National
Redress Scheme
For people who have experienced
institutional child sexual abuse

FACT SHEET

INSTITUTIONAL CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

This fact sheet provides a definition of institutional child sexual abuse. You may find the content distressing. If at any time you would like to talk to a professional with experience in trauma, please contact one of our free and confidential support services details below.

What is child sexual abuse?

Child sexual abuse is when someone involves a person under the age of 18 in sexual activities that they do not understand, or that are against community standards.

Child sexual abuse may include (but is not limited to):

- Sexual touching of any part of the body, either clothed or unclothed
- Preparing or encouraging a child to engage in sexual activity
- Sex of any kind with a child
- Persuading or forcing a child to engage in sexual activity
- Sexual acts done by an adult of any gender, to a child of any gender

When is an organisation responsible?

The National Redress Scheme is designed so that institutions take responsibility for child sexual abuse.

For example where child sexual abuse happened:

- On the premises of an institution, such as a school, a church, a club, an orphanage or children's home,
- Where activities of an institution take place, such as a camp or a sporting facility, or
- By an official of an institution, such as a teacher, a religious figure like a priest or nun, a coach or camp leader.

How can I get support and more information?

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

To connect with a support service and find out how to apply, please go to www.nationalredress.gov.au or call the National Redress Scheme on 1800 737 377 (Monday to Friday 8am to 5pm, except public holidays - charges may apply).

Those who need immediate assistance can 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)