

1 | How **TasVOCAL** can help

TasVOCAL provides free legal help and support to survivors of child sexual abuse. We can talk with you about compensation, redress and other legal issues.

What is **TasVOCAL**?

TasVOCAL is an independent, legal service at Tasmania Legal Aid, funded by the Tasmanian Government to provide free legal advice and support to survivors of institutional child sexual abuse.

TasVOCAL is free and confidential.

How **TasVOCAL** can help?

TasVOCAL can:

- talk with you about your options for compensation or redress
- give you legal advice if you are considering an application to the National Redress Scheme (NRS) or if you receive a NRS offer
- refer you to support services for financial and emotional assistance
- discuss referral options for making a civil claim
- provide legal help about the payments available through victims of crime and other schemes
- help you get access to documents to support your claim
- talk with you about your options if you want to report child abuse
- help you with any other legal issues.

We may refer you to a more appropriate service or lawyer if we cannot assist you.

The National Redress Scheme?

The NRS acknowledges that many children were sexually abused in Australian institutions, holds institutions accountable for this abuse, and helps people who have experienced abuse gain access to justice and redress.

The NRS began on 1 July 2018 and will remain open for 10 years. Applications can be made any time up to 30 June 2027.

What can the NRS offer?

The NRS can offer eligible survivors:

- a monetary payment up to \$150,000
- counselling and support services
- a direct personal response from the responsible institution(s).

Why it's important to get the right advice

If you are a survivor of child sexual abuse, it is important to consider your legal options and have ALL the information you need before you decide what action to take.

Accepting an offer from the NRS means giving up your right to continue or start any legal proceedings against the responsible institution(s) or its officials. It is important that you consider this very carefully before you decide to proceed with a NRS application.

Other options?

Depending on your circumstances, you may have other compensation or redress options available. Call 1300 366 611 and ask for **TasVOCAL** to make an appointment to talk about your legal options.

Disclaimer

This fact sheet should not be used as substitute for legal advice. No responsibility is accepted for any loss, damage or injury, financial or otherwise, suffered by any person acting or relying on the information contained within this fact sheet, or omitted from it. You should seek legal advice about your own particular circumstances.

Tasmania Legal Aid acknowledges and pays our respect to the Palawa/Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the Traditional Custodians of the land and waters of Lutruwita/Tasmania, where we live and work.

Need legal help?

Freecall, chat online or visit us
Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm



1300 366 611 Ask for **TasVOCAL**



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www.legalaid.tas.gov.au



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