



Frequently Asked Questions

Establishment of the National Memorial for Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse

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Seeking Support

Where can I get support?

- If you need immediate emotional support, please contact:
 - In an emergency call Triple Zero (000)
 - [Lifeline](#) 13 11 14
 - [Beyond Blue](#) 1300 224 636
 - [Mensline](#) 1300 78 99 78
 - [Suicide Call Back Service](#) 1300 659 467
 - [1800 RESPECT](#) 1800 737 732

Support Services

- For specialised support services, available during specific times, contact:
 - [Redress Support Services](#) on 1800 737 377 – available 8am to 5pm weekdays (AEST)
 - [Survivors & Mates Support Network](#) on 1800 472 676 – available 9am to 5pm weekdays (AEST)
 - [Find and Connect Support Services](#) on 1800 16 11 09 – available 9am to 5pm weekdays (AEST)
 - [Forced Adoption Support Services](#) on 1800 21 03 13 – available 9am to 5pm weekdays (AEST)

Information about Memorial

- More information on the progress of the National Memorial for Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Memorial) is available on the [Department of Social Services website](#).

Key Messages

- In February 2022, following a design competition, the Australian Government announced *'Transparency and Truth'* as the selected design for the National Memorial for Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse (Memorial).
- The National Capital Authority, on behalf of the Government, subsequently undertook a feasibility assessment process of the Memorial's design, which determined the design had complex technical challenges that meant the design could not be progressed.
- Following consultations with the National Capital Authority, the National Memorial Advisory Group, and the Hon Peter McClellan AM KC (Chair of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and the Memorial's Design Competition Jury), the Government decided to commence a new design selection process, in partnership with victims and survivors and their families.

- The Department of Social Services and the National Capital Authority are working closely with the National Memorial Advisory Group, of which Mr McClellan is now a member, to ensure the new Memorial design selection process:
 - delivers a feasible design within the project's parameters, and
 - genuinely reflects the voices and experiences of victims and survivors.
- In May 2024, the Government committed an additional \$1.1 million toward establishing the Memorial. These additional funds will ensure the value and build quality of the Memorial is not diminished by inflation increases in the construction sector since the project commenced in 2020.
- The new design selection process is expected to take six months, commencing from mid-2024. Construction of the Memorial is scheduled to start in 2025 and is expected to be completed in 2026.

Questions and Answers

New Memorial Design

Why has the Government decided to commence a new design selection process?

- Feasibility assessments of the selected design concept '*Transparency and Truth*', identified complex technical challenges due to the unique and innovative use of glass in the design.
- The Department of Social Services and the National Capital Authority worked closely to explore options to resolve the design challenges and engaged with the National Memorial Advisory Group on these options.
- In accordance with the competition guidelines, the Government, decided not to proceed with the selected design due to technical risks and to proceed with a new design selection process.

Why can't the selected design be modified to make it feasible?

- The Department of Social Services, National Capital Authority and National Memorial Advisory Group explored a number of options to resolve the challenges with the Memorial design, including engaging with the winning architects to remodel the Memorial design.
- This option would have required a significant change to the original design selected and was not considered the fairest way to proceed.

The National Site of Recognition for Thalidomide Survivors and their Families has successfully been built using glass. Why can't the glass design for this Memorial also be built?

- While the National Site of Recognition for Thalidomide Survivors and their Families incorporated glass, the design was technically less complex, with off the shelf glass bricks used in a conventional manner.

Why weren't the challenges to design implementation picked up during the design selection process?

- Architectural design competitions overseen by the National Capital Authority usually comprise two phases:

- In the first phase, design submissions are considered by a competition selection panel against the published competition brief.
- In the second phase, depending on the level of complexity presented by the selected design, the National Capital Authority may undertake feasibility assessments and design development activities prior to construction.
- After the design *'Transparency and Truth'* was selected in late 2021, the National Capital Authority, on behalf of the Australian Government, undertook a feasibility assessment process of the selected Memorial design. This assessment determined the design had complex technical challenges, which would have resulted in a protracted and uncertain timeframe.

What checks and balances will be in place to ensure only a feasible new design is selected?

- The new design selection process will be conducted differently and includes additional evaluation steps. It includes a two-stage procurement process:
 - In Stage 1 (Request for Expression of Interest), respondents will be shortlisted after evaluation of their submissions against the evaluation criteria published in the REOI (available on AusTender (www.tenders.gov.au)).
 - In Stage 2 (Request for Tender), shortlisted respondents will submit design concept materials in accordance with the requirements set out in the Request for Tender documentation. The submissions will be evaluated in accordance with the process and evaluation criteria detailed in the Request for Tender documentation.

How will a new design reflect the voices of victims and survivors?

- The department is working with the National Memorial Advisory Group, comprising lived experience advocates and experts, to ensure victims and survivors continue to have a voice in the new design selection process.
- The National Memorial Advisory Group will continue to provide a key advisory role during the procurement process, including ensuring the new design brief reflects what is important for victims and survivors.
- The design brief for the new Memorial design selection process continues to reflect the Memorial's original commemorative intent established through a national consultation process in late 2020. In early 2024, victims and survivors were consulted to confirm the Memorial intent, core values and features obtained through the 2020 public consultation process were still relevant.

Will the new design be based on the previous design?

- The design brief for the new Memorial design selection process continues to reflect the Memorial's original commemorative intent established through a national consultation process in late 2020. In February-March 2024, the National Memorial Advisory Group were consulted to confirm the Memorial intent, core values and features obtained through the 2020 public consultation process were still relevant.
- The Memorial design *'Transparency and Truth'* is the intellectual property of the designers, Jessica Presser and Peter Besley. A new design must not compromise the intellectual property and moral rights of the designers of the previous design.

Why isn't one of the other designs from the original competition being used instead of undertaking a new design process?

- The Department of Social Services, the National Capital Authority and National Memorial Advisory Group explored a number of options to resolve the challenges with the winning Memorial design, including reverting to other designs from the design competition in 2021.
- However, potential risks remained for the other designs as they had not been further tested or assessed.
- After careful consideration of all options, a new process was considered the fairest way to proceed.

What will the new design selection process involve? Will it be another competition?

- The new design selection process does not involve a design competition. It is a two-stage procurement process.
 - Stage 1 comprises a Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) process intended to shortlist respondents to participate in the second stage. Submissions will be evaluated based on the designer's capability to design and deliver a Memorial; and
 - Stage 2 comprises a Request For Tender (RFT) process intended to select a preferred tenderer from the shortlisted respondents as the design consultant for the project. Designs will be independently assessed by professionals prior to selection.
- The National Capital Authority will lead the procurement process, with oversight from the Department of Social Services. The process will include:
 - agreed evaluation criteria for design submissions
 - technical assessments of design proposals to inform construction buildability, durability, timeframes, and costs, and
 - approval of the new design by Canberra National Memorials Committee.
- The National Memorial Advisory Group will be involved in each stage of the selection process to ensure that the voices of victims and survivors are represented.
- Enquires about the procurement of professional services to design and construct the National Memorial should be directed to the National Capital Authority at RCMemorial@nca.gov.au.

What is the budget for the new design, and for the construction and launch of the Memorial?

- In May 2024, the Government committed an additional \$1.1 million toward establishing the Memorial. These additional funds will ensure the value and build quality of the Memorial is not diminished by inflation increases in the construction sector since the project commenced in 2020.
- The National Capital Authority has also committed an additional \$300,000 towards the building and landscaping for the Memorial.
- The Memorial construction budget will be \$4.7 million (GST exclusive) for the new design. This will ensure the real value and build quality of the Memorial is not diminished since the original funding in 2019.
- These additional commitments bring the total Administered funding for the Memorial project to \$7.9 million.

- The remaining budget contributes towards administration expenses including design development, project management, website development, a dedication event, and ongoing memorial and website maintenance.

Why is the Government spending money on advertising the expression of interest rather than using that money on the Memorial?

- Given the significance of the Memorial, the procurement is being advertised to increase awareness of the opportunity and to attract high quality respondents.

Why is the Government spending money on building a Memorial and not on support services for survivors?

- The Royal Commission specifically recommended the Government establish a national memorial in Canberra in consultation with victims and survivors of institutional child sexual abuse (recommendation 17.6).
- The Government's commitment to establishing the Memorial is in addition to support services for victims and survivors of institutional child sexual abuse such as the National Redress Scheme. For further information on the National Redress Scheme, please visit www.nationalredress.gov.au

Where will the expression of interest be advertised and who can apply?

- The open Approach to Market for a Design Consultant Services commenced with the publication of the Request for Expressions of Interest (REOI) on AusTender (www.tenders.gov.au) in May 2024.
- All suitable artists and design professionals with the skills to meet the requirements outlined in the design brief were encouraged to apply, including those parties that made submissions to the first design competition, and survivors and people with lived experience.
- As this is an ongoing procurement process, it is not appropriate for the Department of Social Services to provide commentary on the process or applicants. Any specific questions relating to the procurement process should be directed to the National Capital Authority.

When will a new design be constructed?

- A new design selection process is expected to take six months, commencing from mid-2024. Once a new design is selected, procurement processes for the Memorial's construction will be undertaken.
- Construction of the Memorial is scheduled to start in 2025 and is expected to be completed in 2026.
- Updates on the progress of establishing the Memorial will be provided on the department's website at www.dss.gov.au.

Will the Memorial still be located on Acton Peninsula?

- The Memorial will still be located on Acton Peninsula in Canberra in the Australian Capital Territory, within the National Capital Estate designated for memorials of national significance, near the National Museum of Australia and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.

About the Memorial

What is the role of the Memorial?

- The Memorial will provide people with lived experience of institutional child sexual abuse and their families, supporters and allies a place of remembrance, reflection, truth, healing and hope.
- It will also recognise the courage of all people with lived experience, and those who spoke up to fight for justice and to be believed.
- For the broader community, the Memorial will raise awareness of historical and contemporary institutional child sexual abuse in Australia and serve as a reminder of the continued responsibility we all share for protecting children.

Why is the Memorial being built?

- The National Memorial for Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse was a recommendation (17.6) of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Royal Commission). **Recommendation 17.6** ([Final Report: Recommendations](#), p. 62)

'A national memorial should be commissioned by the Australian Government for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse in institutional contexts. Victims and survivors should be consulted on the memorial design and it should be located in Canberra.'

What was announced in the 2020-21 Budget?

- In the 2020-21 Federal Budget, the Australian Government committed \$6.7 million from 2020-21 towards the development of the Memorial. This funding is for the entire Memorial project, including its development, construction, launch, and ongoing maintenance.
- The Government stated the Memorial would provide a place for healing, reflection and recognition of victims, survivors and others affected by institutional child sexual abuse.
- A Budget Fact Sheet on the department's website committed to further consultation on the scope and purpose of the Memorial. You can find the Memorial Fact Sheet [here](#).

Who is developing the Memorial?

- The department is responsible for the development of the Memorial, partnering with the National Capital Authority and establishing a National Memorial Advisory Group to provide advice on the development of the Memorial in Canberra.
- The National Capital Authority is a Commonwealth statutory authority that oversees the design and construction of all national memorials in Canberra, they will conduct the design selection and procurement process and manage construction of the Memorial.
- The National Memorial Advisory Group, which includes people who represent those with lived experience of institutional child sexual abuse, their families, and advocates, and other relevant experts, will inform key stages of the development of the Memorial.
- Key decisions during the development of the Memorial will require the approval of the Canberra National Memorials Committee (CNMC), which is chaired by the Prime Minister.

Who is responsible for maintaining the Memorial?

- The National Capital Authority is responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the Memorial to ensure the site is appropriately maintained.

Why will the Memorial be located on Acton Peninsula in Canberra?

- The Final Report by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse recommended (Recommendation 17.6) that the Memorial be established in Canberra.
- The decision to locate the Memorial at the Acton Peninsula was subject to a number of consultation and approval processes. The site was recommended by the National Memorial Advisory Group, who were appointed to perform a key advisory role to the department and National Capital Authority. The location was subsequently approved by the Canberra National Memorials Committee in February 2021.
- The National Memorial Advisory Group recommendation for the Acton Peninsula location was informed by a public National Online Survey (survey).
 - The survey, conducted by the department in 2020, sought to inform the purpose, commemorative intent and location considerations for the Memorial.
 - Over 60 per cent of survey respondents identified as a person with lived experience.
 - The survey built on previous consultations with victims and survivors conducted by the National Apology Reference Group prior to the National Apology to Victims and Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse in October 2018.
- The Memorial site located on Acton Peninsula offers opportunities for quiet reflection, contemplation and paying respects, accessibility and prominence (proximity to major landmarks, public transport and parking), and privacy.
 - It has proximity to the National Museum of Australia and Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, which is expected to provide a sense of safety and access to amenities. In addition, the Memorial site overlooks Lake Burley Griffin, providing serene and tranquil views, and visibility of the Australian Parliament House.
- The department and the National Capital Authority consulted Acton Peninsula site stakeholders, the National Museum of Australia, and the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies and Traditional Owners and other First Nations representatives, who all supported the National Memorial's location at the Acton Peninsula.

Stakeholder Consultations

Who is being consulted on the Memorial?

- The department will continue working with the National Capital Authority, in consultation with the National Memorial Advisory Group, to establish the National Memorial.
- In October 2020, the National Memorial Advisory Group was appointed, comprising lived experience advocates and experts, to assist the Department and the National Capital Authority to establish the Memorial, including ensuring the design brief reflects what is important for survivors.
- In November 2020, the department undertook a national consultation process via an online survey to give all Australians, particularly people with lived experience of institutional and other forms of child sexual abuse, an opportunity to share their views on the National Memorial ([Consultation Summary Report](#)). In early 2024, the National Memorial Advisory Group were consulted to confirm the Memorial intent, core values and features obtained through the 2020 public consultation process were still relevant.

The Department of Social Services would like to extend its sincere thanks and appreciation to the National Memorial Advisory Group and the Hon Mr Peter McClellan for their work on the Memorial and their continued work and commitment in this next stage of the project.