

# Justice and Community Safety Directorate

## National Redress Scheme for people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse

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The ACT has joined the National Redress Scheme to provide support to people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse.

The ACT Government will be responsible for claims against one of its organisations, for example organisations responsible for residential care facilities, youth justice facilities, public schools or public hospitals.

The ACT Government acknowledges that survivors of child sexual abuse suffer long lasting and severe damage that can affect them for the rest of their lives.

The 10-year scheme available from 1 July 2018 provides redress to eligible survivors in three ways:

- access to counselling
- a direct personal response - such as an apology - from the responsible institution for people who want it
- a monetary payment up to \$150,000.

There are rules that apply. Access to the Redress Scheme depends on:

The type of abuse	It must include sexual abuse.  An institution must be responsible for the abuse. The Scheme does not cover non-institutional abuse, such as by a family member.
Where and when it happened	The abuse must have happened when the person was aged under 18.  It must have happened before 1 July 2018, when the Scheme started.  The institution or organisation responsible for the abuse must have joined the National Redress Scheme. Information about which institutions or organisations have joined is available on the National Redress Scheme website

A person's life now	The person applying must be an Australian citizen or permanent resident.
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Applications for redress will be assessed by independent decision makers on a case-by-case basis, and survivors will be able to access independent legal advice funded under the Scheme, before accepting any offers.

[Find out more about the Scheme](#) or ring the National Redress Scheme Information Line on **1800 737 377**.

## **Finding help and support**

Support is available for people who experienced institutional child sexual abuse. A complete list of support services can be found on [National Redress Scheme website](#).

These support services will provide timely access to trauma-informed and culturally appropriate support during the application process. This includes helping people to prepare and submit their application, and providing support as they receive a decision on their application.

If immediate assistance is required, 24-hour support is available through:

- [Lifeline](#): **13 11 14**
- [1800 Respect](#): **1800 737 732**
- [MensLine Australia](#): **1300 789 978**

## **Future updates**

This webpage will be updated as the Scheme progresses.

If the Scheme Operator awards counselling as part of Redress to a person living in the ACT, the ACT Government will facilitate this. This page will be updated with more information about accessing this counselling.

ACT Government organisations offers a direct personal response to any applicant who wants one. This page will be updated with more information about how this works.

## **Information about the National Redress Scheme in the ACT**

Information about a direct personal response from a representative of an ACT Government agency can be found [here](#).

Information about counselling and psychological support for applicants living in the ACT can be found [here](#).

Details about applications to the Redress Scheme made by people who are currently in prison or who have been sentenced to serve 5 years or more in prison can be found [here](#).