



# Redress WA

## No: 5 October 2010

# Newsletter

### How can I get urgent help?

If you need help urgently, we recommend you:

- speak to your doctor (GP or psychiatrist),
- call Lifeline on 13 11 14 (24 hours),
- call Crisis Care on (08) 9223 1111 or 1800 199 008 (24 hours), or
- call Beyond Blue on 1300 224 636 (24 hours).

### Contact Redress WA

**Office hours:** 9.00 – 4.30pm, Monday – Friday

**Freecall:** 1800 617 233 (charges apply from mobiles)

**Telephone:** 61 8 6217 8720 (standard call charges apply)

**Mobile:** 0418 911 042 (available for text message only)

**Email:** [info@redress.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@redress.wa.gov.au)

**Post:** Locked Bag 6, WEST PERTH WA 6872

**Website:** [www.redress.wa.gov.au](http://www.redress.wa.gov.au)

### \$30 million in ex-gratia payments paid to date

When Redress WA was established in 2008, a total budget of \$114 million was allocated to administer the scheme. Of this funding, \$90.2 million was set aside for ex-gratia payments alone.

Redress WA is pleased to announce that it has now committed over \$30 million in ex-gratia payments to one third of all eligible applicants.

Redress WA acknowledges the patience applicants have shown while waiting for their assessment to be completed. Your patience is appreciated and we wish to reassure that we are working hard to assess all remaining applications by mid 2011.

### Who applied to Redress WA?

Occasionally applicants are interested in who has applied to the Redress WA scheme.

Since 1920, around 55,000 children in Western Australia were under State care.

Redress WA has accepted applications from three primary groups of people who were in State care including:

- Aboriginal people,
- former child migrants who were sent to Western Australia from overseas, and
- other children who for various reasons were placed in State care.

### The difference between ex-gratia payments and compensation

Redress WA is about acknowledging the harm that was done to applicants in State care and to help heal wounds of the past.

The Western Australian Government deeply regrets the abuse and neglect suffered by children in State care, hence the offers of ex-gratia payments under the scheme.

These ex-gratia payments are not meant to make up for the harm an applicant experienced as nothing could make up for that. Redress WA offers applicants an alternative to expensive, lengthy and stressful legal action that compensation would involve.





## How accepting an ex-gratia payment from Redress WA may affect your tax or Centrelink benefits

Redress WA has received calls from applicants who are unsure about whether their Centrelink benefits will be affected on acceptance of an ex-gratia payment from Redress WA, or if they will have to pay more tax.

The Australia Taxation Office has ruled that ex-gratia payments will not be assessed as 'ordinary income'. This means an ex-gratia payment will not be taxable, however, the way you use your payment may affect your income. Redress WA advises applicants to contact the Australian Taxation Office on 13 28 61 after receiving their payment to discuss their individual circumstances.

Ex-gratia payments made by Redress WA are also not counted as income for Centrelink purposes. If you are receiving Centrelink benefits you should contact Centrelink within 14 days of receiving your payment as it may affect your entitlements if your total assets or income exceeds thresholds for the benefit you are receiving.

## Do you wish to continue receiving the Redress WA newsletter once your application is finalised?

Redress WA is aware that applicants may not wish to continue receiving this newsletter once their payment has been finalised.

If you do not wish to continue receiving this newsletter please contact the Helpdesk by telephone on Freecall 1800 617 233 (charges apply from mobiles) or (08) 6217 8720 (standard call charges apply) or by email [info@redress.wa.gov.au](mailto:info@redress.wa.gov.au) to be removed from our newsletter mailing list.

Applicants can still visit the Redress WA website [www.communities.wa.gov.au/Services/Redress](http://www.communities.wa.gov.au/Services/Redress) at any time to access this newsletter online and other information about the Redress WA scheme.

## Individual counselling support for applicants

Redress WA applicants have access to up to three hours of individual counselling, free of charge and more can be arranged on request.

The Redress WA funded sessions are offered by the service providers listed below including new service providers located in Bunbury, Western Australia and Camberwell, Victoria:

- **ACACIA Support Centre**, South Hedland – (08) 9172 5022
- **Centacare Family Services**, Geraldton – (08) 9921 1433
- **Centacare Family Services**, Carnarvon – (08) 9941 4070
- **Care Leavers Australia Network**, Bankstown, NSW, Freecall 1800 008 774 (charges apply from mobiles) or (02) 9709 4520
- **CBERS Redress Service**, Fremantle – (08) 9433 3644
- **Child Migrant Trust**, Victoria Park – (08) 9815 2022
- **Child Migrant Trust**, Carlton, VIC – (03) 9347 7403
- **ConnectGroups** (online counselling only) – call ConnectGroups on Freecall 1800 195 575 (charges apply from mobiles) or (08) 9228 4488 or visit their website: [www.connectgroup.org.au](http://www.connectgroup.org.au) and say that you are a Redress WA applicant.
- **Dumbartung Aboriginal Corporation**, Waterford – (08) 9451 4977
- **Goldfields Community Legal Centre**, Kalgoorlie – (08) 9021 1888
- **Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation**, Broome – (08) 9193 6502
- **Kinway** (Anglicare WA), Broome – (08) 9194 2400
- **Kinway** (Anglicare WA), Kununurra – (08) 9166 5000
- **Kim Uildriks**, NSW – 0409 566 380

- **Ord Valley Aboriginal Health Service**, Kununurra – (08) 9168 1288
- **Relationships Australia**, West Leederville – (08) 9489 6300
- **Regional Counselling and Mentoring Service Inc.**, Albany – (08) 9842 9699
- **The Cairnmillar Institute**, Camberwell, VIC – (03) 9813 3400
- **Waratah Support Centre**, Bunbury – (08) 9791 2884

For further information please contact the agencies directly or call the Redress WA Helpdesk on Freecall 1800 617 233 (charges apply from mobiles) or 08 6217 8720 (standard call charges apply).

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### Have you moved house or have a new contact number?

If your circumstances have changed it is important to tell Redress WA so your details can be updated. If your health changes where you are diagnosed with a life threatening illness that can be confirmed by a medical report, you may be eligible to receive an interim payment or have your application assessed as a priority.