

National Redress Scheme

For people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse

TRANSCRIPT

MARTIN'S STORY VIDEO

Martin's Story

As a child, Martin spent time in an institution.

Martin: Well, when I was taken into care we used to hang around in the valley and then went into that old store there... Walton's, just to buy clothes and that.

I stole an \$8 dollar pair of jeans and then got picked up by the police.

Martin was sent to a boys' home. While there, he was sexually abused by people who were supposed to protect him.

Martin: It was very frightening in them days for young Aboriginal kids. When you go into boys' homes, you've got to either defend yourself or help other Aboriginal kids that was in there to support you, you know, stand with you.

It was very scary in them times. I come out one day and just... just let out and that was it... couldn't even talk to my Mother and Father about what happened in there. I was too ashamed to tell them what happened.

Martin applied through the National Redress Scheme so his experiences could be acknowledged.

For himself and all the other kids who were harmed.

Martin: I think a lot of survivors are ashamed to talk about what happened, yeah.

What I'd say to people who feel ashamed and scared, come forward and talk. Talk to someone and go through the Scheme. Get actual recognition about what happened to you.

Nothing to be ashamed about, just come forward, and talk.

The National Redress Scheme can't change what happened, but it can hold institutions accountable.

And it can provide support so you can move forward in a way that's right for you.

Call 1800 737 377 and start your healing journey.

Martin: It's important for closure, you know, that they recognise what happened to us in them homes. That's closure for us, and me and kids living in the homes.

When you finally to get everything out and then it's like a big weights been lifted off your shoulder.

Find a Redress Support Service – www.nationalredress.gov.au/support

Or call the National Redress Scheme – 1800 737 377