

NATIONAL REDRESS SCHEME EIGHTH ANNIVERSARY REVIEW

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Context

The National Redress Scheme (Scheme) was established in July 2018 in response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The Scheme provides survivors with access to redress through three components: monetary payments, counselling and psychological care, and a direct personal response from responsible institutions. The Scheme is established by the *National Redress Scheme for Institutional Child Sexual Abuse Act 2018* (the Act).

The Scheme is legislated to operate for ten years, concluding on 30 June 2028, and will close to new applications after 30 June 2027. There are two legislated reviews under the Act – one to commence as soon as possible after the second anniversary of Scheme commencement (1 July 2020) and one as soon as possible after the eighth anniversary (1 July 2026). The Second Anniversary Review was conducted between July 2020 and March 2021.

Purpose and Scope

The Eighth Anniversary Review of the Scheme (Review) is an important mechanism to reflect on the Scheme's operation, opportunities to improve outcomes for survivors, and lessons learned for future policy and system design. The Review will consider matters required under Section 192(2) of the Act, with a focus on assessing performance, survivor experience, and governance arrangements. Under section 192(4)(b) of the Act, the Review will also consider issues raised in previous evaluations and inquiries, including inquiries of the Joint Standing Committee on Implementation of the National Redress Scheme. Given the approaching statutory end date of the Scheme, the Review provides an opportunity to identify matters to guide its timely, safe and orderly conclusion.

Objectives of the Review

The Review will:

- assess Scheme performance and effectiveness – evaluate operational, financial, and governance arrangements, including how well the Scheme has met its objectives (including the extent to which it has achieved the objects of the Act) and supported survivors.
- consider survivor experience and accessibility – examine fairness, accessibility, and outcomes for survivors, and identify lessons to strengthen survivor-informed approaches in future policy and service design.

- review institutional and jurisdictional participation – assess engagement and obligations of participating institutions and governments, and explore implications for broader system design and accountability.
- examine legislative, policy, and operational frameworks – identify changes that could improve Scheme operations.
- provide insights to inform strategic considerations for the effective and efficient closure of the Scheme.
- be informed by inquiries against the matters in section 192(2) of the Act.
- under section 192(4) of the Act, also consider ‘the results of any other review or evaluation conducted in relation to the operation of the Scheme’.

Expected Outcomes

The Review will deliver a comprehensive assessment of the Scheme’s performance and identify lessons to strengthen survivor-focused policy and service design. It will provide actionable insights on governance, legislative and operational frameworks, and institutional participation, offering lessons learned from operation of the Scheme that could inform future work and system improvements.

Methodology

The Review will:

- undertake analysis of existing Scheme data, operations and financial forecasts.
- consult with survivors and survivor advocacy groups to ensure their perspectives inform design and decision-making.
- engage with participating institutions, jurisdictions and delivery partners.
- review relevant legislative, policy and operational documentation.
- examine international and domestic examples of trauma-related or redress schemes to identify best practices, challenges, and lessons learned for program design and delivery.

To support stakeholder engagement and contribution to the Review, the Department will utilise the following forums and services:

- Survivor Roundtable
- Redress Scheme Committee
- Redress Support Services and Knowmore Legal Services

Engagement through these forums and services will ensure critical stakeholders can provide input to the Review.

The Review will also consider mechanisms to provide a platform for survivors, institutions, community and advisory groups to provide their insights, experiences and opinions. This

consultation, combined with a review of complaints and feedback and the results from Survivor Surveys, will inform the Review.

Governance and Reporting

The Review will be led by a Reviewer supported by a Secretariat within the Department of Social Services. The statutory requirement is that the Review commence on or from 1 July 2026; to progress the work as quickly as possible stakeholder consultations and other preparatory work will commence in the weeks leading up to that date.

The Reviewer will deliver a report to the Minister for Social Services and Scheme Operator by November 2026.