# 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 Scheme is designed so that institutions take responsibility for child sexual abuse that they should have prevented.

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 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](https://www.beyondblue.org.au/) 1300 22 4636
* [Lifeline](https://www.lifeline.org.au/) 13 11 14
* [1800 Respect](https://www.1800respect.org.au/) 1800 737 732
* [Suicide Call Back Service](https://www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au/) 1300 659 467
* [Mensline](https://mensline.org.au/) 1300 78 99 78
* In an emergency call Triple Zero (000)