



Frequently Asked Questions

Establishment of the National Centre for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse (National Centre)

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Seeking Support

Where can I get support?

If you, or someone you know is impacted by child sexual abuse, some options for support are listed below:

If you are experiencing an emergency, please contact **000**.

1800 Respect - Call 1800 737 732 or visit www.1800respect.org.au

24/7 telephone and online crisis support, information and immediate referral to specialist counselling for anyone in Australia who has experienced or been impacted by sexual assault, or domestic or family violence.

Lifeline - Call 13 11 14 or visit www.lifeline.org.au

24 hour crisis support and suicide prevention

National Redress Scheme

For support and information in relation to the National Redress Scheme, call **1800 737 377** or visit www.nationalredress.gov.au

About the National Centre

What is the National Centre?

The establishment of a national centre was informed by a key recommendation (9.9) of the [Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse](#) (Royal Commission).

Recommendation 9.9 ([Final Report - Recommendations](#), p. 32)

The Australian Government, in conjunction with state and territory governments, should establish and fund a national centre to raise awareness and understanding of the impacts of child sexual abuse, support help-seeking and guide best practice advocacy and support and therapeutic treatment. The national centre's functions should be to:

- a. raise community awareness and promote destigmatising messages about the impacts of child sexual abuse
- b. increase practitioners' knowledge and competence in responding to child and adult victims and survivors by translating knowledge about the impacts of child sexual abuse and the evidence on effective responses into practice and policy. This should include activities to:
 - i. identify, translate and promote research in easily available and accessible formats for advocacy and support and therapeutic treatment practitioners
 - ii. produce national training materials and best practice clinical resources
 - iii. partner with training organisations to conduct training and workforce development programs
 - iv. influence national tertiary curricula to incorporate child sexual abuse and trauma-informed care
 - v. inform government policy making
- c. lead the development of better service models and interventions through coordinating a national research agenda and conducting high-quality program evaluation.

The national centre should partner with survivors in all its work, valuing their knowledge and experience.

What was announced in the 2019-20 Budget?

On 30 March 2019, the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, announced the Australian Government will commit \$22.5 million (to 2024-25) towards the establishment of the National Centre for the Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse (the National Centre).

The announcement noted the National Centre will be focused on preventing child sexual abuse, reducing the associated stigma, as well as raising awareness and understanding of the impacts of child sexual abuse.

The National Centre will provide a national, strategic focus to research and improve the capacity of services to respond to survivors, reduce offender recidivism and help to prevent future child sexual abuse.

The announcement committed to further consultation on the scope, location, functions and governance arrangements of the National Centre.

The National Centre will have a dual focus on improving sector capability to respond to child and adult survivors as well as stopping the problem over time.

You can read the Australian Government's announcement [here](#).

Who is developing the National Centre?

The Department of Social Services (the department) is responsible for the implementation and establishment of the National Centre and will work closely with key government and non-government stakeholders to design the National Centre through a national consultation process.

Once established, the National Centre's governance will be independent of the Government.

What will be the function of the National Centre?

The National Centre's role in responding to and preventing child sexual abuse will be influenced by a national consultation process.

It is anticipated the National Centre will seek to:

- raise community awareness and reduce the stigma about child sexual abuse
- increase practitioners' knowledge and competence in responding to child and adult victims and survivors
- develop better service models and interventions through research and by conducting high-quality program evaluation.

The National Centre will respond to all child sexual abuse, not only institutional abuse.

Will the National Centre deliver services directly to victims and survivors?

The National Centre was recommended to be a "Centre of Excellence" and will not deliver services directly to victims and survivors. Other [recommendations made by the Royal Commission](#) address the need for improved services, and support for victims and survivors.

How will the National Centre fit with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse recommendations?

Commonwealth, state and territory governments are progressing a range of initiatives to keep children safe in response to the recommendations from the Royal Commission.

The Government will work to ensure the National Centre aligns with the Royal Commission recommendations—in particular, recommendation 9.9 that proposes the establishment and funding of a National Centre to raise awareness and understanding of the impacts of child sexual abuse, support help-seeking and guide best practice advocacy and support and therapeutic treatment.

The National Centre will work in partnership with other government and non-government organisations to ensure it builds on rather than duplicates current efforts across the sector. The establishment of the National Centre provides an opportunity to coordinate work across jurisdictions, building national best practice approaches and research, evaluating service models to prevent child sexual abuse in the future and better assist survivors.

The National Centre will not deliver services directly to victims and survivors. Other recommendations made by the Royal Commission address the need for improved services.

The National Centre is separate to the [Redress](#) program.

Why a focus on prevention?

The Australian Government's funding announcement asked that the National Centre include a prevention focus.

Prevention of child sexual abuse was identified by the Royal Commission as a critical gap in the current evidence and skill base. The Royal Commission identified the need for a public health approach which emphasises the importance of preventing future occurrences of child sexual abuse.

Preventing child sexual abuse and further victimisation will have positive impacts that go well beyond ending the abuse itself: from better psychological, social and health outcomes for individuals, including victims and survivors, to creating families and communities that value our children, who can take active steps to prevent harm towards them, and enhance their wellbeing.

Stakeholder Consultations

Who is being consulted on the National Centre?

Engaging stakeholders in a genuine collaborative way that draws on the collective wisdom, experience and skills of a wide range of people and organisations is critical to the future success of the National Centre.

Throughout October to December 2019, the department held face-to-face consultations with non-government and government stakeholders; including survivor advocacy groups, people who work with victims and survivors, academics, peak bodies, national and local organisations who provide services, and policy and decision makers.

In February 2020, the department will release an online survey through DSS Engage to give all Australians, including survivors, an opportunity to participate in the National Centre's design. Consultation feedback will contribute to the design of the National Centre.

How are diverse communities being engaged in this process?

Invitations to the National Centre consultations included a number of individuals and organisations that represent or work with people of diverse backgrounds. This included representatives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; culturally and linguistically diverse communities; people of diverse sex, gender and sexuality; people with disability and regional and remote service providers.

Will people with lived experience be engaged in the consultation process?

The Royal Commission recommended the National Centre should partner with survivors in all its work, valuing their knowledge and experience.

Engaging survivors in a genuine collaborative design process will be critical to the future success of the National Centre. Advocacy groups and organisations that work with survivors were key stakeholders invited to participate in face-to-face consultation to ensure the views of those with lived experience are influential in the design of the National Centre.

The department's online consultation process is open to the public and everyone, including those affected by child sexual abuse, is encouraged to contribute to feedback that will inform the design of the National Centre.

Funding and Selection Process

How much will be invested in the National Centre?

The Royal Commission recommended the National Centre will require an investment \$45 million over five years, should be established together with state and territory governments, and that it should be independent from government.

The Australian Government has already committed \$22.5 million over five years (to 2024-25) towards the establishment of the National Centre. You can read more about the announcement [here](#).

The Australian Government will work in partnership with states and territories to deliver the National Centre.

How many states and territories have agreed to provide funding for implementation of the National Centre?

The Government thanks the states and territories for their ongoing efforts to deliver on the Royal Commission's recommendations. The Australian Government has committed \$22.5 million towards the establishment of the National Centre; states and territories continue to be engaged in consultation relating to their ongoing support and funding for the National Centre.

Who will govern the National Centre? What is the selection process going to look like?

A competitive process to select a successful organisation or consortium to lead the work of the National Centre will take place in 2020. The selection process will require a series of criteria be met by the successful provider to ensure their suitability in delivering the National Centre. This criteria will in part be informed by the consultation process.

It is expected the governance around the National Centre's delivery will be independent of government.

What date will the National Centre be fully established and operational?

It is anticipated that the outcome of the selection process for the National Centre will be announced at the end of 2020. The department will provide further updates on the National Centre webpage.

What happens after the five-year funding period?

Ongoing financial stability of the National Centre after the initial five-year funding is yet to be determined. To ensure the viability of the National Centre beyond 2025, proactively seeking additional funding sources will be a key deliverable for the successful tendering organisation or consortium.