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| Victorian Government Redress Scheme for Pre-1990 Care Leavers  Questions and Answers  January 2023 |
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# Why is the Victorian Government establishing a Redress Scheme (the Scheme) for Pre-1990 Care Leavers?

The Victorian Government acknowledges the trauma and lifelong impact of the physical, psychological, emotional abuse and neglect experienced by many Victorian children while placed in historical institutional care.

Many of these children grew up not knowing their family and their grief and trauma continues today, with many experiencing poverty, homelessness, and mental illness because of the abuse they experienced.

The department uses the term ‘Pre-1990 Care Leaver’ however, recognises there are multiple ways individuals and groups identify themselves, including Care Leavers and Forgotten Australians.

# What period will the Scheme cover?

The Scheme will cover the period before 1990, when an estimated 90,000 Victorian children were placed in care. This was due to factors such as economic stress, social disadvantage, being orphaned, having a single parent or parental mental illness. After 1990, legislative changes in Victoria led to the closure of the last of the children’s homes and orphanages.

This period however will be confirmed during the design of the Scheme including a co-design phase with Pre-1990 Care Leavers.

# How long will the Scheme run?

It is anticipated the Scheme will operate for 5 years.

# When will the Scheme commence?

#### The Scheme is expected to commence in early 2024. Ahead of this, exceptional circumstances payments will be available in the coming months.

# How can I access an exceptional circumstances payment?

Information about the payment including eligibility and application process will be available soon.

# How will the Scheme be administered?

The department will lead the design, preparation, and implementation of the Scheme. Any perceived or actual conflict of interest will be managed transparently with independent governance and oversight, and with living experience expertise.

# How will the Scheme align to other Redress Schemes?

The new Scheme will build on support available through the National Redress Scheme, set up after the *Royal Commission into institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse* and comparable schemes in Victoria and other jurisdictions.

# How will Pre-1990 Care Leavers be involved in the design of the Scheme?

Information about opportunities for Pre-1990 Care Leavers to be involved in the design of the Scheme will be available in the coming months. It is anticipated there will be a variety of opportunities available for those who wish to be involved, including input via email, telephone and in face-to-face forums. The department will actively seek to engage with Pre-1990 Care Leavers from a broad range of backgrounds and experiences.

# How will key stakeholder organisations be involved in the design of the Scheme?

Information about opportunities to be involved will also be available soon to organisations who are responsible for historic institutional care as well as those who currently provide services for Pre-1990 Care Leavers.

# Where can I find out more and register my interest in getting involved in the design process?

You can find information about the Scheme and consultation process by going to the [Pre-1990 Care Leavers](https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/pre-1990-care-leavers) webpage <https://services.dffh.vic.gov.au/pre-1990-care-leavers> or emailing [Victorian Government Redress Scheme](mailto:VictorianGovernmentRedressScheme@dffh.vic.gov.au) <VictorianGovernmentRedressScheme@dffh.vic.gov.au>.

# What supports are currently available for Care Leavers?

All Care Leavers can access free, confidential support by contacting:

* Care Leavers Australasia Network (CLAN) on 1800 008 774 or the [Lifelong support for Care Leavers in Australia & New Zealand](https://clan.org.au/) webpage <https://clan.org.au/>
* Open Place (Relationships Australia Victoria) on 1800 779 379 or the [Open Place](https://www.openplace.org.au/) webpage <https://www.openplace.org.au/>
* In Good Faith Foundation on (03) 9940 1533 or the [In Good Faith Foundation](https://igff.org.au/) webpage <https://igff.org.au/>
* If crisis support is needed, people are encouraged to contact one of the below services:
  + Lifeline 13 11 14
  + Beyond Blue 1300 224 636
  + Mensline 1300 78 99 78
  + Suicide call-back Service 1300 659 467
  + In an emergency call Triple Zero (000)

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