



Anglican Diocese of Tasmania

Pastoral Support and Assistance Scheme

The Pastoral Support and Assistance Scheme (PSAAS) is open to people who have been sexually abused by clergy or church workers who have been licensed or have held a position in this diocese.

PSAAS has no restrictions on applicants according to age, citizenship or criminal history.

PSAAS is an alternative to the National Redress Scheme (NRS). A person who has applied to and received a payment under the NRS is ineligible to receive a PSAAS payment. Any PSAAS application is then deemed to have been withdrawn.

Applicants who have previously accepted a payment from PSAAS before the cap was increased are welcome to have their claim reassessed. These applicants will only need to submit what additional information is needed for the amended criteria. They may submit additional information if they so desire.

Any previous payment will be considered in calculating the final payment. The previous payment will be indexed for CPI and the indexed amount deducted from the payment offered. The RBA calculator at <https://www.rba.gov.au/calculator/> will be used.

Our Director of Professional Standards facilitates PSAAS which follows a two-staged process.

Stage 1

When an individual brings their story or complaint to us, we will let them know the options available to them and offer pastoral support in the form of:

- A support person who can walk alongside them in the story-telling and/or complaint process.
- Access to counselling.
- Assistance to report to the police.

We will investigate the matter when the person submits a formal written complaint along with their PSAAS application.

Stage 2

Once the complaint has been investigated and it is concluded that the abuse as alleged did take place, the person will be invited to provide any further supporting documentation for the application. We will ask the person to undergo a medical assessment to assess impact of the abuse and help gauge their future needs. The PSAAS grant is intended to provide some financial reparation toward the person's future.

The application is assessed by an independent assessor (using the scores and scale below) who will determine the amount of the grant that the diocese will offer.

The amount that may be awarded through **PSAAS is capped at \$150,000.**

There will be a separate additional payment for counselling, assessed on the ongoing impact of the sexual abuse.

Score (impact of abuse – out of 50)	Cap for counselling payment
1-10	\$1,250
11-25	\$2,500
26-50	\$5,000

There will be a separate payment for legal expenses capped at \$2,500.

The person will be required to sign a deed of release to accept the amount and finalise the matter.

Our assessment matrix is survivor-focused and modelled on the Royal Commission’s recommendations.

Payments based on 100-point score

Score	Payment amount
1-30	\$10,000
31-35	\$13,000
36-40	\$17,000
41-45	\$21,000
46-50	\$29,000
51-55	\$38,000
56-60	\$47,000
61-65	\$60,000
66-70	\$76,000
71-75	\$95,000
76-80	\$115,000
81-85	\$130,000
86+	\$150,000

Matrix for calculating payment – 100-point scale

	Score	Scale
Severity & circumstances of Abuse (1-50)		
Sexual abuse (Type, frequency, duration, number and role of abusers)		20
Age/development level/disability (Age/development level at time of abuse; physical and cognitive capacity to resist, remove oneself, complain/disclose or to process abuse)		5
Emotional & psychological abuse (Threats, intimidation, manipulation etc)		10
Violent sexual abuse (Physical violence accompanying sexual abuse)		5
Compounding factors (Contributing to vulnerability and to pervasiveness of abuse)		10
		50
Ongoing Impact of abuse (1-50)		
Physical (Physiological/medical issues/impaired functioning)		10
Psychological/Psychiatric (Psychological & behavioural functioning, mental health)		15
Social/emotional/spiritual (Social functioning, emotional responses, positive relationship capacity, spiritual life – meaning & connectedness)		15
Loss of earnings or potential earnings (Educational, career and employment capacity & outcomes)		10
		50
Total (1-100)		

The safety of children and vulnerable people in our church communities is paramount. The Anglican Church of Tasmania has been working hard to screen, educate and develop church leaders and volunteers who are working with vulnerable people. We have improved our response to and support for survivors of sexual abuse. We have no tolerance for abuse of any kind.

For more information on PSAAS email: dps@anglicantas.org.au or call: **1800 017 286**.