



ABORIGINAL
CORPORATION

Taking the National Redress Scheme Journey

**Support for Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander People**

About the National Redress Scheme

What is the National Redress Scheme?

The National Redress Scheme was recommended by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The Scheme has been set up to help our mob who were sexually abused as children in institutions. It is to acknowledge what was done, the harm it has caused and the ways it has affected your life.

A lot of our mob will need help to take the redress journey; to know what's involved, to decide whether to begin this journey, to decide if it's the right path and what happens at the end of the journey.

The Scheme could provide three things:

- Access to counselling and healing
- A direct personal response, such as an apology
- A monetary payment

Which institutions are included?

We know that child sexual abuse has happened in places that care for children. These places are called institutions and include:

- Schools
- Religious organisations, such as churches, mosques and temples

- Church and/or government run missions and reserves
- Sporting clubs
- Child-care centres or facilities
- Children's homes, foster care, kinship or respite care that is provided on behalf of an organisation
- Hostels
- Other organisations in the community

The abuser may be:

- A worker
- A volunteer
- A member of a club
- Someone who provides services to the institution
- Any other person who is connected to the institution

The child sexual abuse might have happened at an institution, or in another place. For example, the abuse might have happened while a worker was caring for a child at the child's home.

What is sexual abuse?

Please speak with your Yorgum counsellor about what this means.

Applying for Redress

What help is available?

There are three different kinds of support services to help you on the redress journey. You can use 1, 2 or all 3 of these, and they are all free for you to use.

1. Support Services - to help guide you through every part of your journey. There are both mainstream and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific services. Yorgum is the Aboriginal Redress Support Service for Western Australian Aboriginal survivors in the Perth metropolitan area.
2. Legal Support - to help you to understand what the various paths that you could take are, and help you decide which path is best for you. This is provided by a service called Knowmore and they have Aboriginal workers if you want to yarn with an Aboriginal person.
3. Financial Support - to offer financial advice.

Who can apply?

You can apply to the Scheme if you:

- Experienced institutional child sexual abuse before 1st July 2018,
- Are aged over 18 years,
- The institution responsible for the sexual abuse has joined the Scheme, and
- Apply between 1 July 2018 and 30 June 2027

How do I apply?

The Scheme started on 1 July 2018. It will run for 10 years. You can make an application at any time between now and 30 June 2027. You can take as much time as you need to complete the application and you will have 6 months to decide whether to accept the offer of redress.

You can call Yorgum on 1800 469 371 or email us at referrals@yorgum.org.au and we will come and yarn with you about applying.

Applications that will be assessed differently:

For some, their application will be assessed differently:

- Younger than 18 years
- Convicted of a crime and sentenced to 5 or more years in prison
- Currently in prison
- Have already received a payment in relation to the abuse

Getting help from a trusted person.

The Redress Journey could be a hard one, and you might decide you would like another person to speak and act for you. This is called a Nominee. This person might be a trusted friend or relative or could be your support worker. If you want them to speak for you with the Scheme you need to fill in the Nominee Form.

Completing the National Redress Scheme Application form

You do not need to complete this form on your own. Your Yorgum counsellor can help you with your redress journey including assisting you to complete this form.

In our experience of supporting survivors, the process of completing applications for redress can prompt survivors to remember more about their abuse.

While you can only make one application to the Scheme, you can add to your application up until a decision has been made on your application. If you remember additional information after you have completed your application, please let your counsellor know.

What should I do before accepting an offer?

We strongly encourage you to access support before accepting an offer. If you accept an offer you can not take civil litigation against the responsible institution/s. Yorgum can discuss options in your specific situation and give you the information to help you decide whether to accept the offer.

What happens if I ask for a review?

We strongly encourage you to access support before asking for a review. A review may mean you get less, the same or more money than the original offer. Please discuss with Yorgum if you are thinking about asking for a review.

Is the National Redress Scheme my only option for getting compensation?

It is also really important that survivors are aware of the different options available to them and the implications of each option. We are aware that the legal aspects of the Scheme can be technical, hard to understand and confusing.

Applying through the Scheme may not be your only option. Civil litigation may be another option to consider. This is where you sue an institution through the courts or settle out of court.

Yorgum will discuss options in your specific situation and give you the information to help you decide which path to take.

Frequently Asked Questions

How long will the process take?

The Scheme should be a quicker process than civil litigation however it is anticipated it may still take up to a year in some cases. However, the applications can be fast-tracked where survivors are unwell or elderly.

How can I get culturally safe support?

Having the support you need is really important. The redress journey will be a difficult journey. Yorgum can provide culturally safe support and make referrals for survivors.

Please do not hesitate to contact Yorgum to discuss your counselling needs whether this be before, during or after your redress journey or unconnected to redress. We are committed to ensuring survivors' counselling needs are met so please reach out and let us help.

How much compensation will I get?

There is no amount of money that can undo the pain, losses and traumas caused by institutional child sexual abuse. What we know is that the maximum payment is \$20,000, \$50,000 or \$150,000 depending on the type of abuse suffered. Very few survivors will receive the maximum payment. There is an assessment framework that independent assessors will use to determine individuals payments.

In deciding whether to access the Scheme or civil litigation the amount of money that will likely be awarded is an important consideration. Therefore it is important to get advice before deciding which path to take. Please feel free to contact Yorgum to discuss your options. We will do our best to ensure the best outcomes for you.

What happens to survivors who have died?

If a survivor has put in an application for redress and then dies their next of kin can only receive their payment if there is a current Will. It is therefore important that survivors have a current Will when they put in their application so that there is no uncertainty about who the payment should go to.

How do I get more information about redress?

You can contact Yorgum for more information and support.

Yorgum can help you with every aspect of your redress journey. You can contact us by phone: 1800 469 371 or email: referrals@yorgum.org.au.

The National Redress Scheme Application form includes questions about your experience of institutional child sexual abuse and the impact of sexual abuse on your life. These questions are confronting and the task of completing the Application Form may be very distressing. We encourage all survivors to access support as they undertake their redress journey.

How to make a complaint about the National Redress Scheme

You can make complaints or provide feedback about the Scheme in the following ways:

Email: complaints@dss.gov.au

Mail: DSS Feedback, GPO Box 9820, Canberra ACT, 2601

Online Form: <https://www.dss.gov.au/contact/feedback-compliments-complaints-and-enquiries/feedback-form>

If you are not satisfied with the response to your complaint, you can make a complaint to the Commonwealth Ombudsman.

Commonwealth Ombudsman contact details:

Phone: Indigenous Line 1800 060 789

Mail: Commonwealth Ombudsman, GPO Box 442, Canberra ACT, 2601

Online Complaint Form: <https://forms.business.gov.au/smartforms/servlet/SmartForm.html?formCode=oco-complaint-form>

Yorgum Aboriginal Corporation

1800 469 371

referrals@yorgum.org.au

Mainstream services are also able to help you:

Knowmore: A free and confidential legal service can help. You can call them on 1800 605 662.

National Redress Scheme: You can contact the scheme directly on 1800 737 377.

If you need immediate support, 24-hour telephone assistance is available through:

Beyondblue: 1300 224 636

1800RESPECT: 1800 737 732

MensLine Australia: 1300 789 978

Lifeline: 13 11 14

Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467



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