



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **the Premier and Cabinet**

Minister for Community Services

Media Statement

Attention: News Editor/Chief of Staff

8/11/08

Redress WA reaches half-way mark.

Community Services Minister Robyn McSweeney is urging anyone who was abused in State care to consider applying to Redress WA before the initiative closes on April 30 next year.

Redress WA is open to any adult who was abused, as a child, in State care before March 1, 2006.

Mrs McSweeney said the \$114million Redress WA initiative had been open to applicants for six months and would be open for another six months.

"I urge people who think they are eligible to contact Redress WA for more information and confidential advice on the application process," she said.

"So far, 606 people have applied and interim payments of \$234,000 have been fast-tracked to 24 people with a terminal or life-threatening illness.

"No amount of money can compensate people for this type of suffering.

"However, it is hoped that through Redress WA, people can be helped to move forward in their lives by providing acknowledgement, counselling and an ex-gratia payment in recognition of the abuse suffered."

Applicants may be eligible for an ex-gratia payment of up to \$10,000 for reasonable evidence of abuse or up to \$80,000 for proof of medical or psychological problems stemming from abuse. Applicants with a terminal or life-threatening illness may receive up to \$10,000 as an interim payment.

Those eligible to apply include child migrants, former wards of the State, including Aboriginal children, and anyone placed in State-approved private institutions and foster homes. People who have moved interstate or overseas are also eligible.

Further information can be obtained from Redress WA on 1800 617 233 or <http://www.redress.wa.gov.au>

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