



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 immediate emotional support, 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

Support Services

- For specialised support services, available during specific times, contact:
 - [Redress Support Services](#) on 1800 737 377 – available 8am to 5pm weekdays (AEST)
 - [Survivors & Mates Support Network](#) on 1800 472 676 – available 9am to 5pm weekdays (AEST)
 - [Find and Connect Support Services](#) on 1800 16 11 09 – available 9am to 5pm weekdays (AEST)
 - [Forced Adoption Support Services](#) on 1800 21 03 13 – available 9am to 5pm weekdays (AEST)
 - For a list of resources, please visit - [National Association of Services Against Sexual Violence](#)

Information about Memorial

- More information on the progress of the National Memorial for Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Memorial) is available on the [Department of Social Services website](#).

About the National Memorial

Why is the National Memorial being built?

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

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.'

Who is developing the National Memorial?

- The Department of Social Services is responsible for the development of the National Memorial, partnering with the National Capital Authority.
- The National Capital Authority is a Commonwealth statutory authority that oversees the design and construction of all national memorials in Canberra. The National Capital Authority has conducted the design selection and procurement process and will manage construction of the National Memorial.
- The National Memorial 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.

Who is responsible for maintaining the National Memorial?

- The National Capital Authority is responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the National Memorial to ensure the site is appropriately maintained.

New Memorial design

What is the meaning and purpose of the new design?

- The successful design, created by the SUPERSENSE STUDIO, features a metal sculpture set amongst stone formations and plantings.
- It aims to connect with the experiences of victims, survivors, their families and friends, and their arduous journey endured through institutional child sexual abuse.
- At the heart of the design is an elliptical sculpture inspired by one of nature's most profound symbols - the egg.

This choice speaks quietly yet powerfully to themes of childhood, while simultaneously embodying protection and inherent strength.

- Through its gentle circularity, the sculpture's form suggests continuity, wholeness and the enduring connections that help sustain us through difficult times.

How do we know the new design reflects the needs and voices of survivors?



- A National Memorial Advisory Group (NMAG) was appointed in October 2020 to advise the Department of Social Services (the Department) and National Capital Authority during key stages of the project to ensure the National Memorial design was suitable, and trauma-informed.
 1. The National Memorial Advisory Group has been consulted during the design procurement process to ensure the voices of victims and survivors were considered throughout the selection process.
- In November 2020, a public consultation was undertaken to inform the National Memorial's intention, location, design, and purpose.
 2. Of the 287 responses to the survey, over 60 per cent of respondents identified as a person with lived experience of child sexual abuse.
 3. In early 2024, victims and survivors were consulted to confirm the National Memorial intent, core values and features obtained through the 2020 public consultation process were still relevant.
- Engagement with First Nations representatives has been undertaken and will continue throughout the project.

Will the National Memorial still be located on Acton Peninsula?

- Yes, the National Memorial will still be located on Acton Peninsula in Canberra. The location was selected based on the needs and preferences expressed by survivors through a national survey.
- The site offers peaceful surroundings for quiet reflection, accessibility, and prominence, making it a meaningful and respectful place to honour victims, survivors, families, and supporters.

Original National Memorial design

What was wrong with the original design?

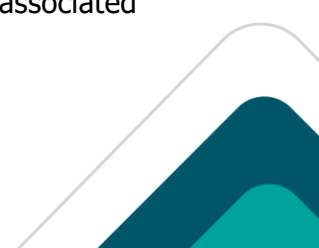
- After the National Capital Authority completed their assessment of the original design concept, 'Transparency and Truth', they found it had complex technical challenges due to the unique use of glass in the design.
- The Government worked hard to figure out ways to resolve the challenges and worked with the National Memorial Advisory Group and National Capital Authority to find suitable solutions.
- However, a suitable solution could not be found, so the Government decided not to proceed with the selected design.

Why weren't the technical issues picked up earlier?

- The original selection process was carried out in two parts. The first was the design competition, and the second was a feasibility assessment of the chosen design.
- After conducting the assessment, the National Capital Authority found complex technical challenges that meant the design could not progress.

How much money was spent on the original design process?

- The National Capital Authority spent \$670,000 on the original design selection and associated technical assessments.



Construction and procurement

How do we know the new design selection process was fair?

- The new design was selected through a procurement process managed by the National Capital Authority. This process involved probity advisors to ensure fairness in the conduct of the process.
- The National Memorial Advisory Group was a key advisor during the procurement process to ensure the National Memorial design resonates with victims and survivors, their families, and supporters.

Will survivors and stakeholders continue to be consulted?

- The Department of Social Services and National Capital Authority will continue to seek advice from the National Memorial Advisory Group until the project is complete.
- The Government will keep stakeholders informed of progress.

How do we know the design won't change again?

- The overall design concept and intent are settled and will not change. However, minor changes may still happen through the fabrication and construction process.

When will the new design be constructed?

- Construction of the Memorial is scheduled to start in 2026 and is expected to be completed in 2027.
- Updates on the progress of establishing the Memorial will be provided on the department's website www.dss.gov.au.

The Department of Social Services would like to extend its sincere thanks and appreciation to the National Memorial Advisory Group for their work and ongoing commitment to supporting the establishment of the Memorial.

