# National Redress Scheme – written case study

## Jessie’s story

Jessie was brought up in state care and is a survivor of institutional child sexual abuse. She applied for redress through the National Redress Scheme with the help of Lotus Place – a free, confidential Redress Support Service.

Jessie went on to become a journalist focusing on gender socialisation and won an award for her radio journalism work. She is also an artist and a published author.

Jessie first heard of the National Redress Scheme at an information day she attended with her family and friends. At first, she was unsure if it was the right thing for her.

“You have to dig deep into your past and your history,” Jessie says. “I knew in my heart that nothing would take away the pain. Nothing would repair the damage that had been done.”

Jessie was hesitant because in the past when she told others about what she experienced she had not been believed. After careful consideration and advice from Redress Support Services, she decided to apply.

Although Jessie found the application process daunting, she says that having support available when she needed it was key to getting through.

“For me, getting that acknowledgement was what it was about. Having concrete evidence that someone in authority believed me,” she says.

Jessie received a redress payment, which she put towards her mortgage, and a direct personal response, which was an apology from the institution responsible for her abuse.

Jessie advises anyone else thinking of applying to the National Redress Scheme that while it’s not easy, it is possible with the right support.

“At last, somebody is taking responsibility. Someone is saying sorry, and you're being acknowledged.”