



## ICPS the Safeguarding Portal and the CAYPS project



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# The Institute of Child Protection Studies

**Established in 2015**

**Offices (staff) in Melbourne, Canberra and Brisbane**

Through our research, evaluation and community engagement activities, ICPS aims to influence policy and practice to achieve positive social change, enhancement of the Common Good, and improved outcomes for children, young people and families. ICPS is committed to collaborative approaches to translating knowledge into policy and practice, enabled through partnerships with government, non-government and community organisations.

<https://www.acu.edu.au/about-acu/institutes-academies-and-centres/institute-of-child-protection-studies>

# ICPS Research and Resources

## Current research and other projects

- ACU Safeguarding children and young people portal
- A safeguarding system for Catholic Church communities in Australia
- Australian Child Maltreatment Study
- Children and Young People's Safety Project
- Child sexual abuse prevention strategies in developing countries: A systematic review
- Effective teaching strategies for child sexual abuse prevention
- Gambling: lived experience of help-seeking in the presence of gambling-related harms and co-existing mental health conditions
- Gambling harm experienced by children of gamblers: the hidden voices
- Infants entering care: developmental needs and care trajectories
- kContact: keeping contact between parents and children in care
- Patterns of family contact for children in care
- Preservation and restoration services in the ACT
- Public health approach to protecting children
- Service system responses and culturally designed practice frameworks to address needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children exposed to domestic and family violence
- State intervention with babies study
- Suicidal behaviour in children in child protection and out-of-home care – a review of effective interventions
- Working with children

*birth parents? Findings from the kContact study Issue 24 (PDF 2.9)*, Research to Practice Series. Canberra: Institute of Child Protection Studies, Australian Catholic University.

# The Big Picture

## Children and Young People's Safety Project

### Safeguarding Portal

ACU's one-stop shop for **resources training and survey tools** to support organisations to develop a culture of safeguarding.

### Children's Safety Survey

A survey tool youth-serving organisations can use to measure **children's perceptions** of safety

### Safeguarding Capabilities Survey

A survey tool youth-serving organisations can use to measure **staff and volunteers** capabilities to safeguard children

<https://safeguardingchildren.acu.edu.au>

# What is the Safeguarding Portal?

A central pathway to the range of ACU research projects, professional development opportunities, and capacity-building tools:

***Research and Resources:*** a range of research reports and resources

***Practice Tools:*** resources to support organisations to keep children and young people safe.


***Qualifications and Professional Learning:*** learning opportunities to develop skills and knowledge related to safeguarding children and young people.

***Self-Assessment:*** surveys that organisations can use to self-assess their progress towards supporting conditions of safety in organisations


***Researcher Profiles:*** Find out more about the expertise of ACU staff

<https://safeguardingchildren.acu.edu.au>

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## Safeguarding Children and Young People Portal

Child safety is a priority for everyone, everywhere – from parents to parishioners, sporting clubs to dance classes. And at Australian Catholic University (ACU), we are committed to supporting and enabling the safety of children and young people in families, communities and organisations.

[View research and resources](#)

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We offer a range of services, courses and professional development programs to help individuals and organisations understand and apply child-safe and child- friendly practices and policies.

[View qualifications and professional learning](#) →

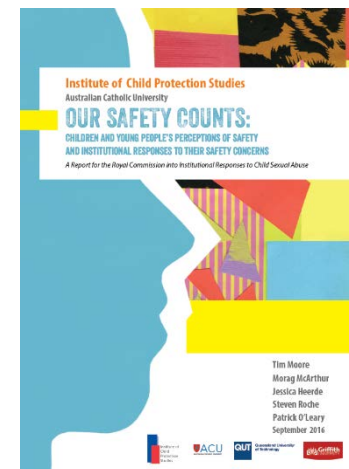
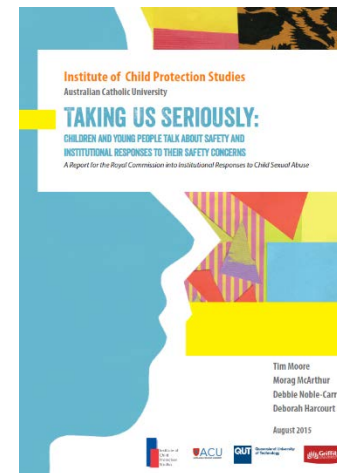
### Safeguarding Children and Young People Portal

Child rights →	Signup to newsletter →
For policy makers and organisational leaders →	Register your interest in our survey →
For practitioners and workers →	



# The Children's Safety Survey

- Developed in partnership with children and young people.
- Focus groups with 110 children and young people across Australia
- Australia's leading children's researchers and expert child protection practitioners provided expertise into the development of the survey
- Designed for children and young people aged 10-18 to complete independently with minimal adult intervention.
- Provides organisations with an opportunity to gain an understanding of children's perceptions of safety.



# Elements of the Children's Safety Survey

## Elements of the Children's Safety Survey

### 1. The Australian Safe Kids and Young People Survey

- Child Informed Org Safety Climate
- Sense of Safety\*
- Confidence in Adults\*
- Barriers to Help Seeking\*

\*Young people watch an ***animated scenario*** regarding an ***unsafe situation with an adult*** and again with an ***unsafe situation regarding a peer***.

### 2. The Child Health Utility 9 Dimension (CHU 9D)

- Measures health-related quality of life of children and young
- Currently used in over 190 research projects.

### 3. The Strengths and Difficulty Questionnaire (SDQ)

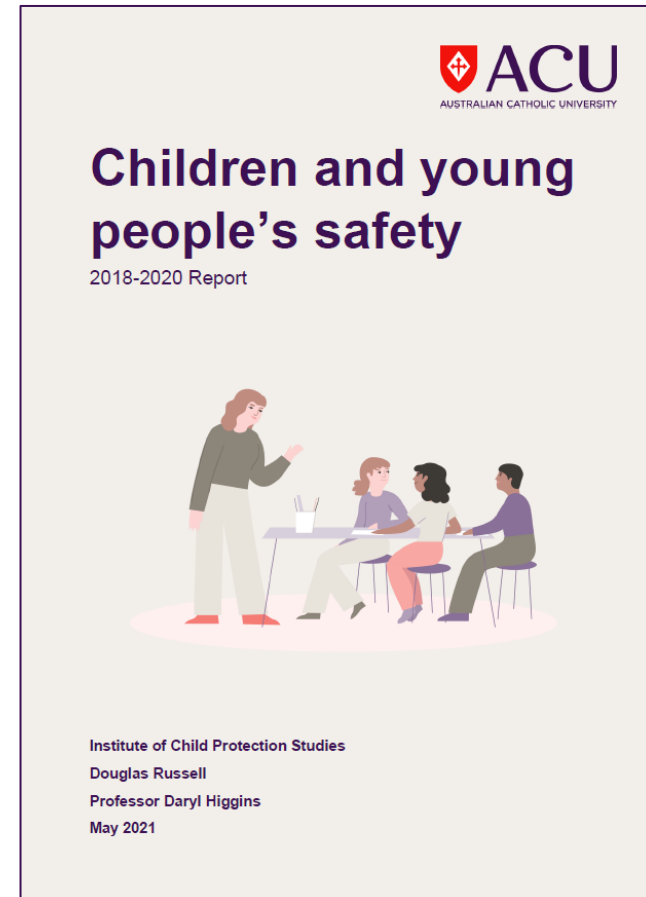
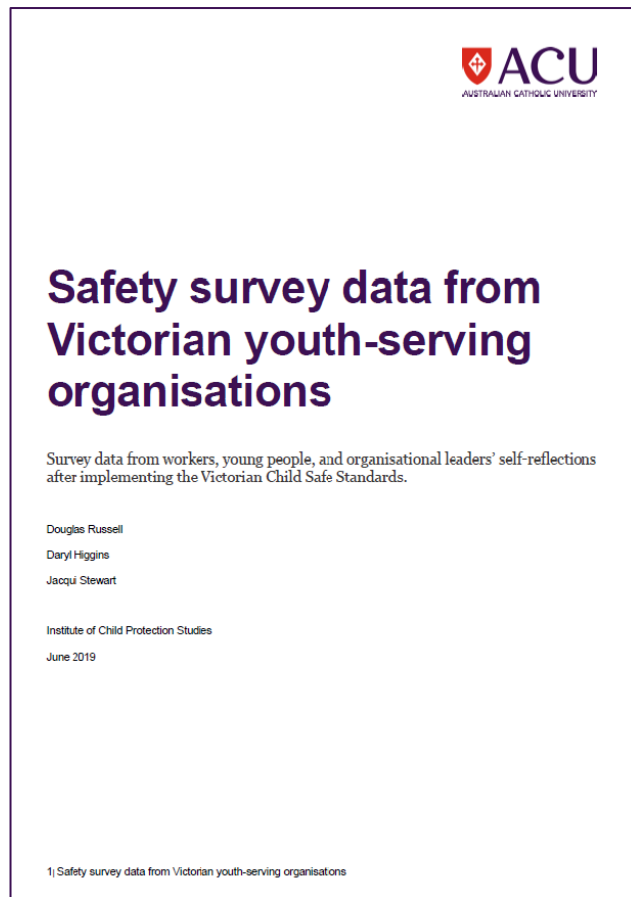
- Developed by Robert Goodman (1997)
- Measures 5 factors of well-being
- Cited in over 4000 articles, it is
- Used in the Growing up in Australia study.



# Scenarios

- We use an empirical child-focused research process to help us develop the scenarios used in the Children's Safety Survey.

# Past findings



# The Safeguarding Capabilities Survey

Youth-serving organisations can use data to identify learning and professional development needs in relation to safeguarding children.

The Safeguarding Capabilities Survey:

- provides a means of understanding and measuring the capabilities of staff and volunteers to safeguard children and young people.
- Allows the collection of data enabling reflection upon safeguarding practices and tailor specific policies, procedures and training programs
- can be implemented on multiple occasions to identify whether organisational change efforts are contributing to improvements

# Elements of the SCS

## 1. Organisational Culture

- Awareness of safeguarding policies, procedures and practices.
- explore awareness of policies that affect the participant directly,
- expectations of leadership in creating an organisational culture of safety

## 2. Confidence to act

- The degree to which staff feel confident to implement safeguarding strategies
- Such as:
  - providing support for children and young people to keep themselves safe
  - approaching colleagues when they feel someone hasn't followed a child-safe policy
  - supporting a child/young person may be—or feel—unsafe, and responding

## 3. Attitudes to prevention

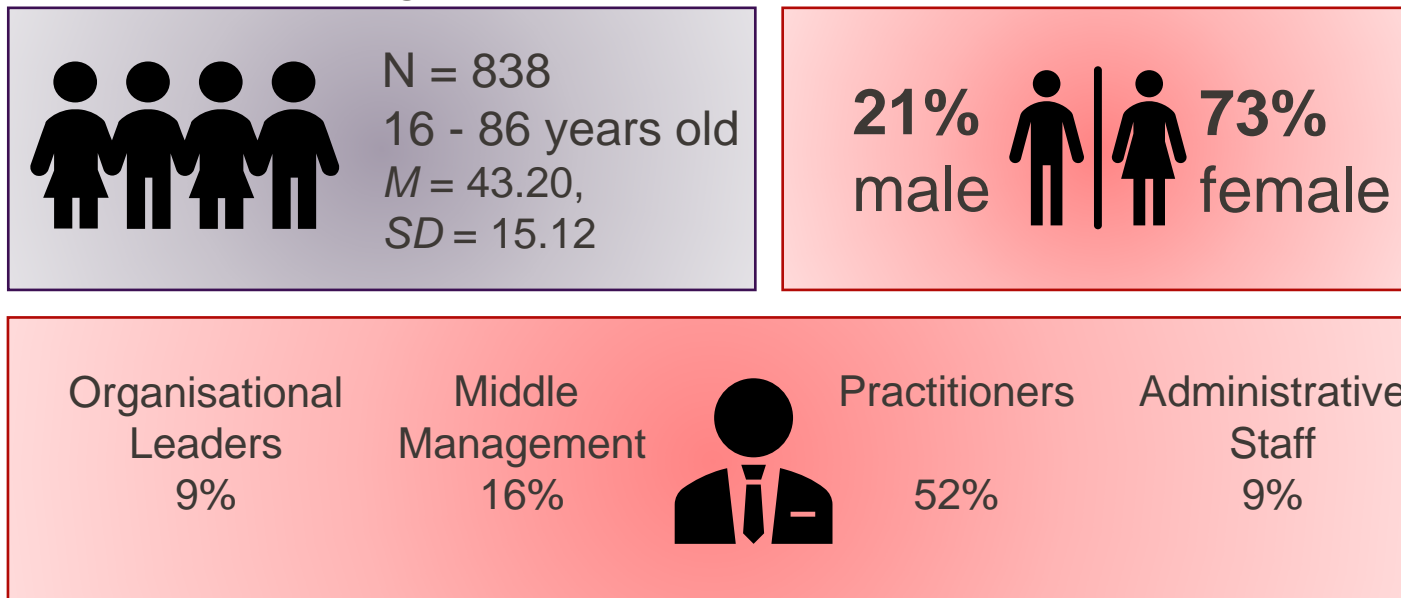
- Attitudes towards the activities that are needed to support prevention of child sexual abuse
- Sense of personal responsibility staff have for prevention activities.
- The role of staff in prevention, as well as that of children and young people

## 4. Situational Prevention Knowledge

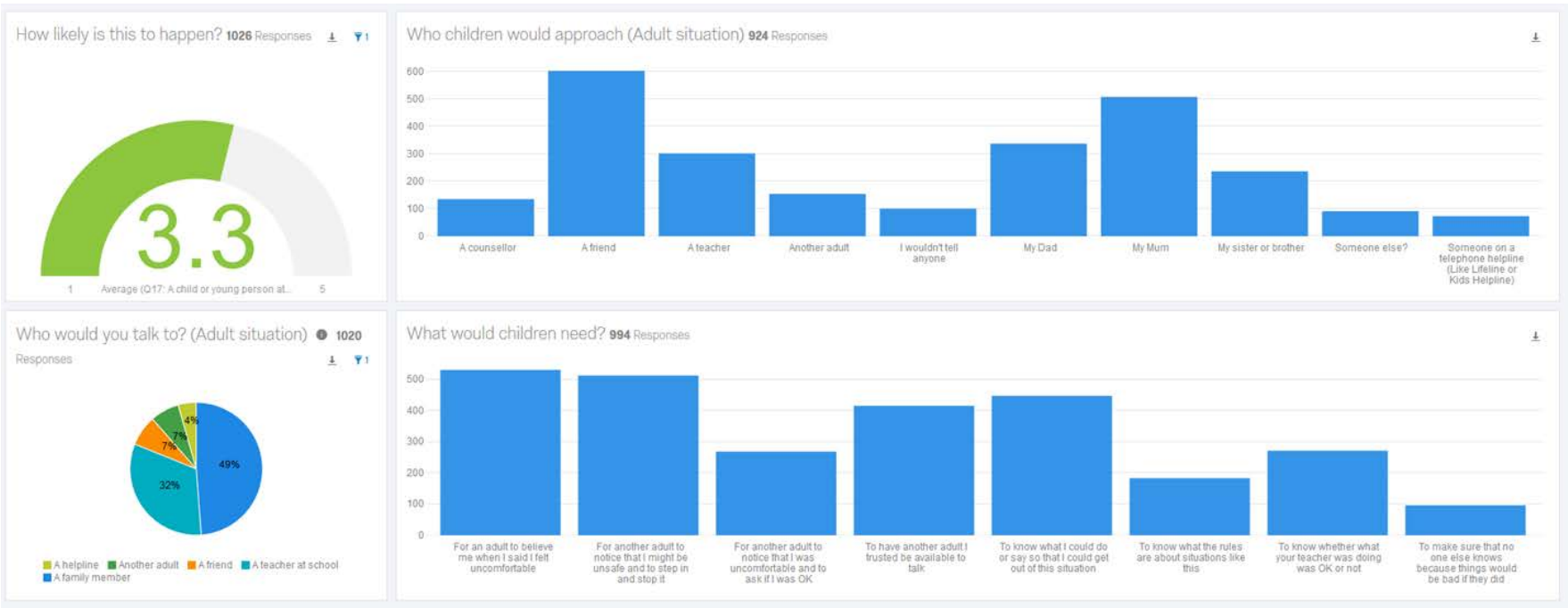
- Knowledge of situational prevention strategies
- Such as:
  - modifying environmental factors to reduce opportunities abuse
  - the education of children/young people and the staff who work with them

# Who has taken part so far?

Schools, out-of-home care, sports clubs, youth development clubs, faith-based organisations



# Dashboard access





## Making child friendly cities with ICPS' research

- The surveys can be used by Local Councils to measure the perceptions of safety of children and young people engaging in their services, or of their staff's capabilities to protect and safeguard children.
- ICPS would welcome the opportunity to work collaboratively with the Child Friendly Cities and Communities network to develop resources that help make partner organisations and Greater Melbourne a safe city for children and young people.
- ICPS would be happy to support research or other projects where interviews or focus groups (or other data collection) with children and young people are an integral part of the project.

# Questions and contact details

**To find out more about the  
Children's Safety Studies contact:  
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