



# National Redress Scheme in Queensland

## Queensland Government's participation in the National Redress Scheme

### Information for people who experienced sexual abuse in Queensland institutions

The National Redress Scheme (the Scheme) provides support to people who experienced institutional child sexual abuse.

The Queensland Government started participating in the Scheme on 19 November 2018.

Information below explains how the Scheme works and provides information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people about missions and dormitories.

If you experienced sexual abuse as a child in a mission or dormitory you may be eligible for redress under the Scheme.

#### What is the National Redress Scheme and what does it offer?

The Federal Government developed a National Redress Scheme for people who were sexually abused as children in institutions, in response to recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The National Redress Scheme started on 1 July 2018 and will run for 10 years.

The National Redress Scheme can provide redress in three ways:

- access to counselling
- a redress payment
- a direct personal response from the institution (e.g. apology)

#### What is the National Redress Scheme and what does it offer?

There are some rules about who can access redress under the Scheme.

This includes that a person must have experienced child sexual abuse in an institution that is participating in the Scheme.

The abuse must also have happened before 1 July 2018 and when the person was under 18 years old. A person must also be an Australian citizen or permanent resident to apply.

For more information, see the Scheme's website: [www.nationalredress.gov.au/applying/who-can-apply](http://www.nationalredress.gov.au/applying/who-can-apply).

#### What institutions are covered by the Queensland Government under the Scheme?

Institutions run by the Queensland Government, including residential care, missions and dormitories, will be covered by the Queensland Government under the Scheme. The Queensland Government will also share responsibility with non-government organisations in relevant cases.

Institutions run by non-government organisations may be covered if those organisations participate in the Scheme.

Independent Decision Makers will consider and make decisions about redress applications (including which institutions are responsible), not the Queensland Government.

### Why isn't the Queensland Government covering all missions and dormitories?

Some missions and dormitories in Queensland were run by non-government organisations. Those institutions need to join the Scheme themselves.

The Queensland Government is working with the Scheme to encourage all organisations that ran missions and dormitories to participate. There will be cases where the State may take financial responsibility for a redress payment for a non-government organisation that no longer exists. This can only be done where the Scheme finds that the State shares responsibility for the abuse with that organisation.

### What should I do if the institution responsible for my abuse is not listed on the National Redress Scheme website?

You can still apply even if the institution is not listed on the Scheme website. The Queensland Government has worked hard to identify institutions that were run by the State, but there may be some that have been missed.

If you can't find the institution you are looking for, there is help. You can call the National Redress Scheme on 1800 737 377 to find out about which institutions are participating in the Scheme.

The Queensland Government is working with the Scheme to encourage all organisations that ran missions and dormitories to participate. Organisations have until 30 June 2020 to join.

If the institution was run by a non-government organisation, you can make an application for redress but your application cannot be assessed until the responsible institutions complete the steps to join.

### What help can I get to access the Scheme?

You can get advice on whether you should apply. Free legal support is available through knowmore on 1800 605 762.

Free Redress Support Services can help you through the redress application process. More information is available at [www.nationalredress.gov.au/support](http://www.nationalredress.gov.au/support) or by phoning 1800 737 377.

There are also specialist services that provide counselling, healing and culturally appropriate support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

- Link-Up (Qld) can be contacted on 1800 200 855 or visit: [www.link-upqld.org.au](http://www.link-upqld.org.au).

- The Cape York/Gulf Remote Area Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Child Care (RAATSICC) Advisory Association on (07) 4030 0900 and 1300 663 411 or visit: [www.raatsicc.org.au](http://www.raatsicc.org.au).

### Where can I find out more about the National Redress Scheme?

For more information you can contact the National Redress Scheme on 1800 737 377 or visit [www.nationalredress.gov.au](http://www.nationalredress.gov.au).