

National Redress Scheme

For people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse

KEY MESSAGES

About the Scheme

May 2019

- The National Redress Scheme provides support to people who experienced institutional child sexual abuse.
- The Scheme:
 - acknowledges that many children were sexually abused in Australian institutions
 - holds institutions accountable for this abuse, and
 - helps people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse gain access to counselling services, a direct personal response, and a Redress payment.
- The Scheme started on 1 July 2018 and will run for 10 years.
- Applications can be made any time before 30 June 2027.
- Redress is an alternative to seeking compensation through the courts.
- The National Redress Scheme is in response to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.
- The Royal Commission estimated that 60,000 people experienced institutional child sexual abuse in Australia.
- For information on the National Redress Scheme, visit www.nationalredress.gov.au or call 1800 737 377.
- Redress is provided by the institution responsible to acknowledge the damage done to people as children.

Contact

- For information on the National Redress Scheme, visit www.nationalredress.gov.au or call 1800 737 377.
- You can subscribe to receive email updates about the Scheme via the website.
- Media queries can be directed to media@dss.gov.au.

Redress Support Services

- Free, confidential support services are available to help people understand the Scheme and provide support before, during and after the application process.
- Visit www.nationalredress.gov.au/support or call **1800 737 377** to find a Redress Support Service.

Understanding your options

- Free legal support is available for anyone considering applying to the National Redress Scheme.
- The knowmore legal service provides free, confidential and independent advice.
- Contact knowmore on 1800 605 762 or visit www.knowmore.org.au.
- See www.nationalredress.gov.au/support/independent-legal-support for more.

Who can apply

- You can apply to the National Redress Scheme if:
 - you experienced sexual abuse when you were a child (under 18 years) and
 - the abuse happened before 1 July 2018, and
 - an institution was responsible for bringing you into contact with the person who abused you, and
 - you were born before 30 June 2010, and
 - you are an Australian citizen or permanent resident.
- Your application may be processed differently if you:
 - were abused in an institution that hasn't joined the National Redress Scheme
 - are under 18
 - have ever been sentenced to five or more years in gaol or
 - have already received a payment related to the abuse.
- You cannot apply if you:
 - did not suffer sexual abuse
 - are in gaol (you can apply once you are released or earlier if there are exceptional circumstances);
 - have already received a court-ordered payment from the institution; or
 - have already applied for redress through the National Redress Scheme.
- For more information, see: www.nationalredress.gov.au/applying/who-can-apply.

What you can apply for

- The National Redress Scheme can provide three things:
 - access to counselling;
 - a Redress payment; and
 - a direct personal response from the institution (e.g. an apology).
- Payments will be decided on an individual basis. They will range from less than \$10,000 through to \$150,000.
- The payments are non-taxable. They are also exempt from Commonwealth debt recovery, exempt from income tests relevant to government payments, and exempt from creditors where a person is bankrupt.
- People who received a payment for child sexual abuse from a previous redress scheme, victims-of-crime scheme, or through a settlement can still apply for the National Redress Scheme. The value of any prior payment will be deducted at an indexed rate of 1.9% per annum from the amount that would otherwise be offered under the National Redress Scheme.

How to apply

- You can apply to the National Redress Scheme online or using a paper form. You won't be asked about your experience in front of a person or panel.
- You can download the Application for Redress form from www.nationalredress.gov.au or have a copy sent to you by calling the National Redress Scheme on 1800 737 377. You can also ask a Redress Support Service to give you a copy of the application form.
- You can also apply online through myGov. You can create a myGov account at any time if you don't already have one.
- Before you apply you might like to think about who could give you support to apply if you would like it. You could speak to someone you already know and trust, or Redress Support Services can help.
- For more information on applying to the National Redress Scheme, visit www.nationalredress.gov.au/applying.
- Your application can be processed once the responsible institution/s have joined the Scheme.
- It will take a number of months for your application to be processed. You then have up to six months to decide whether to accept the offer of redress.

Institutions taking part

- Institutions must agree to join the National Redress Scheme so they can provide redress to people who experienced child sexual abuse while they were the responsibility of that institution.

- Many institutions have already agreed to join the Scheme. This includes the Commonwealth, and all state and territory governments and many of the major churches and charities.
- You can make an application for redress at any time, but applications cannot be considered until the responsible institution, or institutions, have completed all the necessary steps to join the Scheme.
- You can search for institutions that have already joined the Scheme at www.nationalredress.gov.au/institutions/search.
- See www.nationalredress.gov.au/institutions/joined-scheme for more information on institutions that have joined the Scheme.