

WHAT CAN ADULTS LEARN FROM CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE?

What children and young people are telling adults about
their safety needs .

Sam Neville – City of Port Phillip

Sharon Rooney- City of Melbourne

CHECKING IN POLL

Go to <https://www.menti.com/ik7dbt2hk5>

Insert code 6273097

Answer 2 questions!

Live results!

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO HAVE A LOOK AT

Research and policy context

What have children and young people told adults?

What can adults do to help?

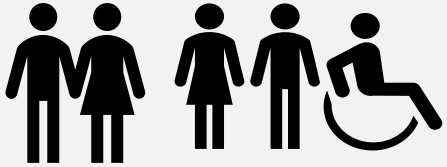
What can you do to improve the outcomes for children and young people ?

Warning:

That if this discussion raises any concerns for you or someone close to you please reach out for support.

- GP or Health practitioner
- EAP
- Sexual Assault Helpline: 1800 806 922
- 1800 RESPECT : 1800 737 732
- Safe Steps: 1800 015 188

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT



1 in 5 Australian children will experience unwanted sexual contact before their **18** birthday



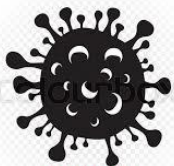
1 in 4 girls and **1 in 7 boys** will be **sexually abused** in their life.
- *Royal Commission, 2014*



1 in 33 children received child protection services, with **73%** being **repeat clients**.
250,000 reports abuse and neglect across Australia
- *Child Protection Australia, 2015-16*



Research tells us that children and young people need to disclose, on average, **5** times before someone will take action.



Children's 'invisibility' during COVID 19



Over 54,000 children in Australia **will not sleep** in their own bed tonight because it is not safe to do so.
More infants **under the age of 12 months** were found to be abused than any other age group.
Australian Institute of Family Studies, June 2015



Wheel of Child Safety



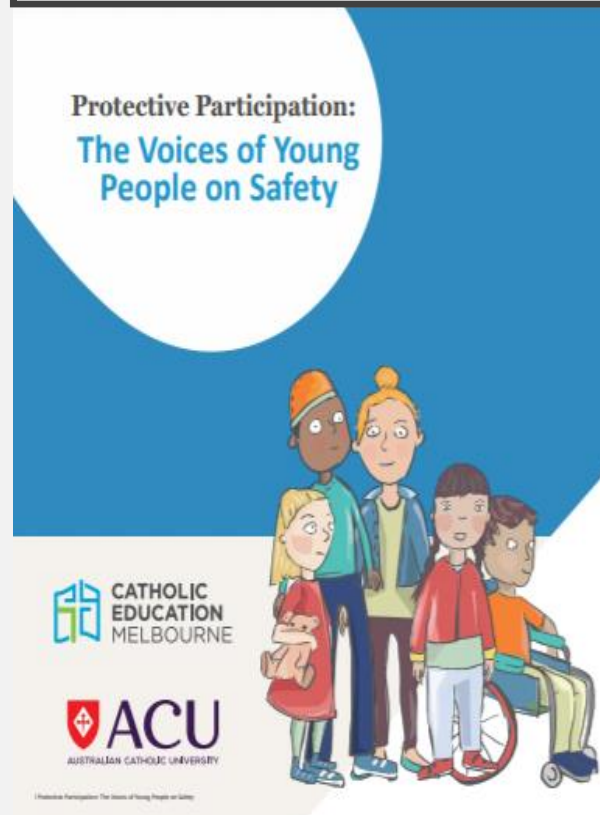
Things that make it hard to disclose abuse video clip



PROTECTIVE PARTICIPATION

THE VOICES OF YOUNG PEOPLE ON SAFETY

DR TIM MOORE

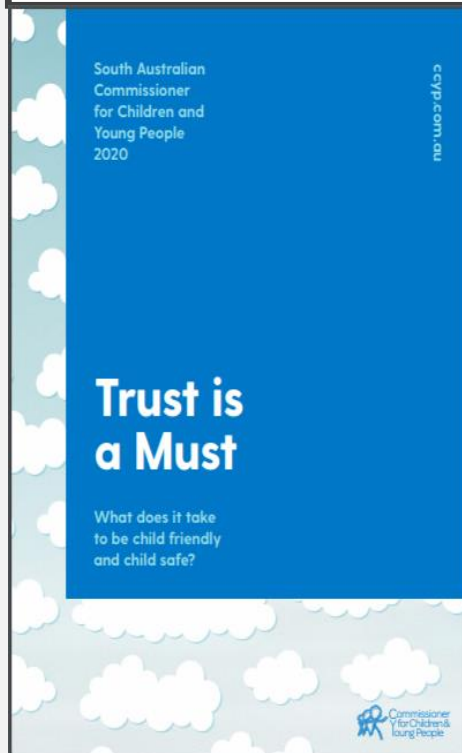


- Participation gave them the opportunity to learn more about safety risk
- Opportunity to inform adults about their concerns and what they need
- Build alliance with trusted adults
- Improved their confidence in the adults and institutions
- Empowered them, increase their knowledge and ability to protect themselves

TRUST IS A MUST

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BE CHILD FRIENDLY AND CHILD SAFE

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN REPORT.



- Friendly and welcoming staff and environments
- Access to information and clear processes
- Provide different ways to make and enquiry, provide feedback or make a compliant
- Flexible, timely and solution focussed approached to feedback and complaints

COMPLAINTS HANDLING GUIDE

UPHOLDING THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

NATIONAL OFFICE FOR CHILD SAFETY



A child rights approach :

- Be part of the whole of organisation approach to keeping children and young people safe
- Safe and welcoming environments that has a positive complaints culture
- Commitment to children and young people exercising their right to speak up about anything
- Accessible and responsive to the needs of all children and young people
- Complaints are dealt with promptly, thoroughly and fairly

CITY OF MELBOURNE

Program/Event	Age	Methods of engagement
Children as co-creators or collaborators with artists	0-12	Survey on iPad /Paper survey for Clubs/Face to Face feedback/Focus Groups /Children on panel children are co-creators, feedback through speaking, drawing or other provided by the artist) New Ideas Lab projects, children act as a “brains trust”
Libraries Creative kids after school club (library at the Dock/Lego Squad/homework clubs (North Melbs)	7-13	Visual, parent surveys, staff observations
Park Rangers	0-12	Written surveys for the Primary School Programs and Junior Ranger Program Visual surveys for the Early Year programs Community consultation activities – Visual surveys (drawing and sculpture) and face to face questions.
Junior Lord Mayor	10-13	Competition run over 5 years since 2013, Melbourne Day Committee
Big City Small Child forum	6-12	Facilitated by the Children’s Party, House of Muchness, performance, questions, discussions, art ,300+ children, including children in civic conversation
Polyglot theatre	10-11	Voice lab- tuning into what children think, feel and say, enabling their ideas to be shared to make positive change.



BIG CITY SMALL CHILD CHILDREN'S FORUM

JUNE 2019



WHAT NOW ?

If this is what we are hearing from children and young people are your Council's activities and programs safe for children and young people ?

- What information about safety is provided to families, children and young people ?
- What training and information is provided to staff and volunteers on building respectful relationships with children and young people?
- What active steps are you taking to encourage children and young people to authentically participate in services or programs?

RESOURCES

- [Impacts of COVID-19 on children and young people who contact Kids Helpline](#)
- [National Office for Child Safety](#)
- [Australian Catholic University](#) – Safeguarding Children and Young People Portal
- [Commission for Children and Young People](#)
- [NAPCAN](#) – prevent child abuse and neglect
- [Emerging Minds](#)