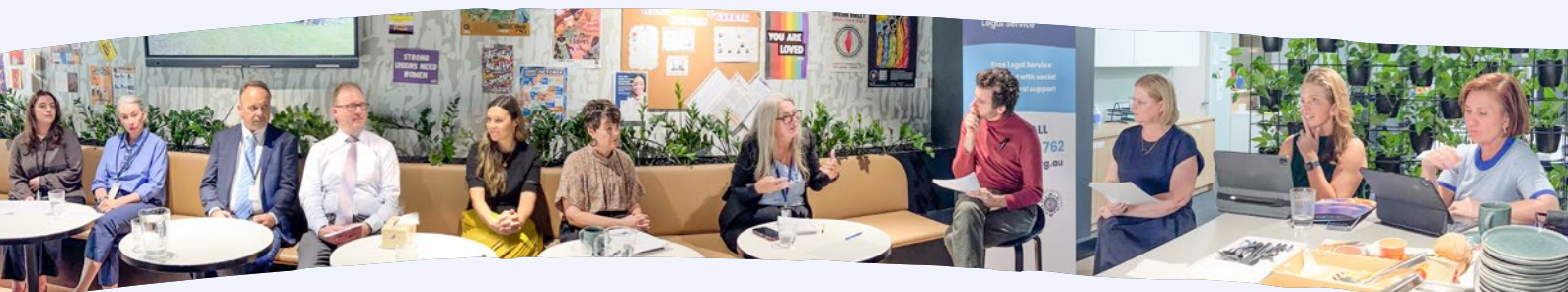
Knowmore's multidisciplinary model recognises that survivors do not experience harm in isolation. Legal advice is integrated with social support, cultural support, and financial counselling, helping reduce isolation and support recovery in a holistic way.

### **What is at stake as the Scheme enters its final years?**

Equity. Survivors applying now deserve the same care, dignity, and clarity as those who applied earlier. Knowmore has observed that application experiences can vary, and greater transparency and consistency would support both survivors and services assisting them. As the 30 June 2027 deadline approaches, adequate resourcing and trauma-informed practice will be critical to ensure no one is left behind.

### **How can supporters help?**

Demand for survivor support continues to grow, while resources remain under pressure. By sharing trusted information, advocating for survivor-centred systems, and supporting services like Knowmore, supporters help ensure survivors receive compassionate, culturally safe assistance through every stage of the process, right to the end.



# Childhood Sexual Abuse

## What to expect when you contact Knowmore



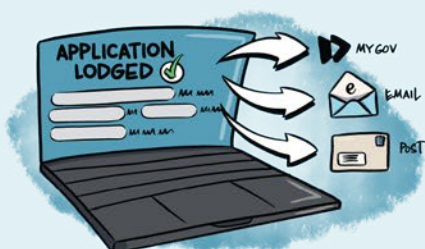
### Step 1 – Call Knowmore



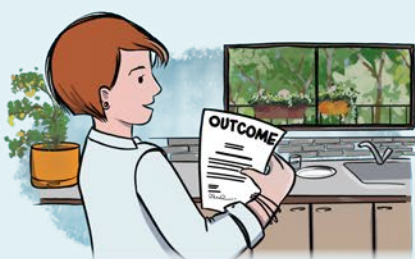
### Step 2 – Talk with Lawyer



### Step 3 – Letter of Advice



### Step 4 – Lodge Application



### Step 5 – Outcome Received

When we talk about child sexual abuse, people often think first about the big institutional cases—schools, churches, sporting clubs and other organisations. Those cases matter deeply, but they're only part of the picture.

The reality is that most abuse doesn't happen in institutions at all. It's usually carried out by someone the child knows and trusts—often within families, extended families, or close social circles. Increasingly, it can also start online, where adults use digital platforms to reach and groom children.

By recognising that abuse occurs in many different settings, we help break down stigma and make it easier for children and adults to speak up.

Our team provides trauma-informed legal and support services to survivors of child sexual abuse. We understand how complex and personal these experiences can be.

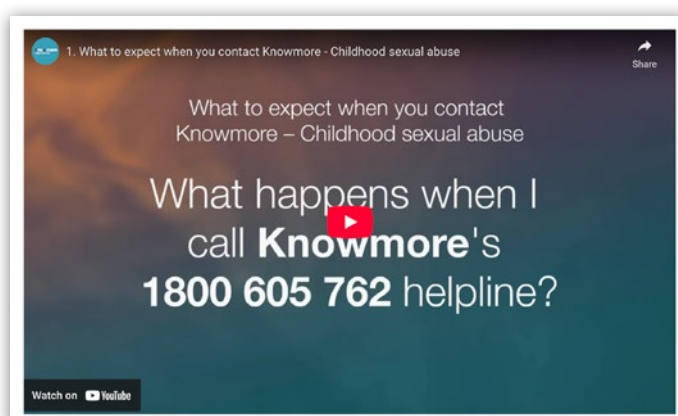
Many survivors tell us they didn't reach out sooner because:

- They didn't think their experience "counted"
- The abuse happened a long time ago
- The person who harmed them was someone they knew or trusted

Our message is that you deserve to be believed, supported, and treated with dignity, no matter where the abuse occurred.

Knowmore's support is confidential, trauma-informed, and free. If you'd like to talk, contact Knowmore on 1800 605 762.

Want to learn more about what you can expect when you call Knowmore? Watch our video series [HERE](#)



# Knowmore

## Legal Service

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**Free call 1800 605 762**

**Hours: Mon – Fri 9am to 5pm**



We recognise First Nations peoples across Australia as owners and custodians of the lands and waterways upon which we live and work. We pay our deep respects to Elders past and present and acknowledge that sovereignty was never ceded.

We recognise those who paved the way for survivors of childhood abuse to find their voice and seek justice. We stand in solidarity with those who continue to speak up, and those who are no longer with us, whose voices were silenced and never heard.

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The information on this newsletter must not be relied upon as legal advice. Seek legal advice about your own particular circumstances.