

FINAL REPORT

Advocacy, support and
therapeutic treatment services



Royal Commission
into Institutional Responses
to Child Sexual Abuse

VOLUME 9

ISBN 978-1-925622-56-0

© Commonwealth of Australia 2017

All material presented in this publication is provided under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 Australia licence (www.creativecommons.org/licenses).

For the avoidance of doubt, this means this licence only applies to material as set out in this document.



The details of the relevant licence conditions are available on the Creative Commons website as is the full legal code for the CC BY 4.0 AU licence (www.creativecommons.org/licenses).

[Contact us](#)

Enquiries regarding the licence and any use of this document are welcome at:

Attorney-General's Department
3-5 National Circuit
Barton, ACT 2600

Email: copyright@ag.gov.au

FINAL REPORT

Volume 9

Advocacy, support and
therapeutic treatment services

Content warning

This volume contains information about child sexual abuse that may be distressing. We also wish to advise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers that information in this volume may have been provided by or refer to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have died.

Table of contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Preface | 1 |
| The Royal Commission | 1 |
| Public hearings | 1 |
| Private sessions | 2 |
| Policy and research | 3 |
| Community engagement | 3 |
| Diversity and vulnerability | 3 |
| Our interim and other reports | 4 |
| Definition of terms | 4 |
| Naming conventions | 5 |
| Structure of the Final Report | 5 |
| Summary | 9 |
| The need for advocacy and support and therapeutic treatment services | 9 |
| The shape of the service system | 10 |
| Barriers to help-seeking and effective service responses | 11 |
| Improving service systems for victims and survivors | 12 |
| National leadership to reduce stigma, promote help-seeking and support good practice | 14 |
| Recommendations | 15 |
| 1 Introduction | 19 |
| 1.1 Overview | 19 |
| 1.2 Terms of Reference | 20 |
| 1.3 Links with other volumes | 21 |
| 1.4 Key terms | 21 |
| 1.5 Structure of this volume | 27 |
| 2 The need for advocacy and support and therapeutic treatment services | 30 |
| 2.1 Overview | 30 |
| 2.2 Understanding victims' and survivors' needs | 30 |
| 2.3 How advocacy and support assist victims and survivors | 44 |
| 2.4 How therapeutic treatment assists victims and survivors | 51 |
| 2.5 Service system principles for healing and recovery | 60 |

| | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| 3 | The shape of the service system | 101 |
| 3.1 | Overview | 101 |
| 3.2 | Services providing advocacy and support and therapeutic treatment | 102 |
| 3.3 | Governance and funding arrangements | 108 |
| 3.4 | How service systems are changing | 110 |
| 4 | Barriers to help-seeking and effective service responses | 115 |
| 4.1 | Overview | 115 |
| 4.2 | Barriers faced by victims and survivors seeking help | 116 |
| 4.3 | Mainstream and specialist service responses | 126 |
| 4.4 | Structural barriers to effective service provision | 142 |
| 5 | Improving service systems for victims and survivors | 162 |
| 5.1 | Overview | 162 |
| 5.2 | The need for service system reform | 162 |
| 5.3 | A responsive service system | 166 |
| 6 | National leadership to reduce stigma, promote help-seeking and support good practice | 193 |
| 6.1 | Overview | 193 |
| 6.2 | Reducing stigma | 193 |
| 6.3 | Supporting good practice | 195 |
| 6.4 | Supporting the development and dissemination of evidence | 199 |
| 6.5 | A national organisation to reduce stigma, promote help-seeking and support good practice | 200 |

Shame can have a particularly debilitating impact in small communities such as regional or remote areas, where it can be difficult for victims and survivors to seek support anonymously.¹⁶ In *Case Study 39: The response of certain football (soccer), cricket and tennis organisations to allegations of child sexual abuse*, Mr Troy Quagliata talked about his experience of being sexually abused as a young boy by the local cricket club coach in rural Queensland.¹⁷ Mr Quagliata described the difficulties he faced living in a small town, trying to overcome his fear of judgment or ridicule and finding support he could trust:

The shame and thoughts of the abuse are with you all the time. You don't know where to look for help. In town, all the schoolteachers live in the community. I didn't feel comfortable talking to them.¹⁸

4.2.2 Fear or experience of a negative response

Many survivors told us they feared that disclosing the sexual abuse and seeking support would have negative consequences. In many instances, this expectation was founded on experiences of harassment, discrimination and ongoing verbal, physical and sexual abuse following earlier disclosures, often by representatives of the institution in which they were sexually abused.

Survivors told us they feared being disbelieved, being labelled with negative stereotypes or being targeted for retribution by perpetrators. In *Case Study 5: Response of The Salvation Army to child sexual abuse at its boys' homes in New South Wales and Queensland*, Mr Wallace McLeod told us that after he had suffered a nervous breakdown, he did not tell psychologists about the sexual abuse as he feared they would not believe him.¹⁹

Stigmatising attitudes about the issue of child sexual abuse made many survivors reluctant to speak openly about their experiences.²⁰ During a private session, 'Julianne' told us that she was unwilling to report the person who abused her even though he had died as she was worried about possible negative reactions.²¹ 'I feel scared of being judged, I know that they would just say, "well you were just a slut, you brought it on" ... I know they would.'²²

Similarly, 'Candice' told us during a private session that after she had been sexually abused by a ministerial servant in her local Jehovah's Witnesses congregation, she was told by the congregation's committee of elders that she was responsible for the abuse.²³ She said that the congregation's attitude towards sexual abuse was generally to conclude that the victim was either mistaken or somehow responsible. Because of this, 'Candice' did not speak about the abuse again for a number of decades until she contacted the Royal Commission.²⁴

Endnotes

- 1 MJ Dorahy & K Clearwater, 'Shame and guilt in men exposed to childhood sexual abuse: A qualitative Investigation', *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, vol 21, no 2, 2012; JL Herman, 'Post-traumatic stress disorder as a shame disorder' in RL Dearing & JP Tangney (eds), *Shame in the therapy hour*, American Psychological Association, Washington DC, 2011; J Herman, *Trauma and recovery*, Basic Books, New York, 1992, p 105.
- 2 I Katz, A Jones, BJ Newton & E Reimer, *Life journeys of victims/survivors of child sexual abuse in institutions: An analysis of Royal Commission private sessions*, report prepared for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Sydney, 2017, p 144.
- 3 Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Report of Case Study No 34, *The response of Brisbane Grammar School and St Paul's School to allegations of child sexual abuse*, Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Sydney, 2017, p 67.
- 4 Transcript of BSG, Case Study 34, 9 November 2015 at 12408:16–21.
- 5 Transcript of BSG, Case Study 34, 9 November 2015 at 12421:5–10.
- 6 Name changed, private session, 'Alanna'.
- 7 Name changed, private session, 'Alanna'.
- 8 Name changed, private session, 'Rainer'.
- 9 Name changed, private session, 'Sherrill'.
- 10 Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, *Report of Case Study No 17: The response of the Australian Indigenous Ministries, the Australian and Northern Territory governments and the Northern Territory police force and prosecuting authorities to allegations of child sexual abuse which occurred at the Retta Dixon Home*, Sydney, 2015, p 5.
- 11 Exhibit 17-0001, 'Statement of Lorna Cubillo', Case Study 17, STAT.0326.001.0001 at 0012.
- 12 I Katz, A Jones, BJ Newton & E Reimer, *Life journeys of victims/survivors of child sexual abuse in institutions: An analysis of Royal Commission private sessions*, report prepared for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Sydney, 2017, p 131.
- 13 M Proeve, C Malvaso & P Delfabbro, *Evidence and frameworks for understanding perpetrators of institutional child sexual abuse*, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra, 2016, pp 29–31; K Richards, *Misperceptions about child sex offenders*, Australian Institute of Criminology, Canberra, 2011, pp 3–4; D Salter, D McMillan, M Richards, T Talbot, J Hodges, A Bentovim, R Hastings, J Stevenson & D Skuse, 'Development of sexually abusive behaviour in sexually victimised males: A longitudinal study', *The Lancet*, vol 361, no 9356, 2003.
- 14 Laurel House North and North West Sexual Assault Support Services Tasmania, Submission to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, *Issues paper No 10: Advocacy and support and therapeutic treatment services*, Sydney, 2015, p 7.
- 15 I Katz, A Jones, BJ Newton & E Reimer, *Life journeys of victims/survivors of child sexual abuse in institutions: An analysis of Royal Commission private sessions*, report prepared for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Sydney, 2017, p 90.
- 16 See the following submissions to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse on *Issues paper No 10: Advocacy and support and therapeutic treatment services*, 2015: Laurel House North and North West Sexual Assault Support Services Tasmania, p 7; Care Leavers Australasia Network, p 6.
- 17 Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, *Report of Case Study No. 39 The response of certain football (soccer), cricket and tennis organisations to allegations of child sexual abuse*, Sydney, 2016, p 12.
- 18 Transcript of T Quagliata, Case Study 39, 5 April 2016 at 18580:33–46.
- 19 Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, *Report of Case Study No 5: Response of The Salvation Army to child sexual abuse at its boys homes in New South Wales and Queensland*, Sydney, 2015, p 24.
- 20 I Katz, A Jones, BJ Newton & E Reimer, *Life journeys of victims/survivors of child sexual abuse in institutions: An analysis of Royal Commission private sessions*, report prepared for the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Sydney, 2017, p 138.
- 21 Name changed, private session, 'Julianne'.
- 22 Name changed, private session, 'Julianne'.
- 23 Name changed, private session, 'Candice'.
- 24 Name changed, private session, 'Candice'.
- 25 Name changed, private session, 'Mac'.
- 26 Name changed, private session, 'Mac'.
- 27 Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, *Advocacy and support and therapeutic treatment private roundtable*, Sydney, 2016.
- 28 For example see the following submissions to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse on *Issues paper No 10: Advocacy and support and therapeutic treatment services*, Sydney, 2015: M Griffiths, pp 20–21; Interrelate, p 1; Heal for Life Foundation, p 3; Canberra Rape Crisis Centre and Service Assisting Male Survivors of Sexual Assault, pp 11–12; Laurel House North and North West Sexual Assault Support Services Tasmania, p 7; Aboriginal Child Family and Community Care State Secretariat, p 2; Victorian Child Psychotherapists Association, pp 3–4; Victorian Centres Against Sexual Assault, p 2.
- 29 S Huntington, Submission to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, *Issues paper No 10: Advocacy and support and therapeutic treatment services*, Sydney, 2015, p 1.
- 30 See the following submissions to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse on *Issues paper No 10: Advocacy and support and therapeutic treatment services*, Sydney, 2015: People with Disability Australia, p 5; Children with Disability Australia, p 4.



Royal Commission
into Institutional Responses
to Child Sexual Abuse

Commonwealth of Australia

Royal Commission into Institutional
Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

ISBN 978-1-925622-56-0
Published December 2017