

# Redress WA, State of Western Australia

2008 – 2011

## Details

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The Redress WA scheme was established by the Government of Western Australia to acknowledge and apologise to adults who, as children, were abused and/or neglected while they were in the care of the state. It ran from 2008 to 31 December 2011.

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*Following the close of the scheme, early evaluation of the applications shows a large number of the claims are severe. Because of this and the large number of claims Redress WA has received, the State Government has made the difficult decision to adjust ex-gratia payments of up to \$80,000 to a maximum payment of \$45,000. The decision to adjust the maximum payment recognises the fact that most people will be entitled to a greater share of payment than was originally anticipated.*

Many people and advocacy groups protested the reduction, but the scheme went ahead with the reduced upper payment.

In its 2010-11 Annual Report, the Department for Communities described the scheme:

*Redress WA was established in 2008 as a finite scheme to acknowledge and apologise to adults who, as children, were abused and/or neglected while they were in the care of the state. Redress WA was based on four pillars of support: an opportunity to make a police referral; a personal apology from the Premier and Minister for Community Services; provision of support and counselling services; and ex gratia payments. Four broad levels of ex gratia payments were offered, ranging from a minimum of \$5000 to a maximum of \$45000.*

The four levels of payment were published in the Redress WA Guidelines on 18 May 2011:

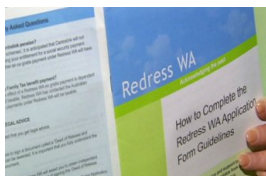
- Level 1: moderate abuse or neglect
- Level 2: serious abuse or neglect with some ongoing symptoms and disabilities
- Level 3: severe abuse or neglect with ongoing symptoms and disabilities
- Level 4: very severe abuse or neglect with ongoing symptoms and disabilities

On 14 August 2012, in answer to questions put to her in the Legislative Council, the Minister for Community Services provided the following overview of the Redress WA Scheme:

- 5,212 payments totaling \$117,740,167 were made from 5,225 offers
- 20 Redress WA claims were not finalised because: 9 applicants could not be contacted, 7 cases were due to the need to locate beneficiaries of deceased applicants, and 4 offers were rejected (\$146,797 has gone to unclaimed monies)
- 859 Level 1 payments were made, from 866 offers
- 1,813 Level 2 payments were made, from 1,818 offers
- 1,477 Level 3 payments were made, from 1,478 offers
- 1,063 Level 4 payments were made, from 1,063 offers
- 120 applicants died before receiving final payments and 82 payments were made to deceased estates
- 40 applicants registered interest but did not make an application and 13 others withdrew their applications before they were finalised
- 519 applicants were determined to be ineligible for payment under the Redress WA Scheme
- 89 applicants appealed their first offer and 19 of those were successful on appeal
- 168 written requests for 'late applications' were received by the Department for Communities after the Redress WA Scheme closed
- 2,231 cases have been referred to police. 14 allegations of abuse were directed at households with people who were caring for children in 2012 and 29 alleged perpetrators in total had Working With Children Cards. These people were referred to the Department for Child Protection and Family Support for immediate assessment and 3 children were removed from these placements 'due to age and standard of care issues'
- The number of applicants who had unclaimed wages arising from work they did while a Ward of the State was not collected
- Information about the institutions where children who were State Wards suffered abuse was not collected in a database.

The Attorney General, on behalf of the Minister for Police on 14 August 2012, also tabled answers put to him in the Legislative Council about actions taken by the WA Police (up to 6 July 2012) on matters arising from the Redress WA Scheme. The Attorney General reported that 204 Redress WA cases were being investigated and 2 individuals had been charged.

## Gallery



### Redress WA

**Description:** This is a copy of an image that was published with an article on ABC News, with the caption: 'Redress payments of \$5000 will be paid to deceased estates.'



### Make Redress Right

**Description:** This is a short film on Tuart Place's YouTube channel about Redress WA. It was produced by Dr Linda Blagg in collaboration with 24 interviewees, talking about the Redress WA scheme.

## More info

### Related Entries

#### Related Events

- [Inquiry Into Child Migration, Parliament of Australia \(2000 - 2001\)](#)

#### Related Organisations

- [The Salvation Army Australia Southern Territory \(1921 - 2018\)](#)  
People who were in Salvation Army Homes were eligible to make an application to the WA Government's Redress WA Scheme.
- [Care Leavers Australasia Network \(2000 - current\)](#)  
The Care Leavers Australia Network (CLAN) was a strong advocate for Redress WA applicants when that scheme was operating in WA.
- [Alliance for Forgotten Australians \(2006 - current\)](#)  
The Alliance for Forgotten Australians (AFA) advocated for improved payments and services to Redress WA applicants and all those who had been in 'care' as children in WA.
- [Department for Communities, State of Western Australia \(2007 - 2013\)](#)  
The Department for Communities ran Redress WA.
- [Country High School Hostels Authority, State of Western Australia \(1960 - 2017\)](#)  
The WA Government's scheme for people who were abused or neglected in 'care' as children, Redress WA, Guidelines list a number of 'Facilities Operated Subject to the Country High School [Hostels] Authority Act 1960 - Past and Present' (18 May 2011).
- [CBERS Redress Service \(2008 - 2012\)](#)  
CBERS Redress Service was a funded provider of assistance and support to applicants in the Redress WA scheme and a strong advocate for improved payments and services to applicants.  
Date: 2008 - 2011
- [Office of the Public Advocate, State of Western Australia](#)  
The Public Advocate made 49 applications to Redress WA on behalf of adults under guardianship who were in state 'care' as children.  
Date: 2008 - 2009
- [Adults Surviving Child Abuse \(1995 - 10 April 2016\)](#)  
ASCA's Western Australia spokesperson was a strong advocate for improvement in Redress WA payments and services.
- [Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia \(Inc.\) \(1973 - current\)](#)  
The ALSWA was a funded provider of support services to Redress WA applicants and was also a strong advocate for improved payments and services from Redress WA.

#### Related Legislation

- [Country High School Hostels Authority Act 1960, Western Australia \(1960 - 2017\)](#)

## Resources

- Government of Western Australia, [Redress WA Guidelines: Guidelines to Provide for an Ex Gratia Payment to Persons Abused and/or Neglected as Children While in State Care](#), 15 February 2010
- Government of Western Australia, [Redress WA: Acknowledging the past. Initial scheme details \(web archive\)](#)., 11 February 2008
- Strutt, Jessica, *Liberal Mp urges Redress rethink*, The West Australian, 20 August 2009
- *Redress scheme will leave many disillusioned*, The West Australian, 18 February 2010
- Strutt, Jessica, *Outcry at cut in abuse compo*, The West Australian, 29 July 2009
- Raphael, Angie, *Redress WA grant cuts criticised*, Fremantle Gazette, 18 August 2009
- Strutt, Jessica, *Redress abusers face legal action*, The West Australian, 19 August 2009
- *Opinion - Range if spit fires a problem for Barnett*, The West Australian, 24 August 2009
- White, Dr Philippa and Rosser, Dr Debra, *Helpful editorial*, The West Australian, 14 August 2009
- *Opinion - State should think again on compensation*, The West Australian, 13 August 2009
- *Letters to the Editor*, The West Australian, 3 August 2009
- *Letters to the Editor*, The West Australian, 5 August 2009
- *Redress cuts 'heartless'*, Melville City Herald, 15 August 2009
- Moloney, Caitlin, *Victims can't be silenced*, The Perth Voice, 15 August 2009

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You can view this page online by visiting <https://www.findandconnect.gov.au/entity/redress-wa-2/>