



Australian Government

National Redress Scheme

For people who have experienced
institutional child sexual abuse

What to think about before you apply to the National Redress Scheme

Easy Read version



A warning about this guide



We talk about **child sexual abuse** in this guide.



Child sexual abuse includes when someone:

- makes a child do sexual things
- does sexual things to a child.



You can talk to someone you trust if you:

- need support to read this guide
- do not feel comfortable to read this guide
- want more information.



We have a list of organisations you can use if you need extra support.

You can find these organisations on page [19](#).

How to use this guide



We are the Australian Government.

We wrote this guide.



We wrote some words in **bold**.

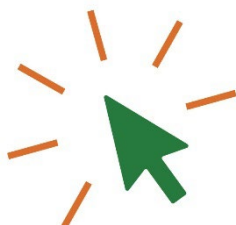
We explain what these words mean.

There is also a list of these words on page [23](#).



This is an Easy Read summary of a webpage.

It only includes the most important ideas.



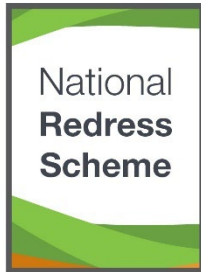
You can find the other page on our website.

www.nationalredress.gov.au/apply/how-apply/decide-whether-apply

What's in this guide?

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What is the National Redress Scheme?



The National Redress Scheme offers **redress** to people who experienced child sexual abuse when they were in an **institution**.

We call it the Scheme.



Redress is when someone gets support or money to try and make up for an experience that harmed them.



An institution is a group or organisation that supports the community.

What is an institution?

An institution can be:



- a children's home



- a school



- a church



- an **orphanage**.

An orphanage is a home for children who do not have a family.

An institution can also include:



- a sports club



- a hospital



- **foster care.**

Foster care is when children live with other people for a short time because they can't live with their parents.

Why would you apply?



You might want to apply to the Scheme for different reasons.

You might want to:



- make sure the institution knows how much they hurt you



- tell people about your experience.



It's free to apply to the Scheme.



You can only apply to the Scheme once.



You should include all the information you can.



You can still apply to the Scheme if you have already been given money because of the abuse you experienced.



This money might affect how much you could get in a redress payment.

What should you think about before you apply?

Before you apply to the Scheme, you should think about:



- if you are comfortable to share your experience



- who you might have to talk to about your experience



- what support you might need



- how getting redress will help you.



You should also think about if you want to get redress through:

- the Scheme
- the **court**.



Court is a place where decisions about the law are made.



You can ask Knowmore about the difference between the Scheme and going to court.

You can learn about Knowmore on page [20](#).

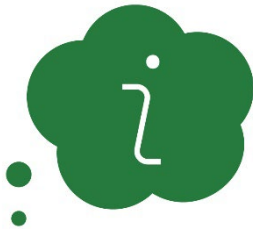
How do we decide who can get redress?



When you apply to the Scheme,
an **Independent Decision Maker** will:

- look at your application
- decide if you can get redress.

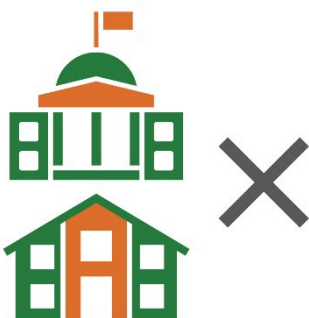
Independent Decision Makers think about all
the information:



- in your application form
- we have about the institutions
- that could be important to
your application.



Independent Decision Makers make their
own decisions.



They do not work for:

- the government
- any institutions that take part in
the Scheme.



They might ask you for more information about your experience.

This will help them make a decision.



This includes information about the institution where you experienced child sexual abuse.



It is OK if you do not have any more information.



They might also ask the institution for more information.



You can apply for redress from more than one institution.



At least one of the institutions has to be taking part in the Scheme.

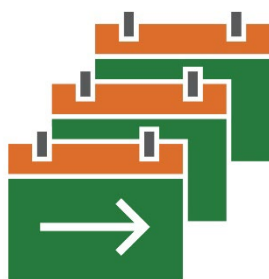


We cannot offer you redress if the institution does not take part in the Scheme.

If an institution is not taking part in the Scheme



If an institution is not taking part in the Scheme, we will try to contact them and ask them to take part.



This might take us a long time.



You can visit our website to find out which institutions are taking part in the Scheme.

www.nationalredress.gov.au/institutions



You can also call us.

You can find our contact information on page [25](#).

What happens when you get redress?



You might accept a redress offer through the Scheme.



This will mean you can't take the institution to court to ask for more money or support.



But the police can still help you take the person or people who hurt you to court.



The Independent Decision Maker might decide we cannot offer you redress.



If we do not offer you redress, you can take the institution to court to ask for money.



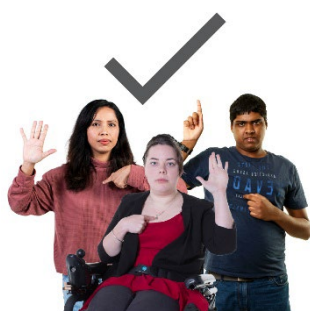
You might also want to get free legal advice from Knowmore.

You can learn about Knowmore on page [20](#).

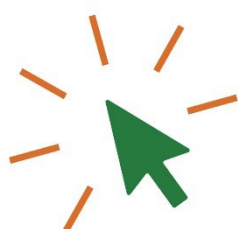
More information about the Scheme



You can find out more about the Scheme in our Easy Read guides.



This includes information about who can apply to the Scheme.



www.nationalredress.gov.au/help-support/resources/easy-read-guides

Free support services

Redress Support Services

Redress Support Services can:



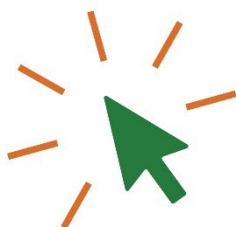
- help you understand the Scheme



- support you when you apply



- talk to you about your experience.



You can find out more on our website.

www.nationalredress.gov.au/RSS

Knowmore



Knowmore can help you decide if you want to apply to the Scheme.



Knowmore can also help you find other supports to help you apply to the Scheme.



Knowmore is a free service.

Knowmore can also help you understand:



- how to manage your money



- the law



- the rules you need to follow if you accept a redress payment



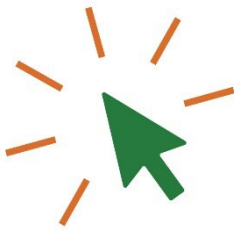
- how your redress payment will affect other payments you receive.

For example, Centrelink payments.



You can call Knowmore.

1800 605 762



You can also find out more on their website.

knowmore.org.au

Word list

This list explains what the **bold** words in this guide mean.



Child sexual abuse

Child sexual abuse includes when someone:

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Court

Court is a place where decisions about the law are made.

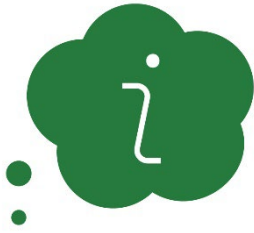


Foster care

Foster care is when children live with other people for a short time because they can't live with their parents.

Independent Decision Maker

Independent Decision Makers think about all the information:



- in your application form
- we have about the institutions
- that could be important to your application.



Institution

An institution is a group or organisation that supports the community.



Orphanage

An orphanage is a home for children who do not have a family.



Redress

Redress is when someone gets support or money to try and make up for an experience that harmed them.

Contact us



You can call us.

1800 737 377



You can send us an email.

enquiries@dss.gov.au



You can ask a question by filling out a form on our website.

www.dss.gov.au/contact-us/enquiries-and-feedback/feedback-form



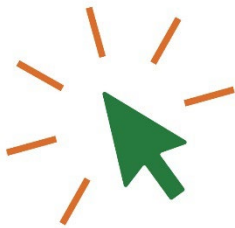
You can write to us.

NRS

Reply Paid 7750

Canberra BC ACT 2610

Australia



You can visit our website.

www.nationalredress.gov.au



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