



Guide to sharing your story with the Royal Commission




If you want to share your story about child sexual abuse in an institution with the Royal Commission, this guide will help you work out what to say. It also tells you the sort of information we would like to know.

You can answer all or just some of the questions. Or tell us your story in your own words.

It doesn't matter if you don't remember everything or don't know an answer to a question. It will help us if you answer as many as you can.

Contact us

To learn more about making a statement to the Royal Commission, please contact us:

-  1800 099 340
-  GPO Box 5283, Sydney NSW 2001
-  contact@childabuseroyal.commission.gov.au
www.childabuseroyal.commission.gov.au

Your details

You don't have to give us your name or contact details, but it will help us if you do.

Name

Birth date or year

Phone number

Email

Mail address

What happened

Are you telling us about child sexual abuse that happened to you?

Yes, it happened to me

No, it happened to someone else

What is your relationship to that person?

Where did the sexual abuse happen?

Institution

City/Town

State

When, or around when, did the abuse happen?

Date or range of dates

Can you tell us what happened?

Did anyone else see what happened?

Yes

No/Not sure

If yes, who?

Did you tell anyone about it around the time when it happened?

Yes

No

If yes, who?

Reporting to the institution

Did you report the sexual abuse to the institution?

Yes

No [Skip to section 3]

Who at the institution did you tell about it?

Name/s and position/s

What did you tell them?

When, or around when, did you tell them?

Date

Did you put it in writing?

Yes If yes, do you have a copy of it?
No

Yes

No

Did you tell anyone about it around the time when it happened?

Yes

No

If yes, who?

The institution's response

Did the institution do anything when you told it about the sexual abuse?

Yes

No/Not sure [Skip to section 4]

How did the institution first respond?

What else did the institution do about it?

Did the institution investigate what happened to you?

Yes

No/Not sure

If yes, how did they investigate?

Did you feel encouraged by the institution for reporting the abuse?

Yes

No

Why or why not?

Did the institution offer you any help or support?

Yes

No

If yes, what help or support did they offer you?

Did you accept the help or support they offered?

Yes

No

To accept their help or support, did you have to agree to any conditions (like keeping it confidential)?

Yes

No

If yes, what were those conditions?

Did the institution accept responsibility for what happened?

Yes

No

If yes, how? For example, did they apologise to you personally or in a public statement?

Did the institution encourage you to report the abuse to the police?

Yes

No

If yes, what help or support did they offer you?

Reporting to the police

Did you report the sexual abuse to the police?

Yes

No

If no, was there a reason why you didn't?

Would you like us to report it for you?

Yes

No

When, or around when, did you report to police?

Police officer's name

Police station

Date

What did the police do?

Did the police charge the accused person?

Yes

No/Not sure

Did you give evidence in a criminal case?

Yes

No

What was the result for the accused person?

Compensation

Did you seek compensation for the sexual abuse?

Yes

No [Skip to section 6]

How did you seek compensation?

For example, did you go to court, attend mediation, go through a formal compensation process, or approach the institution directly?

Did you receive a compensation payment?

Yes

No

How much?

Was it enough?

Who paid it?

Were there any conditions attached (like keeping it confidential)?

Yes

No

If yes, what were they?

Did you have help from a lawyer when you sought compensation?	Yes	No
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If no, did the institution encourage you to seek independent legal advice before agreeing to any compensation?	Yes	No
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How long did it take for you to receive compensation, from when you first requested it?

Were you satisfied with the compensation process?	Yes	No
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Why or why not?

Support

Have you received any emotional or psychological support since the sexual abuse?

Yes

No

What support, if any, have you had?

What support, if any, are you getting now?

Is there any support you would like to have?

Other inquiries

Have you told your story of child sexual abuse to another inquiry?

Yes

No [Skip to section 8]

Which inquiry was it?

Inquiry name

How did you tell your story to that inquiry?

Made a written submission

Gave evidence in public

Gave evidence in private

Your recommendations for change

Please let us know if you have suggestions that we should consider, or any other information you would like to share with us.



Do you have suggestions for changes to the institution's policies or procedures?

Is there anything you would like us to recommend to the government?

Is there anything else you would like to share with the Royal Commission?

Next steps

Please send us your written statement by:

-  contact@childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au or
-  post to GPO Box 5283 Sydney NSW 2001.

To email your story, please follow the instructions below:

If you have hand-written your story, please scan this form on both sides, attach and email to contact@childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au


If you have typed your story directly into this form, you can simply save the document, attach and email to contact@childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au

To post your story, please follow the instructions below:

If you have hand-written your story, you can simply post the hard copy to us. You may wish to take a photocopy of your statement before posting it to us.

If you have typed your story directly into this form, please print the document and post it to us.

Please **post** your hard copy written statement to GPO Box 5283 Sydney NSW 2001.

Or to tell us your story over the phone or in person, you can call  1800 099 340 to arrange an interview.

Thank you for sharing your story with us.

How we use your information

We might like to use all or part of your story in our reports. If we do this, we take out people's names and other identifying details.

For example, instead of giving the exact name of an institution, we might use a more general term like 'a Catholic primary school', 'an Anglican church' or 'a state-run orphanage'. And instead of naming the town or city where the sexual abuse occurred, we might call it 'a small rural town' or 'a capital city'.

Can we use any part of your story if we take out people's names and other identifying details?

Yes

No