

# Forced Adoptions Redress Scheme

## Forced Adoptions Exceptional Circumstances Fund

This fact sheet is for Aboriginal mothers who have been impacted by forced adoptions in Victoria before 1985. It will help you to understand and apply for the Forced Adoptions Exceptional Circumstances Fund.

The Forced Adoptions Redress Scheme acknowledges the immense trauma and suffering caused by forcible adoptions policies and practices. It will be an important part of the healing journey for many Aboriginal mothers.

The Forced Adoptions Exceptional Circumstances Fund (the Fund) has been set up in advance as a redress scheme will take some time to develop. The Fund gives eligible claimants access to a one-off payment of up to \$10,000.

VACCA recognises that revisiting this time for mothers and their families will be painful and understand that not all mothers who were impacted by these policies may identify themselves this way. So VACCA is committed providing support during this process. This Redress scheme sits alongside the Stolen Generations Reparations Scheme and recognises the impact of removal on both the mother and the child.

## Can I Apply?

You may apply to the Forced Adoptions Exceptional Circumstances Fund if you meet the following eligibility criteria:

- You are a mother whose child/children were forcibly adopted between the 1950s and 1980s in Victoria, and
- You are experiencing exceptional circumstances or are terminally ill

If you have been impacted by forced adoptions in Victoria and don't meet the requirements for the Exceptional Circumstances Fund, you may still be eligible for the Forced Adoptions Redress Scheme.

## How do I Apply?

There is an [online application process](#) that VACCA can help you with. Your application will need to include:

- A supporting letter from a doctor, counsellor, psychologist, lawyer or support worker. This can be your VACCA or Link-Up worker
- The supporting letter and application must demonstrate the urgency of your circumstances and how this funding will help you

The fund is limited so we encourage you to apply as soon as you can.

## How can I get more support and information?

VACCA and Link-Up Victoria are here to support you.

For more information and guidance around accessing the payment, we encourage all Aboriginal mothers affected by forced adoptions to indicate your interest in attending a yarning circle that will be held later in the year, by contacting us via [linkup@vacca.org](mailto:linkup@vacca.org) or 1800 OUR MOB (1800 687 662).

## Further details and support are available:

**VACCA Website:** [www.vacca.org](http://www.vacca.org)

**Link-Up Victoria:** [www.linkupvictoria.org.au](http://www.linkupvictoria.org.au)

**DJCS Website:** <https://www.justice.vic.gov.au/forced-adoption-exceptional-circumstances-fund>



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