

TasVOCAL

Anyone can talk to a lawyer for free at Tasmania Legal Aid.

To get free legal information call 1300 366 611, drop into our Hobart or Launceston office (no appointment necessary) or use the Legal Talk chat function on our website. We are open Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

A lawyer can listen to your story and help identify the next steps you can take.

TasVOCAL provides free legal advice for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse in Tasmania to access the National Redress Scheme, compensation and other support services.

What is TasVOCAL?

TasVOCAL is a legal and support service that provides legal advice around options for the National Redress Scheme, civil litigation, victims of crime compensation, police contacts and therapeutic options for survivors of institutional child sexual abuse in Tasmania.

The aim is to support clients to seek compensation and help survivors of institutional child sexual abuse and to help them understand their options and rights in navigating the [National Redress Scheme](#).

What is the National Redress Scheme?

The National Redress Scheme (often referred to just NRS) is a scheme to provide survivors recognition of institutional childhood sexual abuse experienced prior to 1 July 2018.

Someone who successfully access the scheme can receive

- A payment of up to \$150,000 depending on the circumstances. This will be assessed by the Scheme and most people will not receive the maximum amount.
- Counselling and psychological support.
- A personal response or apology from the institution that was responsible for the abuse.

It does not cost anything to apply to the Scheme. Applications are open until 30 June 2027.

What can TasVOCAL help me with?

TasVOCAL can do these things:

talk with you about your options for redress or compensation

- talk with you about your options for redress or compensation
- give you legal help if you are considering an application to the National Redress Scheme or if you receive a National Redress Scheme offer. We work closely with Redress Support Services and may refer you to one of these services for assistance.
- discuss referral options for making a civil claim
- provide legal help about the payments available through victims support schemes and other schemes
- help you get access to documents
- talk with you about your options if you wish to report child abuse.

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

What do I need to know about making a civil claim?

A civil claim against an institution is a compensation claim for injury and loss which occurred as a result of an institution's failure to care and protect a survivor from childhood sexual abuse. The civil claim might contain compensation for physical or psychiatric injury and financial loss.

A civil claim can also be made against the perpetrator if they are still alive.

There is no time limit for making a civil claim for childhood sexual abuse.

For more information see our **Self Help** [Civil Claim Info](#).

What are my compensation options in Tasmania?

In Tasmania, the compensation options for survivors of childhood sexual abuse may include:

- the National Redress Scheme
- a civil claim
- Victims of Crime Assistance
- an institutional redress scheme
- criminal injuries compensation.

For more information see our **Self Help** [Compensation Options](#).

This is written for people who live in or who are affected by the laws of Tasmania, Australia. The law changes all the time – this information is not legal advice. If you have a legal problem, you should talk to a lawyer before making a decision about what to do.