

National Redress Scheme

For people who have experienced
institutional child sexual abuse

Applying to the National Redress Scheme

Easy Read fact sheet



How to use this fact sheet



We want to warn you that this fact sheet talks about **child sexual abuse** in **institutions**.



We explain what these words mean in our word list on page 10.



This subject may be very hard to:

- read about
- talk about.

It may bring up difficult feelings and memories.



The Australian Government wrote this fact sheet. When you see the word 'we', it means the Australian Government.



We have written this fact sheet to make it as easy to read as we can.

We use pictures to explain some ideas.



You may decide to ask for help to read this fact sheet.

A support person like a friend or family member may be able to help you.



We also have free and confidential Redress Support Services that can help you.

These can be found on our website at

www.nationalredress.gov.au/support

There are services that can help:



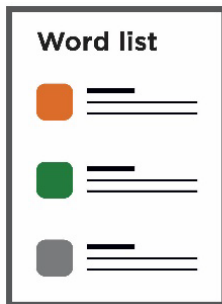
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples



- people with disability.



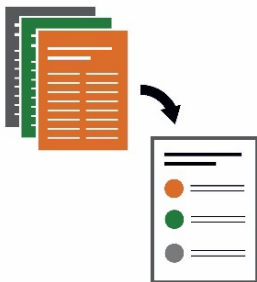
You can also call the National Redress Scheme on **1800 737 377**.



We have written some words in **bold**.

We explain what these words mean.

There is a list of these words on page 10.



This fact sheet is from a set of fact sheets about the National Redress Scheme.



You can find the whole set on our website at www.nationalredress.gov.au/about/resources

How do you apply?

To get help from the Scheme, first you will need to apply.



You can apply by using:

- a paper form
- or
- the form on our website.



The form will ask you to tell us about what happened when you were sexually abused.



You might not have any records from the institution that was supposed to be looking after you. That's ok.



We'll ask institutions for information we need to help with your application.



We do this to prove that the institution was looking after you at the time.

Institutions don't make decisions about your application.



You can only apply once.

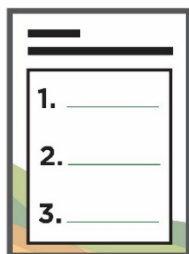
You should include all the information in your application that you can.



You can give us any extra information:

- after you have applied
- before we make a decision.

Institutions



1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

There is room on the application form to tell us if you were sexually abused in more than one institution.

If any of the institutions you name in your application haven't joined the Scheme, we will:



- contact you
- explain what you can do.



You can wait until the institution joins the Scheme, or you can ask the Scheme to look at your application now.



If any of the institutions you named is not on our list, but you want the Scheme to look at your application now, you may receive less money.



This will depend on what happened to you in each of the institutions.

The Scheme is different to the court system



Getting redress through the Scheme is different to getting a payment through the court system.



Some people will choose to go to court rather than getting a payment from the Scheme.



They might do this because a court may get them a bigger payment.



Courts need strong **evidence** about the abuse.

Evidence is proof that something is true.



You need less evidence to get a payment from the Scheme.



You can contact knowmore to help you work out which option is better for you.



knowmore is a free legal service that supports people who have experienced child sexual abuse.



You can visit their website at www.knowmore.org.au

Word list

Child sexual abuse



Child sexual abuse is when a person younger than 18 is included in or shown sexual acts:

- they don't understand
- the community thinks are wrong
- that are against the law.

Child sexual abuse includes:

- sexual touching of any part of the body, with or without clothes, including with an object
- sex of any kind with a child
- showing a child sexual acts.



Child sexual abuse is:

- wrong
- a crime
- never the child's fault.



Evidence

Evidence is proof that something is true.

Institution

An organisation set up:



- by the government
- for a religion
- for teaching and learning
- to run a business
- for a social activity
- for sporting activities.

Contact us



You can contact us to find out more about the Scheme.



1800 737 377



www.nationalredress.gov.au



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