



In pursuit of Justice

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Support for you

Thank you for contacting our office. We understand that going through a legal process such as this can sometimes be upsetting or stressful. While supporting you is an important part of our role, other professionals, such as counsellors, psychologists, psychiatrists and social workers, are well placed to provide in-depth emotional support to victims/survivors of sexual assault.

We would encourage you to seek formal emotional support if you feel you need it. There are a number of community-based services available to you, information about which is included below.

Centres Against Sexual Assault (CASA)

Centres Against Sexual Assault (CASAs) are the main community organisations in Victoria providing counselling and other support to victim/survivors of sexual assault. There are a number of CASAs across the state in both metropolitan and rural areas.

Many of our clients seek support through their local CASA.

For more information, and to be transferred to your nearest CASA, call 1800 806 292.

Open Place

Open Place is a support service specifically for people who grew up in homes or orphanages in Victoria. They offer a range of services including counselling, social support groups and support finding family and/or accessing records.

We have **enclosed** more information about Open Place and the services they provide.

Phone: 1800 779 379 or 1800 161 109
Address: Suite 1, 8 Bromham Place, Richmond VIC 3121
Email: info@openplace.org.au
Website: www.openplace.org.au

Open Place has equivalent services in Queensland, New South Wales and Western Australia.

Lotus Place, Brisbane, details are as follows:

Phone: (07) 4724 4410
Address: 46 Cleveland Street, Stones Corner QLD 4120
Email: lotus@micahprojects.org.au
Website: <http://www.lotusplace.org.au/>

Lotus Place also has offices in Townsville and Rockhampton, Queensland.

Wattle Place, New South Wales, details are as follows:

Phone: 1800 663 844
Address: 67 High Street, Harris Park NSW 2150

Tuart Place, Western Australia, details are as follows:

Phone: (08) 6140 2380
Address: 24 High Street, Fremantle WA 6160
Email: admin@tuartplace.org
Website: <http://www.tuartplace.org>

Child Migrants Trust

The Child Migrants Trust (CMT) was founded in 1987 by its Director, Margaret Humphreys, to address the devastating impact of British child migration schemes.

The CMT provide a range of assistance to former Child Migrants including professional counselling and support in engaging with the Royal Commission, family restoration, accessing personal documents, obtaining birth certificates and citizenship applications.

The CMT has offices in the UK, Melbourne and Perth. Contact details are as follows:

Website: <http://www.childmigrantstrust.com/>

UK

Phone: +44 115 9822811
Address: 124 Musters Road, West Bridgeford, Nottingham UK NG2 7PW

Melbourne

Phone: (03) 9815 2022
Free Call: 1800 04 05 09
Address: 169 Riversdale Road, Hawthorn, Melbourne VIC 3122

Perth

Phone: (08) 9472 7582
Free Call: 1800 04 05 09
Address: 8 Sunbury Road, Victoria Park, Perth WA 6100

Referral to a psychologist or psychiatrist through your GP

Your general practitioner, or GP, may be able to refer you to a psychologist or psychiatrist for a set number of sessions per year through a Medicare funded scheme called the Better Access initiative. Your GP will work with you to develop a Mental Health Plan and then support you to find a psychologist or psychiatrist that suits you. Through this scheme, the cost of the sessions with the psychologist or psychiatrist is subsidised by Medicare, making them free or significantly reduced in cost.

The first step is to make an appointment with your GP to talk about the kind of support you need.

Beyond Blue

Beyond Blue supports people experiencing depression or anxiety. You can contact them 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Phone: 1300 22 46 36
Website: www.beyondblue.org.au

Lifeline

Lifeline is a 24-hour telephone support line for people feeling suicidal or experiencing an emotional crisis. It is also possible to receive support online or face-to-face.

You can contact Lifeline for support at any time.

Phone: 13 11 14
Website: www.lifeline.org.au

Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Teams (SOCIT)

SOCITs are teams of specialist detectives who are trained to investigate the complex crimes of sexual assault and child abuse. In association with other agencies, the SOCITs deal with a case from the time of disclosure, through the investigation process and then on to court. This model means that victims will be able to establish an ongoing relationship and trust with one or two police members and won't have to continually retell their personal experiences. There

are SOCIT units throughout Victoria, which vary in size depending on their location and work requirements.

We **enclose** contact details for Victorian SOCIT Units.

SANO Taskforce

We encourage you to contact your local police or SANO Taskforce. The SANO Taskforce was established to investigate historic and new allegations that have emanated from the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into child sex abuse involving Religious and Non-Government organisations. SANO investigators will identify links between offenders and offences through the use of modern, specialist investigation methods. SANO investigators are trained experts in sexual assault matters who will maintain the confidentiality of anyone who makes a complaint or wishes to provide information regarding child sexual abuse.

We **enclose** more information about SANO Taskforce and the services they provide.

Phone: 1800 110 007

Email: sanotaskforce@police.vic.gov.au

We may also be able to assist you by making a *warm referral* of your complaint to SANO Taskforce. This involves our office providing your contact details and some brief information about the abuse to SANO Taskforce, who will get in touch with you.