



NEWS

iview

listen



Christian Brothers announces payout proposal for victim-survivors

By Charlotte Wilkes

ABC Ballarat

Child Sexual Abuse

Posted

Fri 24 Jul 2026 at 2:52pm

, updated

Fri 24 Jul 2026 at 3:46pm



Victim-survivors of abuse by the Christian Brothers will be able to receive compensation. (ABC News)

In short:

Victim-survivors of the Christian Brothers organisation will be able to receive compensation, after fearing the organisation had run out of money.

The closely connected organisation Edmund Rice Education Australia will take responsibility and liability for all current and future legal proceedings.

What's next?

The revised scheme will go to creditors and the Supreme Court for approval.

Lawyers and advocates representing victim-survivors of clergy abuse say they are shocked that the Trustees of the Christian Brothers organisation has announced a payout proposal for civil claimants.

Last month, the Christian Brothers applied for a pause on civil claims against the organisation, arguing it was running out of money to pay victims of child sexual abuse, ultimately pausing all payouts for victims across the country.

After the moratorium was granted, lawyers and advocates called for closer scrutiny of the Christian Brothers' assets, and said the closely connected Edmund Rice Education Australia should cover the payments.

Today, the Trustees of the Christian Brothers made a proposal to its creditors and to the Supreme Court for Edmund Rice Education Australia to assume responsibility and liability for all current and future legal proceedings.

'Shouldn't have happened'

Lawyer and long-time advocate for survivors of institutional abuse Judy Courtin said the pause on payments "should not have happened in the first place".



Judy Courtin says she is angry that victim-survivors suffered weeks of halted payments. *(Supplied: Judy Courtin)*

"We have had four to five weeks of extraordinary amounts of work trying to protect our clients around the country from getting a few cents in the dollar," Ms Courtin said.

"These hundreds and hundreds of people around the country have had to survive nearly five weeks of absolute hell.

"Claims that had settled, claims that were due to settle, and upcoming claims were all dead in the water."

Ms Courtin said she was "so extremely pleased" her clients would be compensated, but outraged with Edmund Rice Education Australia and the Christian Brothers for the stress they caused.

"I'm very, very angry and cross with Edmund Rice and the Christian Brothers for having put everyone through this in the first place when it was simply not necessary," she said.

"It was a cruel and shocking way to treat people who were raped as children by their very own Christian Brothers.

"They really did think they would just swan in and get away with it, but everybody has fought back and our clients are once again the victors; they've persisted, they've hung in there, and they've won."

New memorandum

The Trustees of the Christian Brothers said in a statement the organisation had entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Trustees of Edmund Rice Education Australia to develop a revised creditors' scheme of arrangement.

"[The] revised creditors' scheme of arrangement is expected to provide an outcome for all creditors, including victims and survivors of abuse, which is better than both liquidation and the earlier proposed scheme," it said.

"In summary, this means that not only will current claimants with settlements or judgements be paid in full, but [Edmund Rice Education Australia] will assume responsibility and liability for all current and future legal proceedings as well as for claims before the National Redress Scheme.

"Again, as with the earlier proposal, the revised scheme must be approved by both creditors and the court.

"The Trustees of the Christian Brothers thanks [Edmund Rice Education Australia] for engaging in this process and agreeing to a pathway which

would provide a substantially better outcome for our creditors, including the victims and survivors of abuse."

Federal Social Services Minister Tanya Plibersek said the government welcomed the announcement that Edmund Rice Education Australia would assume responsibility for current and future payments owed by the Christian Brothers.

"The past few weeks of uncertainty have been difficult for victim survivors of abuse in institutions run by the Christian Brothers," Ms Plibersek said in a statement.

"We now expect that Edmund Rice Education Australia, like all redress scheme participants, will act in good faith to resolve all current and future redress matters concerning them or the Christian Brothers.

"I want to assure victim survivors that applications under the redress scheme concerning the Christian Brothers can continue to be lodged and will be processed."

ABC Ballarat — local news in your inbox

Get our local newsletter, delivered free each Wednesday

Enter your email

Subscribe

Your information is being handled in accordance with the [ABC Privacy Collection Statement](#).

This site is protected by reCAPTCHA and the Google [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#) apply.

See more ABC coverage in your search results

Make ABC a preferred source in Google



Contact ABC News [→](#)

Your home of Australian stories, conversations and events that shape our nation.

This service may include material from Agence France-Presse (AFP), APTN, Reuters, AAP, CNN and the BBC World Service which is copyright and cannot be reproduced.

FOLLOW ABC NEWS



SECTIONS

RELATED

ABC News app

Local News

ABC Emergency

ABC Indigenous

ABC Religion & Ethics

ABC Asia

ABC Pacific

MUSIC & AUDIO

ABC Listen Home

triple j

Live Radio

MOVIES & TV

ABC iview Home

List of ABC Shows

Live TV

TV Guide

KIDS & STUDENTS

BTN

Education

Heywire

Takeover

ABC Kids

GET THE ABC NEWS AM NEWSLETTER

Get the latest ABC News delivered to your email inbox

SUBSCRIBE

Your information is being handled in accordance with the [ABC Privacy Collection Statement](#). This site is protected by reCAPTCHA and the Google [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#) apply.

ALL ABC NEWSLETTERS

Stay informed and connected with the ABC. Covering a wide range of topics and brands including News, iview, listen, and more.

[Browse all ABC newsletters](#) →



INFORMATION & SERVICES

[Editorial Policies](#)

[Accessibility](#)

[Help](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Commercial](#)

[Careers](#)

[About the ABC](#)

[Privacy Policy](#)

[Terms of Use](#)

© 2026 ABC

FOLLOW THE ABC



We acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Traditional Custodians of the lands where we live, learn and work.