



Frequently Asked Questions

Establishment of the National Memorial for Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse

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Seeking Support

Where can I get support?

If you need emotional support at any time please contact:

- In an emergency call Triple Zero (000)
- [Lifeline](#) 13 11 14
- [Beyond Blue](#) 1300 224 636
- [Mensline](#) 1300 78 99 78
- [Suicide Call Back Service](#) 1300 659 467
- [1800 RESPECT](#) 1800 737 732

If you need support from a Redress or Find and Connect organisation, you can reach them via the following links:

- [Redress](#)
- Find and Connect [Support Services](#) and [Representative Organisations](#)

About the National Memorial

What is the National Memorial?

The National Memorial for Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (National Memorial) was a recommendation (17.6) of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Royal Commission).

Recommendation 17.6 ([Final Report: Recommendations](#), p. 62)

‘A national memorial should be commissioned by the Australian Government for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse in institutional contexts. Victims and survivors should be consulted on the memorial design and it should be located in Canberra.’

What was announced in the 2020-21 Budget?

In the 2020-21 Federal Budget, the Australian Government committed \$6.7 million from 2020-21 towards the development of the National Memorial. This funding is for the entire Memorial project, including its development, construction, launch, and ongoing maintenance.

The Government stated the National Memorial would provide a place for healing, reflection and recognition of victims, survivors and others affected by institutional child sexual abuse.

A budget Fact Sheet on the department’s website committed to further consultation on the scope and purpose of the National Memorial.

You can find the National Memorial Fact Sheet [here](#).

Who is developing the National Memorial?

The Department of Social Services (the department) is responsible for the development of the National Memorial. The department has partnered with the National Capital Authority (NCA) and has established a National Memorial Advisory Group (Advisory Group) to provide advice on the development of the National Memorial in Canberra.

The NCA is a Commonwealth statutory authority that oversees the design and construction of all national memorials in Canberra.

The Advisory Group, which includes people who represent those with lived experience of institutional child sexual abuse, their families, and advocates, and other relevant experts, will inform key stages of the development of the National Memorial.

A national design competition will be conducted to select the best design. A panel including people with lived experience and other relevant experts will select the preferred design. A supplier will then be selected to construct the memorial.

Key decisions during the development of the National Memorial will require the approval of the Canberra National Memorials Committee (CNMC), which is chaired by the Prime Minister.

Why establish a National Memorial?

Acknowledging the experiences, and meeting the needs of victims and survivors of institutional child sexual abuse is a significant national priority for the Government.

The Royal Commission made the following key points in relation to the recommendation to establish a National memorial:

- ‘Memorials can provide symbolic reparation and public recognition to victims and survivors in ways that can contribute to healing’
- ‘Memorials honour those who have suffered and provide opportunities to remember the past and think about the future’
- ‘They provide a specific place for families and wider society to reflect on the trauma of survivors and mourn the victims lost’
- ‘They may also service to educate future generations about what occurred in a society’s history and provide a space for public awareness and remembrance’
- ‘We heard in private sessions that some survivors felt that remembering was one way to help prevent child sexual abuse and protect children in the future.’

The Government is committed to ensuring the National Memorial aligns with the Royal Commission’s recommendation, which specified the Government establish the National Memorial in Canberra in consultation with victims and survivors of institutional child sexual abuse.

Stakeholder Consultations

Who is being consulted on the National Memorial?

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

In the lead up to the National Apology to Victims and Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse (National Apology) in 2018, a National Apology Reference Group (Reference Group) was established. The Reference Group conducted 58 consultation sessions across all Australian states and territories, including some regional areas, and received more than 360 online responses. The key focus of this work was to provide advice to the Government to ensure the preparation and delivery of the National Apology reflected survivor's experiences and wishes for the occasion. The Reference Group advised on a range of recommendations, including the National Memorial.

The Advisory Group, which includes people with lived experience of institutional child sexual abuse and former members of the Reference Group, is overseeing the development and implementation of the National Memorial.

In November 2020, the department is undertaking a national consultation process via an online survey to give all Australians, particularly people with lived experience of institutional and other forms of child sexual abuse, an opportunity to share their views on the National Memorial.

How are diverse communities being engaged in this process?

The department is implementing a comprehensive stakeholder engagement strategy to ensure consultation of diverse communities, particularly people with lived experience, on the National Memorial.

The online survey is being promoted widely through social media, advocacy groups, states and territories, peak bodies, and service delivery networks. The department is also working closely with the sector to ensure the survey is as accessible as possible, which includes making the survey available in hard copy form.

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

People with lived experience of institutional and other forms of child sexual abuse are being closely consulted on the development of the National Memorial. The Advisory Group, which plays an important role in shaping the National Memorial, includes representatives with lived experience of institutional child sexual abuse. Further, the department stakeholder engagement strategy seeks to ensure people affected by institutional and other forms of child sexual abuse are informed about, and are supported to participate in, the national consultation process via the online survey.

Construction and delivery

Why is the Government spending money on building a National Memorial and not on support services for survivors?

The Royal Commission specifically recommended the Government establish a national memorial in Canberra in consultation with victims and survivors of institutional child sexual abuse (recommendation 17.6).

The Government's commitment to establishing the National Memorial is in addition to support services for victims and survivors of institutional child sexual abuse such as the [National Redress Scheme](#).

Why is there going to be a design competition, and a procurement to select the builder?

Memorials of national significance are best implemented via a public process to attract high quality submissions within a specified funding envelope. The design competition will promote public interest in the National Memorial and is a critical step for attracting the best design.

The department is working closely with the NCA and the Advisory Group to develop the design brief, which will form the basis of the design competition. The design brief will provide details on the intent and purpose of the National Memorial and contain all the relevant specifications.

A procurement process to select a suitable provider to build the National Memorial will ensure the build meets required standards and provides overall value for money.

Can survivors apply to design and/or build the National Memorial?

The design competition will be open to artists and design professionals with the skills to meet the requirements outlined in the competition design brief. Survivors and people with lived experience will be able to participate in the design competition in accordance with these requirements and specifications. Similarly, the procurement to select the builder will be open to potential suppliers with the skills required to meet the brief.

When will the National Memorial be delivered?

It is anticipated that the National Memorial will be delivered in 2022. The department will provide further updates on the National Memorial webpage on the department's website.

Who is responsible for maintaining the National Memorial?

The Government is responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the National Memorial and will work with its key partner, the NCA, to ensure the site is appropriately maintained.