

This fact sheet helps people currently in prison, and people convicted of serious criminal offences, understand their compensation options. **TasVOCAL** can provide free legal advice about compensation and redress options.

Can I make a civil claim for compensation?

You may be able to file a civil claim for damages for injury and loss arising from the sexual abuse you suffered.

An experienced civil lawyer can provide legal advice about this. **TasVOCAL** can provide free legal advice and refer you to a civil lawyer. You should explore this option first.

What is the National Redress Scheme (NRS)?

The NRS:

- acknowledges that many children were sexually abused in Australian institutions
- holds institutions accountable for this abuse
- helps people who have experienced institutional child sexual abuse gain access to justice and redress.

If your application is accepted, the NRS can provide:

- a payment of up to \$150,000 depending on your experiences
- counselling and other support services
- a direct personal response from the institution (e.g. an apology).

Applications can be made until 30 June 2027.

Can I make a NRS application?

I have received a prison sentence of 5 years or more

If you have received a prison sentence of 5 years or more for a single criminal offence, you can still apply for redress.

The NRS will seek further information from the applicant and will be asked to fill out a 'Serious criminal convictions additional information form'.

Assessing the additional information

There is a special assessment process for people with certain types of convictions. These include where a person has been sentenced to imprisonment for 5

years or longer and include unlawful killing, a sexual offence, a terrorism offence, or certain related offences.

If you have a serious criminal conviction that fits in the categories above the NRS will send information to you and **you should** seek advice.

A decision will then be made by the NRS about whether your application for redress can proceed.

Financial Counselling

If you receive a NRS payment there may be limitations in accessing the payment. Each prison and bank has different rules about accessing money. **TasVOCAL** can refer you to a financial counsellor who can speak to you about your individual situation before you accept a payment or civil compensation.

About TasVOCAL

TasVOCAL provides free and independent legal advice and support for survivors of child sexual abuse.

If you have difficulties with reading or writing, prison support officers can help you contact us.

You can contact **TasVOCAL** while you are in prison or after you are released for free legal advice about compensation and redress options.

How to contact **TasVOCAL**

- Visit: www.legalaid.tas.gov.au
- Free call: **1300 366 611** ask for **TasVOCAL**
- Email: TasVOCAL@legalaid.tas.gov.au

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**



tasvocal@legalaid.tas.gov.au



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