

## What is the National Redress Scheme?

The National Redress Scheme (the Scheme) came about as a recommendation from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The Scheme provides support to people who experienced institutional child sexual abuse – this means child sexual abuse within an organisation, such as a school, a church, parish, mission, a club, an orphanage or Children’s Home, or government department.

Redress means acknowledging organisational responsibility and harm done. The Scheme can provide redress by providing access to:

- counselling
- a direct personal response from the institution in the form of an apology
- a monetary payment. The payment can range from less than \$10,000 through to \$150,000, depending on the circumstances.

An applicant may seek one or all of these redress options. The Scheme started on 1 July 2018 and will run for 10 years.

A number of Fact Sheets have been published by the Scheme and can be accessed [here](#).

## Is CFA part of the National Redress Scheme?

The Victorian Government has signed up to the Scheme, making CFA part of the Scheme. The Commonwealth Government operates the Scheme.

## Who can apply to the National Redress Scheme?

An application can be made under the Scheme if:

- a person has experienced child sexual abuse while in the care of an institution or organisation (the Scheme does not cover non-institutional abuse, such as by a family member)
- the abuse happened when the person was aged under 18
- the abuse happened before the Scheme start date
- the institution or organisation responsible for the abuse has joined the Scheme, and
- the person applying is an Australian citizen or permanent resident.

## How to make an application to the National Redress Scheme

To make application to the Scheme, the first stage is complete the application form. The application form can be accessed by going to [www.nationalredress.gov.au](http://www.nationalredress.gov.au)

From this website you can:

- make a redress application online
- download the Redress Application Form to complete and post back to the Scheme
- download the Redress Nominee Form to enable a person or organisation to act on your behalf to make an application to the Scheme
- call 1800 737 377 and request an application be sent.

The Scheme will contact applicants to let them know their application has been received and provide information about the next steps.

## Support provided by the National Redress Scheme

The Scheme provides free, confidential support services to assist people to access the Scheme:

- Legal support services (provided by an organisation called 'knowmore'), provide advice about legal options, and applying for and accepting an offer of redress. The 'knowmore legal service' can be contacted via:
  - advice line on 1800 605 762
  - website <http://knowmore.org.au/>
- Redress Support Services can aid understanding about the Scheme, and guide applicants through the application process and access to personal supports
- Financial Counselling Services can help applicants understand how an offer of redress might impact personal finances.

Information or assistance can be obtained by calling the National Redress Scheme on ☎ 1800 737 377 (Mon to Fri 8am to 5 pm) or going to the [Scheme's website](#)

## Supports provided by CFA

CFA has a range of supports available to members who have experienced child sexual abuse within CFA:

### Specialist Sexual Assault Support

South Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault (SECASA) provides a 24/7 telephone support line and counselling support (face to face, telephone or skype). SECASA coordinates service delivery with other Centres Against Sexual Assault across the state to provide a local response where available and appropriate. SECASA can be contacted by calling ☎ 9594 2289.

### Single point of entry for CFA supports

CFA provides access to a range of services for members and their immediate family:

- psychological support
- counselling
- peer support
- chaplaincy support.

These services can be accessed via the CFA Wellbeing Support Line by calling ☎ 1800 959 232.

## Other supports available

- [Beyond Blue](#) 1300 22 4636
- [Lifeline](#) 13 11 14
- [1800 Respect](#) 1800 737 732
- [Suicide Call Back Service](#) 1300 659 467
- [Mensline](#) 1300 78 99 78

If you have a current CFA child safety concern, contact the Child Safety Officer at [childsafetyofficer@cfa.vic.gov.au](mailto:childsafetyofficer@cfa.vic.gov.au)

**To report an alleged sexual offence, contact your local police station**

**In an emergency call Triple Zero (000)**