

National Redress Scheme

For people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse

FACT SHEET

OVERVIEW

This fact sheet gives a brief introduction to the National Redress Scheme.

How did the National Redress Scheme come about?

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse listened to thousands of people about the abuse they experienced as children.

The Royal Commission recommended that redress be made. In response, the Australian Government set up the National Redress Scheme.

Redress is support that acknowledges the damage done to people as children. It holds institutions accountable.

Can I apply?

You can apply to the National Redress Scheme if you:

- Experienced institutional child sexual abuse before 1 July 2018, and
- Were born before 30 June 2010, and
- Are an Australian citizen or permanent resident.

For you to access redress, the institution responsible for the abuse must have joined the National Redress Scheme.

Some circumstances can affect applications. Please seek further information if you: are under 18, have been sentenced to gaol for 5 or more years, are currently in gaol, experienced abuse involving an institution that hasn't joined the National Redress Scheme, have received previous payments related to the abuse or would like to pursue a civil court case.

What can I apply for?

The National Redress Scheme provides access to:

- Counselling,
- A payment, and
- The option of a personal response from the institution (e.g. an apology).

You can accept any or all of these things. This is your choice.

How do I apply?

The National Redress Scheme starts on 1 July 2018. It will run for 10 years. You can make an application at any time between now and 30 June 2027.

You can apply by filling out a paper or online application. You do not have to tell your story in person.

The National Redress Scheme will work as quickly as possible to process applications. This may take between 3 and 12 months. People can take as much time as they need to complete their application and they will have up to 6 months to consider the offer of redress.

How can I get support and more information?

Free, confidential specialist support services are available before, during and after the application process.

To find out **how to apply** and connect with a free **Redress Support Service**, please go to **nationalredress.gov.au** or call the National Redress Scheme on **1800 737 377** Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm AET, excluding public holidays – charges may apply.

For immediate support, contact:

- Beyond Blue 1300 22 4636
- Lifeline 13 11 14
- 1800 Respect 1800 737 732
- Suicide Call Back Service 1300 659 467
- Mensline 1300 78 99 78
- In an emergency call Triple Zero (000)