



Territories Stolen Generations Redress Scheme - overview

Applying to the Scheme, reading or talking about it may bring up difficult memories.

There is 24 hour support available if you need help.

If you or someone you know is in immediate danger call 000

13YARN 13 92 76, Lifeline 13 11 14, Beyond Blue 1300 244 636, Suicide Call Back Services 1300 659 467

The Territories Stolen Generations Redress Scheme is a financial and wellbeing package for Stolen Generations survivors who were removed as children from their families or communities, and whose removal took place in the:

- Northern Territory or the Australian Capital Territory before self-government, or
- Jervis Bay Territory.

The Scheme seeks to recognise the harm and trauma experienced by Stolen Generations survivors. The Scheme offers a:

- redress payment of up to \$75,000;
- healing assistance payment of \$7,000; and
- Personal Acknowledgement.

Personal Acknowledgement

A Personal Acknowledgement is an opportunity for your story about your removal and the impact it has had on you to be acknowledged by a senior government person and for you to receive a personalised and genuine acknowledgement of the resulting harm and trauma. Your story can be acknowledged face-to-face, or you can ask for a personal letter, or both.

We will ask you if you would like a Personal Acknowledgement when we send you your letter of offer. If you would like a Personal Acknowledgement, you should tick 'yes' when you return your Acceptance Deed. You do not have to have your Personal Acknowledgement straight away, or at all. You have until 30 June 2028 to make your mind up about participating in a Personal Acknowledgement.



Who is eligible for redress under the Scheme?

To be eligible for redress under the Scheme, the delegated National Indigenous Australians Agency decision-maker must be satisfied that it is *plausible* that both of the following criteria are met:

1. The applicant is a person of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent, who is a Stolen Generations survivor.

In assessing this, the decision-maker will consider:

- whether the applicant was removed from their family or community by:
 - i. a government agency or non-government body, or
 - ii. an officer of such an agency or body;
 - whether the applicant was under the age of 18 at the time they were removed;
 - whether the applicant's Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent was a factor in their removal; and
 - any other factors that are relevant to determining whether the applicant meets this criterion.
2. The applicant's removal took place in the:
 - Northern Territory, prior to 1 July 1978; or
 - Australian Capital Territory, prior to 11 May 1989; or
 - Jervis Bay Territory.

The Scheme is a Commonwealth scheme that applies to the relevant territories. A date limit applies for the Northern Territory and the Australian Capital Territory to reflect the time when the Commonwealth had responsibility for those territories before they became self-governing.

Within the period of Commonwealth responsibility, the intent of the Scheme is to benefit those removed during a defined 'Stolen Generations' period.

The Scheme recognises there may be absent or inadequate historical records regarding the removal of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from their families, and the evidentiary standard of plausible takes this into account.

The evidentiary standard of plausible means there must be sufficient evidence to show that it is plausible the applicant meets the eligibility criteria.

Definition of Stolen Generations

For the purpose of the Scheme, the term Stolen Generations refers to people of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent who were removed from their families and/or communities as children by government or non-government agencies as a result of past government policies of assimilation. While most Stolen Generations removals took place prior to 1972, the term includes removals that took place as a result of the continued application of these policies.



How do I apply?

You can apply any time between 1 March 2022 and 31 August 2027 at your own pace.

You do not need to have records about your removal to apply. We may be able to access records to help with your application when you apply. When you sign the application form, you are giving us permission to search for your records on your behalf.

If you do have any records about your removal you can attach copies to your application. You do not need to have records of your removal to apply, however if you do have records this may assist us to make a decision more quickly.

To apply for the Scheme, fill in an *Application for redress form* which can be accessed by:

- Visiting the Scheme's online portal at <https://portal.territoriesredress.gov.au>
- Downloading a copy of the [Application for redress](#) form. To complete this form on your screen you will need the free PDF viewer [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) downloaded on your device. Please note: the form may not operate properly on mobile and tablet devices.
- Sending an email to the Scheme at help@territoriesredress.gov.au
- Calling the Scheme on **1800 566 111**
- Writing to the Scheme at Territories Stolen Generations Redress Scheme, Reply Paid 83394, CANBERRA ACT 2601

Can someone act on my behalf?

If you would like to have a person interact with us or to act on your behalf you will need to complete the Scheme's *Redress Nominee* form. You will need to complete and return this form to us before any person can act on your behalf. This person will be your redress nominee. If you already have a Centrelink nominee, that person can also be your redress nominee, but you still need to complete a [Redress Nominee](#) form.

There are two types of redress nominees:

1. Assistance nominee—to help you apply for redress if you do not want to interact with us yourself.
2. Legal nominee—for the Scheme to appoint a legal nominee you must have a current legal arrangement in place. This could be a Power of Attorney, Guardianship or Financial Management Order. Without this arrangement a person can only act as your assistance nominee.

For more information about what a redress nominee can and cannot do in relation to the Scheme you can call us on **1800 566 111**, or email help@territoriesredress.gov.au

Applying on behalf of a person who has passed away

If a Stolen Generations survivor passes away on or after 5 August 2021, another person can submit an *Application for redress on behalf of a person who passed away* form.

You have until 31 August 2027 to submit an *Application for redress on behalf of a person who passed away*.

You can call us on **1800 566 111** if you need a copy of the *Application for redress on behalf of a person who passed away* form to complete.



What application support is available?

Free, independent and confidential support services are available to help you before, during and after you apply—you can access the services even if you are just thinking about applying. These services can help you to make a fully informed decision that best suits your personal situation.

Link-Up services

Link-Up services are community based services that can provide free and confidential assistance to help you throughout the application process. Link-Up services provide support for Stolen Generations and their families, including family tracing, family reunions and support services. Link-Up services will be able to help you to fill out an application and can provide emotional support to you throughout the application process.

Financial Counselling

Redress payments made under the Territories Stolen Generations Redress Scheme are treated differently to other payments. Financial counsellors will be able to help you understand how receiving a redress payment may affect your individual financial circumstances, such as impacts on Centrelink payments, gifting, assets tests and existing debts. Financial counsellors can also work with you to help keep your redress payment safe.

To make the most of your redress payment, it is important to seek financial counselling before you receive a redress payment.

You can call knowmore Legal Service for both financial counselling and legal advice on **1800 566 966 or 1800KNOWMORE**. More information is available at knowmore.org.au

Independent Legal Advice

The legal advice support service can help you understand the other legal options available to you, the effect of accepting a payment on future claims, wills and estates, and the eligibility requirements of the Scheme.

This service is completely free, you do not have to use your own money to pay for legal costs unless you choose to access private law firms. If you choose to use your own legal service for help and advice, this may not be free.

You can call knowmore Legal Service for both legal advice and financial counselling on **1800 566 966 or 1800KNOWMORE**. More information is available at knowmore.org.au

What happens after I submit my application?

We'll send you a letter (or email) to let you know we've received your application. We might have to ask you for further information at this stage.

We then attempt to gather information about your removal and eligibility for this redress from third parties.

An Independent Assessor will assess your application and make a recommendation to the Scheme decision maker, the Delegate.

The Delegate will make a determination of your eligibility for this redress. We will contact you to let you know the outcome of your application.



Can I ask for a review?

If you do not agree with the outcome of your application, you or your nominee can ask for the decision to be reviewed by the Scheme. The form you need to complete is provided as part of your outcome letter.

You can also ask for a review by:

- Calling the Scheme on **1800 566 111**;
- Sending an email to the Scheme at help@territoriesredress.gov.au;
- Writing to the Scheme at Territories Stolen Generations Redress Scheme, Reply Paid 83394, CANBERRA ACT 2601

An Independent Assessor will conduct the review. This person will have no connection to the original decision. If you request a review, we will acknowledge your request within 2 business days and commence the review within 15 days of sending that acknowledgement.

If you need further information about requesting a review, please contact us on **1800 566 111**.

About your redress payment

If you are found to be eligible for redress, we will give you an Acceptance Deed. You can choose to have your redress payments paid in one lump sum, or in two, three or four equal instalments over a 12 month period.

- The Scheme's redress payments:
 - Are exempt from income tax.
 - Generally do not count as income or taxable income for means-tested Commonwealth payments or benefits, but may affect assets tests.
 - Will not impact any payments from the National Redress Scheme.
- If you receive Centrelink payments and you give away any of the redress payment, you should let Centrelink know, because it could affect your Centrelink payments.
- You will be required to sign an Acceptance Deed prior to any payments or a Personal Acknowledgement being given under this Scheme. By signing this document, you will be releasing the Commonwealth from any future civil liability in relation to your removal.
- If we make an offer of redress under the Scheme, or make a redress payment or provide a Personal Acknowledgement, this means that it was plausible that you met the eligibility criteria. This decision has effect only for the purposes of the Scheme. It is not a:
 - Finding of law or fact made by a court; or
 - Legal admission of liability for removal by the Commonwealth or any other person.

How can I get more information?

The Scheme has established a dedicated team to assist applicants. You can:

- Visit territoriesredress.gov.au
 - Call us on **1800 566 111** between 9:00 am—5:00 pm Australian Eastern Standard Time, Monday to Friday, excluding national and Canberra public holidays.
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- Email us at help@territoriesredress.gov.au
 - Write to us at Territories Stolen Generations Redress Scheme, Reply Paid 83394, Canberra ACT 2601.

Fraud reporting

The National Indigenous Australians Agency takes all allegations of fraud seriously. However we can only investigate matters that relate to funds that we administer and other activities or responsibilities that fall within our domain. We have no jurisdiction to investigate allegations of fraud or the activities of other Government departments or agencies (for example, in relation to the National Redress Scheme, the New South Wales Stolen Generations Reparations Scheme, or the Victorian Stolen Generations Reparations Package).

We have put in a place a range of active measures to prevent, detect, and respond to suspected fraud, and to protect the integrity of the Scheme. Through the use of secure IT systems and arrangements with other government agencies, these measures include, for example, identity checks, bank account verification, and payment verification.

To report suspected or potential fraud on National Indigenous Australians Agency funding or other activities that we administer contact:

- The Fraud helpdesk email: fraud@niaa.gov.au
 - The Fraud hotline: **02 6152 3020**
 - Or write to:
Fraud Control Officer
National Indigenous Australians Agency
PO Box 2191, Canberra ACT 2600
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