

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND JUSTICE
STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT 5 AND REPORT 6: *SEEKING JUSTICE: IMPROVING
OPTIONS FOR SURVIVORS OF INSTITUTIONAL CHILD ABUSE***

VOLUME 1: LEGISLATIVE AND HIGH-LEVEL ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS &

**VOLUME 2: WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S SUPPORT FOR SURVIVORS INCLUDING THE
NATIONAL REDRESS SCHEME**

26 NOVEMBER 2024

The Government would firstly like to acknowledge the experiences and strength of survivors of child sexual abuse and thank them for their advocacy in relation to this important matter.

The Government has considered the recommendations made by the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee (CDJSC) in:

- Report 5: 'Seeking justice: improving options for survivors of institutional child abuse; Volume 1: Legislative and high-level administrative matters' and
- Report 6: 'Seeking justice: improving options for survivors of institutional child abuse; Volume 2: Western Australia's support for survivors including the National Redress Scheme'

This response is addition to the Government's response to Report 5, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 12 March 2024. That high-level response provided advice on the various projects that the Government had progressed, or continues to progress, in response to the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Royal Commission). It was intended that a more specific response to the recommendations of Report 5 (Volume 1) be provided once Report 6 (Volume 2) had been published.

The Government has accepted, or accepted in principle, 11 of the committee's recommendations. Fourteen of the recommendations are under further consideration. As acknowledged by the CDJSC in its report, much has been done since the Royal Commission's final reports were presented in 2017, with more than half the accepted recommendations completed to date.

Two of the most significant achievements that the CDJSC draws attention to in Volume 2 of its report is the establishment of the National Redress Scheme, and the reforms that Government introduced to remove statutory limitation periods to enable survivors of child sexual abuse to commence civil claims in this State. Since the time limits were removed for past child sexual abuse civil actions, the Western Australian District Court has offered a specialised mediation service and has been running a successful Abuse Claims List to expedite the early resolution of these claims.

The Office of the Commissioner for Victims of Crime continues to provide valuable support and services to survivors who choose to access the National Redress Scheme. The Office's Redress Coordination Unit provides a central point to link

redress applicants, Government agencies and the National Redress Scheme. It also provides information about counselling and psychological care to eligible survivors and coordinates the delivery of direct personal responses if the survivor chooses to seek out an apology.

The Government also continues progress work in other areas in response to the Royal Commission, and to prevent and address child sexual abuse in Western Australia.

The Government has strengthened the mandatory reporting scheme legislation it implemented as recommended by the Royal Commission. This legislation, administered by the Department of Communities, has been expanded to include groups such as Ministers of religion, school counsellors and psychologists, out of home care workers, and, as of 1 November 2024, over 30,000 early childhood workers. By making more occupations mandatory reporters, the Government aims to improve reporting of suspected child abuse.

The Government has also implemented a Reportable Conduct Scheme which aims to prevent harm to children by holding organisations accountable for the conduct of their staff. The Reportable Conduct Scheme has been operating in Western Australia since 1 January 2023, providing support for people to speak up about concerning behaviours and improve systems and processes of organisations for preventing and dealing with complaints and reports of abuse about their staff. Over 4,000 organisations are now subject to the Reportable Conduct Scheme's requirements.

The Government is also committed to supporting the development of safe organisations for children and young people. An independent oversight system that includes monitoring and enforcement of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (National Principles) is in development. In the meantime, the Government encourages organisations across the state that engage with children and young people to implement the National Principles. Government departments that engage with children and young people, including the Department of Communities, are also taking steps to be child safe organisations

The Government remains committed to finalising the Royal Commission recommendations it has accepted and working in partnership with victims and the community services sector to progress shared goals to support survivors.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND JUSTICE STANDING COMMITTEE – Seeking justice: Improving options for survivors of institutional child abuse

Government Response to Report 5 and Report 6: Volumes 1 and 2

In accordance with Standing Order 277(1) of the Standing Orders of the Legislative Assembly, the Community Development and Justice Standing Committee directs that the Attorney General report to the Assembly as to the action, if any, proposed to be taken by the Government with respect to the recommendations of the Committee.

Recommendation	Government response	Comment	
VOLUME 1: Legislative and high-level administrative matters			
1-1	That the Attorney General introduce amendments to Western Australia's civil liability legislation to remove limitation periods for personal injury claims relating to 'physical' or 'serious physical abuse', and 'associated psychological or emotional abuse' against minors, in addition to child sexual abuse.	Further consideration	The Department of Justice is conducting the necessary policy work and consultation to consider this recommendation. It is noted that any reforms in line with this recommendation will involve significant cost and resourcing implications and have flow-on effects for the State and for private insurance providers.
1-2	That the Attorney General, through the Department of Justice, monitor the implementation of Recommendation 1 to ensure the court system is adequately resourced to manage any additional claims.	Further consideration	As per Recommendation 1.
1-3	That the Attorney General introduce legislation to ensure applications to set aside settlements deeds can run concurrently with civil claims that had previously been statute-barred (including any brought under legislative changes resulting from Recommendation 1).	Accept in principle	The Government accepts the intention of this recommendation and acknowledges that the court system may be a stressful and unfamiliar environment for plaintiffs who seek justice through the civil process. The Department of Justice is considering how best to facilitate the concurrent lodgement of an application to set aside a settlement deed and a new civil claim. The Government notes that facilitating the concurrent lodgement of applications cannot result in the civil claim proceeding before the deed is set aside.
1-4	That all defendant institutions, including the State, ensure that they do not extend the scope of any deeds made to settle cases of child abuse (including those brought under legislative changes resulting from Recommendation 1) beyond the immediate issue at hand.	Accept in principle	The Government accepts the principle that settlement deeds are not used to indemnify future unrelated claims and considers that no action to implement this recommendation in relation to the State and its agencies is required. In civil litigation involving child sexual abuse, guidance is provided to the State and its agencies by the 'Western Australia Government Whole of Government Guiding Principles for Responding to Civil Litigation Involving Child Sexual Abuse' (Guiding Principles). The Guiding Principles outline 12 areas in which the State and its agencies can reduce the trauma of victims involved in civil actions. The Guiding Principles advise State litigants to, amongst other things, consider resolving a matter without commencing proceedings in court and consider the use of confidentiality clauses in relation to settlement deeds, having regard to the wishes of the alleged victim and the existence of any cross-claims or related claims. Parties to child sexual abuse civil litigation are nearly always legally represented when entering into settlement negotiations. The parties and their lawyers have the opportunity to raise any drafting issues as to the scope of a deed before agreeing to execute it.
1-5	That the Attorney General introduce amendments to Western Australia's civil liability legislation to ensure that an organisation is presumed to have breached its duty of care for children who are victims of abuse perpetrated by anyone employed, engaged or associated with that organisation (including abuse covered by legislative changes resulting from Recommendation 1) unless it can establish that it took reasonable precautions to prevent that abuse.	Further consideration	The Government continues to conduct policy work and consultation on this recommendation.
1-6	That the Attorney General introduce amendments to the relevant legislation to ensure that civil litigation on matters of child abuse (including those brought under any legislative changes resulting from Recommendation 1) can be continued by the estate of the plaintiff.	Accept in relation to civil litigation that has commenced prior to the death of the plaintiff and subject to the <i>Law Reform (Miscellaneous</i>	The Government supports the introduction of legislation that would preserve (for the benefit of the estate) the rights of plaintiffs who died after commencing a child sexual abuse action to address the potential injustice for this category of plaintiff.

Recommendation		Government response	Comment
		<i>Provisions) Act 1941, as it applies to general personal injury claims only.</i>	
1-7	That the Attorney General introduce amendments to the relevant legislation to allow family members of the victims of child abuse to make civil claims consistent with the position in Victoria following the decision handed down by the Victorian Supreme Court of Appeal in the <i>Catholic Archdiocese of Melbourne v RWQ</i> , incorporating any legislative changes resulting from Recommendation 1.	Not accept	The Government does not accept this recommendation. As the Committee acknowledged in its report, the Victorian case referred to in Recommendation 7 'will not necessarily translate directly to WA.' It is already the case in Western Australia that civil claims can be commenced by family members for nervous shock as a result of finding out that an individual has been sexually abused. However, any such claim is subject to the usual limitation periods prescribed by legislation.
1-8	That the Attorney General introduce legislation to ensure that applications for permanent stays in child abuse cases can only be made after the conclusion of the trial of the matter.	Not accept	The Government does not accept this recommendation. Legislation which purports to give effect to Recommendation 8 would be inappropriate because it would result in a court hearing a trial that was necessarily unfair or an abuse of process and could be constitutionally invalid according to the long established principle in <i>Kable v Director of Public Prosecutions (NSW)</i> (1996) 189 CLR 51.
1-9	That the Attorney General introduce legislation to ensure that when an application for a permanent stay is granted against a claim of child abuse made in good faith, the claimant should not be made liable for the applicant's costs.	Not accept	The Government does not accept this recommendation. Generally, as a matter of principle, justice is better served by giving the Court a discretion in relation to the awarding of costs.
1-10	In light of the recent High Court majority judgement in the <i>GLJ</i> case, that the Attorney General introduce legislation to allow any permanent stays granted against child sexual abuse claims prior to that judgement to be reconsidered by the courts.	Not accept	The Government does not accept this recommendation. Plaintiffs bound by a permanent stay may seek leave to appeal the decision if dissatisfied and, if the time for appealing has expired, it is open to a plaintiff to seek leave of the Court to extend the time limit so that they may pursue their appeal. The Government also notes that the High Court has recently delivered its judgment in two matters which further consider and explain the principles on permanent stays considered in <i>GLJ</i> , namely <i>Wilmot v The State of Queensland</i> [2024] HCA 42 and <i>RC v The Salvation Army (Western Australia) Property Trust</i> [2024] HCA 43. Those cases confirmed that, while the context has changed for cases of this kind, the fundamental principles applicable to applications for permanent stays have not changed.
1-11	That the Attorney General work with the District Court of Western Australia to implement a dedicated court list or case management system for child abuse claims (including any brought under any legislative changes resulting from Recommendation 1).	Accepted and implemented	As referred to in the Government response tabled on 12 March 2024, the District Court of Western Australia has been operating its dedicated Abuse Claims List (List) since February 2024, which has promoted greater certainty and a tailored approach to case management of cases involving institutional child abuse. The List has been well utilised and is currently running weekly (rather than fortnightly, as initially contemplated) to accommodate demand and promote ready access. The District Court will review the operation of the List in 2025, including its frequency. The District Court notes that anecdotal feedback from the legal profession on the List has been very positive and the Government is pleased to support this important initiative.
1-12	To provide certainty for survivors and to increase the efficiency of the civil claim process for child abuse cases, that the Attorney General work with the District Court of Western Australia to enable trial dates to be set as quickly as possible in child abuse cases. In doing so, they should consider the approach taken by the Victorian Supreme Court's Institutional Liability List.	Accepted and implemented	As referred to in the Government response tabled on 12 March 2024, the District Court offers a special mediation service for civil claims involving institutional child abuse and actively works with counsel to promote effective and efficient negotiations for the speedy resolution of these matters.
VOLUME 2: Western Australia's support for survivors, including the National Redress Scheme			
2-1	That the State Government and the non-government sector no longer use the term 'historical' to describe child sexual abuse.	Accept in principle	The Government acknowledges the intention behind this recommendation, but notes that the way the lived experience community responds to child

Recommendation		Government response	Comment
			sexual abuse which may be termed 'historical' may differ: some survivor support services may prefer to retain the use of the word 'historical' and others may not. All approaches are valid, and all survivors should be empowered to respond in a way that is best suited to their individual circumstances. Consultation and consideration will be encouraged in government departments and services to determine the preference of the service user group.
2-2	<p>That all parties with responsibilities to survivors of child sexual abuse must accept that much more needs to be done to provide justice to those survivors. Most importantly, those parties include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State and Commonwealth governments in the whole and through their constituent departments and entities; including in their roles as administrators, regulators, funders, or providers of information; • Religious organisations, including local parishes, dioceses or other administrative units, including in their roles as providers of care, education, and information for survivors or administrative bodies; and • Any other institutions and organisations that provide services, care or support to survivors. 	Accept in principle	The Government accepts that it should be looking to continually evaluate and improve access to justice for survivors of child sexual abuse to better meet the needs of survivors. However, it is important to note that there are limits which are not expressly set out in this recommendation, including that non-government organisations cannot be compelled to accept this recommendation or take action to implement it. Further, that survivors of intrafamilial child abuse may have limited legal recourse or access to support services or compensation. The Government notes that significant outcomes have been achieved to provide justice to survivors of child abuse, as outlined in the 12 March 2024 previous response.
2-3	That in addition to accepting that more must be done, responsible organisations and entities must prioritise the needs of survivors above and beyond the protection and preservation of those organisations and entities.	Accept in principle	To the extent this recommendation applies to Government, it is accepted in principle.
2-4	<p>That where institutions accept that known abusers have operated in their institution, the identities of those abusers should be listed on those institutions' websites in clearly defined and easily accessible areas, which should also include policy statements about child safety. These lists should include but not be limited to individuals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • who have been criminally convicted for child sexual abuse; • where the institution has accepted or been found to have civil liability for child sexual abuse; • where the institution has paid compensation to a survivor whether or not the institution has formally accepted or been found liable for child sexual abuse; and • whose actions have led to successful National Redress Scheme applications. 	Not accept, other than the reference to institutions including policy statements about child safety on their websites and information about how to report child sexual abuse	<p>The Government does not accept this recommendation, other than the requirement for institutions to include child safety policies on their websites, including their adherence to the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations, and that they provide information on how to report child sexual abuse. It is important to note that there are limits which are not expressly set out in this recommendation, including that non-government organisations cannot be compelled to accept this recommendation or take action to implement it. There are significant risks associated with creating a public register of people who may fall within the proposed definition of 'known abuser' in Recommendation 4 in relation to defamation actions and breach of confidentiality provisions in existing legislation.</p> <p>The Western Australia Police Force Sex Offender Registry manages the Community Protection website. This website is restricted access, and details of persons listed in the registry can only be obtained in specific, legislatively prescribed circumstances (such as reportable offenders who are reported missing or repeat reportable offenders who pose a risk to the community). In Western Australia, it is an offence under section 82 of the <i>Community Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004 (WA)</i> to disclose any personal information (including the name) of any person on the register.</p> <p>International experience with publicly-accessible sex offender registers is that fully public websites have led to vigilante action being taken against both reportable child sex offenders and also persons who were wrongfully accused of being a reportable child sex offender.</p>
2-5	<p>That the State Government build a centralised publicly accessible list of known abusers, based on the information gathered in response to Recommendation 3. Whichever Minister leads this action should also liaise with institutions to assist them compile their own information.</p> <p>Note: Committee reference to Recommendation 3 appears to be in error and should refer to the substantive matters outlined in Recommendation 4.</p>	Not accept	As for Recommendation 2-4, above.

Recommendation		Government response	Comment
2-6	That where institutions accept that abusers have operated in their institution, they should conduct active outreach to publicise information about where and when the abuser worked, to afford other potential victims the opportunity to come forward.	Further consideration	The Government accepts that institutions should be supported to conduct sensitive outreach activities, but only in the context of further consideration being given to, and limits imposed on, the parameters of the outreach. The Government notes that this recommendation raises similar concerns regarding the undefined scope of who a 'known abuser' may be, noting the issues discussed in relation to Recommendation 4.
2-7	That the Attorney General develop clear procedures, supported by any necessary legislative amendment and adequate resourcing, to require that agencies prioritise Freedom of Information requests relating to institutional child sexual abuse, especially those from people preparing to apply to the National Redress Scheme.	Not accept	<p>The Government understands that this recommendation is focused on providing survivors with more timely access to information and supports this intent. The Government notes that under the <i>Freedom of Information Act 1992 (WA)</i>, agencies have a duty to deal with applications promptly and as soon as is practicable. Further, under section 10(2) of that Act, the right of access to documents is not affected by reasons that a person gives for wishing to obtain access or the agency's belief as to the reasons for seeking access in relation to any of the access applications received by the agency.</p> <p>The Government does not accept that prioritising institutional child sexual abuse freedom of information applications, to the potential exclusion of other applicants, is appropriate.</p>
2-8	That the Minister for Child Protection should formally evaluate how well people in Western Australia who have survived institutional child abuse are being supported to seek just outcomes for the harm done to them, with an emphasis on the quality and availability of supports.	Further consideration	The Attorney General is the appropriate Minister with respect to this recommendation, given the associated findings relate to the National Redress Scheme (NRS), which is administered by the Office of the Commissioner for Victims of Crime (OCVOC). The Government notes that this recommendation needs to be considered in the context of the eight-year statutory review of the NRS due to commence in 2026, which will consider the matters raised by this recommendation. The review will likely consider the experiences of survivors and their use of support systems; duplication of this work is not considered necessary or desirable. When completed, the findings of the review can be used to inform any future discussion on survivors who have accessed the civil scheme.
2-9	That the State Government fund the Commissioner for Victims of Crime to develop and implement a dedicated outreach program, focused on the needs of survivors, to inform their decisions on seeking justice, including providing guidance on the financial implications of all options. This work should be informed by the learnings from Queensland.	Further consideration	<p>Communication on the scheme is currently undertaken by the scheme operator, Knowmore and redress support services. OCVOC has also provided scheme information through the Department of Justice Aboriginal Open Days program and is hosting a roundtable for survivors with a disability.</p> <p>OCVOC does not provide any legal guidance or financial advice to survivors. It provides referrals to the appropriate service. Knowmore is funded by the Commonwealth to provide free legal advice and practical assistance including financial advice to survivors of child sexual abuse.</p> <p>Knowmore helps survivors consider their options about compensation, redress and other legal issues related to abuse. Knowmore provides advice on the financial implications of the NRS including how the payment may impact the survivor's Centrelink benefits, Aged Care fees or other debts.</p> <p>Given the number of agencies providing support and advice to survivors, further work is required to determine the gaps in these services and the appropriate agency to meet any unmet need.</p>

Recommendation		Government response	Comment
			The WA government will focus on ensuring that the issue of ongoing communication and advice about the scheme is included as part of the statutory 8 year scheme review.
2-10	That the State Government work with the Commonwealth to extend participation of the National Redress Scheme to people who were abused in institutions after 1 July 2018. Failing that, Western Australia should develop its own redress scheme to cover those people.	Not accept	The Government does not accept this recommendation. The intent of the Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse was to hold governments accountable for their responses to past abuse, and to prevent abuse of children within institutions in the future. There are concerns about the continuation of a specific scheme for individuals who experienced child sexual abuse in an institution, when this does not extend to other individuals who experienced child sexual abuse, such as intrafamilial abuse, outside of this environment. Western Australia operates the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme (CIC), which provides financial compensation to people who were abused after July 2018. The scheme is open to survivors of child sexual abuse perpetrated by a family member, or outside of family setting. CIC does not require criminal charges to be eligible for compensation.
2-11	That the State Government work with the National Redress Scheme to ensure that people in prison or exiting prison have sufficient access to support services to allow them to successfully apply to the National Redress Scheme, or to choose to take action in the civil courts.	Accept in principle	The OCVOC continues to work with the NRS on this population group, noting resourcing challenges for the provision of counselling and psychological support within a prison. OCVOC and the NRS provide education to prison officers about the NRS and how to provide support for prisoners and the NRS also operates a dedicated telephone line for prisoners to contact the NRS to expedite their requests for assistance.
2-12	That the State Government work with the National Redress Scheme to ensure there are sufficient and specific services to support Aboriginal people in Western Australia seeking to use the National Redress Scheme, and if this cannot be achieved, fund such services itself.	Further consideration	The Commonwealth Government provides funding for the following services in WA to assist Aboriginal applicants: Aboriginal Family Legal Service, Kimberley Community Legal Services, Kimberley Stolen Generation Aboriginal Corporation, Pilbara Community Legal Service Incorporated and Yorgum Healing Services Aboriginal Corporation. WA residents also have access to the NRS national Redress Support Services. The NRS has 11 specialist Indigenous service providers; three of these are in WA. The NRS has also recently developed a new suite of communications and promotional materials for people who want to find out more about the NRS, including material specifically designed to assist First Nations people. These are being translated into a number of languages, including Yolngu Matha, Eastside Kriol, Tiwi, Arrernte, Warlpiri and Pitjantjatjara. The Commonwealth Department of Social Services conducted six survivor roundtables, including one in Perth in March 2024. The report on this roundtable was released in August 2024 and identified areas of improvement, which are being considered by the Minister for Social Services.
2-13	That the State Government ensure that anyone excluded from the National Redress Scheme by an administrative decision not to make them wards of the State and place them in family care should be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • able to access the Scheme; or • provided by the State with financial redress and support as if they were eligible for the Scheme. Depending on the numbers involved, this might require the State to develop its own redress scheme for those people. 	Further consideration	The Government notes that the CDJSC outlined how this issue has historically impacted Aboriginal children in WA. The scope of implementing this recommendation requires further examination and development.
2-14	That the Attorney General introduce or amend existing legalisation, to make it illegal for anyone to give or receive money or a commission for a claim referral or potential claim referral.	Accept in principle	The Government accepts the intent behind this recommendation to legislate to address claims harvesting but the scope of any such legislation is still under consideration.

Recommendation	Government response	Comment
		<p>Any practices which unethically target survivors of abuse and pressure them into seeking inflated or new claims through deceptive tactics have the consequences of driving up insurance costs, harming legitimate claims and eroding trust in the legal system.</p> <p>The Government will commence the necessary policy work to consider legislation to ban claims harvesting in relation to personal injury claims in specified circumstances.</p>
2-15	Further consideration	<p>The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Royal Commission) 'Final Report Volume 9: Advocacy, support and therapeutic treatment services' made several recommendations related to meeting the support and therapeutic treatment needs of victims and survivors of child sexual abuse.</p> <p>In 2018, the WA Government accepted in principle Recommendations 9.1, 9.2, 9.3 and 9.6, which related to support services.</p> <p>The WA Government remains committed to providing quality support services for survivors of child sexual abuse with ongoing progress since the beginning of the Royal Commission implementation timeframe to implement these recommendations.</p> <p>The CDJSC's recommendations intersect with existing work to implement the Royal Commission recommendations. Recommendations 2-15 and 2-16 are therefore being considered further, in line with the Royal Commission recommendations to address the needs of survivors of child sexual abuse. These two sets of recommendations will be considered and progressed as one program of work.</p>
2-16	Further consideration	As for Recommendation 2-15, above.
2-17	Further consideration	<p>The Royal Commission 'Final Report Volume 9: Advocacy, support and therapeutic treatment services' made several recommendations related to meeting the support and therapeutic treatment needs of victims and survivors of child sexual abuse.</p> <p>In 2018, the WA Government accepted in principle Recommendations 9.1, 9.2, 9.3 and 9.6, which related to support services. The WA Government remains committed to providing quality support services for survivors of child sexual abuse with ongoing progress since the beginning of the Royal Commission implementation timeframe to implement these recommendations.</p> <p>The CDJSC's recommendations intersect with existing work to implement the Royal Commission recommendations. Recommendations 2-15 and 2-16 are therefore being considered further in line with the Royal Commission recommendations to address the needs of survivors of child sexual abuse. These two sets of recommendations will be considered and progressed as one program of work.</p>

Recommendation	Government response	Comment
		Whilst there are a few workforce development activities occurring to enhance knowledge and skills of social workers and other support workers, this recommendation is broader than training activities and would require further consideration and scoping to determine position, issues, possible solutions and associated cost implications.
2-18	That the State Government work with the Commonwealth to increase options for support services for survivors. This should include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • funding ongoing counselling services for survivors once they leave the National Redress Scheme; and • funding counselling services for survivors who choose to seek compensation through the civil courts in a similar manner to that available under the National Redress Scheme. 	Further consideration There is significant work already underway in relation to this recommendation, and the Government will continue to give the recommendation further consideration. WA survivors are supported to apply to redress through the Redress Support Services funded by the Australian Government and two independently funded support services are also available. The Australian Government funds Redress Support Services to provide access to trauma-informed and culturally appropriate community based support services for individuals wanting to apply to the Scheme. These organisations have expertise in making applications to the Scheme and provide practical and emotional support to survivors. Redress Support Services are also funded to provide individual and/or group counselling or social worker support for survivors through the redress process. The NRS includes access to therapeutic counselling and psychological care, with 20 hours available to applicants who elect to receive it, to a maximum value of \$5000. Most civil claims are managed in conjunction with the State Solicitors Office and Insurance Commission of Western Australia (insured claims). A collaborative claims management approach is taken based on model litigant principles and claims are dealt with in a timely, fair and compassionate manner. A combination of compensation, restorative justice sessions, apologies and psychological support is provided in accordance with the State Solicitor's Office guidelines in relation to historical child sexual abuse claims.
2-19	That the State Government fund the establishment of a dedicated complex trauma centre that provides psychosocial care, and also ensure there are sufficient well-resourced gender-specific support services in Western Australia.	Further consideration The scope of implementing this recommendation requires further examination and development.
2-20	That the WA Government: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invites SAMSN to facilitate the establishment of a gender-specific service in Western Australia to allow it to offer immediate services to Western Australian victim/survivors. This should include SAMSN bringing local victim/survivor groups such as Survivors of Child Abuse in the planning and operation of the WA program; and • Provide long-term funding for this service. 	Further consideration The scope of implementing this recommendation requires further examination and development. This will be considered in line with the related Royal Commission recommendations and progressed as one program of work.
2-21	That the State Government urgently works with Tuart Place to ensure it can find sustainable long-term accommodation to enable it to continue to provide its valuable services.	Accept in principle The Department of Communities has actively engaged with Tuart Place as appropriate and will continue to throughout the process.