

The Taboo Times

Phoenix Support & Advocacy Service



STOP THE SILENCE Introducing The Taboo Times

Welcome to the inaugural edition of our newsletter "**The Taboo Times**", a newsletter dedicated to lifting the veil of secrecy, stigma and shame surrounding child sexual abuse. Produced by Phoenix Support & Advocacy Service, our mission is to inform, educate, and empower the community services sector and the wider community to confront the realities of child sexual abuse, challenge the ingrained myths, and advocate for lasting change.

Why the Taboo?

Child sexual abuse remains one of the most stigmatised and misunderstood issues in our society. For too long, conversations have been avoided, survivors have been silenced, and misconceptions have flourished. The taboo surrounding abuse is perpetuated by secrecy, shame, and a culture of victim blaming. These barriers not only prevent survivors from accessing the support they need but also hinder our collective ability to prevent abuse and hold perpetrators accountable. Institutions have protected their reputations to avoid accountability, and it seems the institution of 'the family' is a no-go zone and the last taboo to tackle.

Pages 1, 3

PHOENIX launches a new conversation on Child Sexual Abuse

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No Laughing Matter with Tanya Lee

Pages 4-6

Sector Training, Links, and Resources

**In Australia 1 in 3 girls
and 1 in 5 boys have
been subjected to child
sexual abuse
ACMS, (2022)**

**DID YOU
KNOW ?**

**1 in 10 men in
Australia have
offended sexually
against children
Salter et al, (2023)**

**Female victim
survivors are at
40 times higher risk
of suicide
M.Cutajar et al, (2010)**

**Statistically 327,768 females
and 132,903 males in WA
may have been subjected to
child sexual abuse**

**Male victim survivors
are 38 times more
likely to die from
accidental overdose
M. Cutajar et al, (2010)**

NO LAUGHING MATTER



Tanya Lee is the Founder of **The CorriLee Foundation**, an organisation staging major events and charitable fundraisers across Australia while also bringing together existing charities.

Tanya is also the creator of the **No Laughing Matter** podcast series, sharing real-life, lived experience stories of incest. These accounts are penned by the survivor, who then chooses a favourite, well-known person to narrate the podcasts. As a result, the accounts are compassionately voiced by leading Australian comedians and media personalities. Since launching in 2021, the podcast series has over 40,000 listens.

Tanya, a survivor of incest herself, has been raising awareness and funds for survivors of childhood sexual abuse since the early 1990s.

link to the podcasts:

NO LAUGHING MATTER®



www.phoenix.asn.au

For more
information
contact Phoenix
(08) 9443 1910

STOP THE SILENCE



The Taboo Times Newsletter

As we launch **The Taboo Times** we invite you to join us to stop the silence. Together, we can begin to dismantle the shame and secrecy that have kept child sexual abuse in the shadows and work towards a future where every child is safe, and every survivor is believed and supported.

The Cost of Secrecy, Stigma, and Shame

Silence is a powerful tool that enables abuse to continue unchecked. Children are often made to feel responsible for the abuse, fearing disbelief or punitive reactions if they disclose their experiences. The stigma and shame, deeply embedded in our cultural attitudes, leads to isolation, mental health struggles, and often lifelong trauma for survivors. The secrecy that surrounds abuse reinforces the notion that it is something to be hidden, further marginalising those affected and allowing perpetrators to evade justice.

Victim Blaming: A Cycle We Must Break

Victim blaming is another significant barrier to healing and justice. When survivors are questioned, doubted, blamed, or held responsible for their abuse, it compounds their trauma and discourages others from seeking help. Across the community services sector, it is vital that we adopt a trauma-informed approach, ensuring that survivors are met with compassion, belief, and practical support.

Changing the Conversation

At Phoenix Support & Advocacy Service we believe that change begins with conversation. By openly discussing child sexual abuse – its prevalence, impacts, and the harmful myths that surround it – we can foster an environment where survivors feel safe to disclose, and where communities are equipped to respond effectively and sensitively. Education is key. We encourage professionals and community members alike to challenge stereotypes, educate themselves on the realities of abuse, and actively work to create safe spaces for children and survivors.

How You Can Help?

- **Listen and Believe:**

If a child or adult discloses abuse, listen without judgement and believe them.

- **Educate Yourself:**

Seek out resources and training on recognising the signs of grooming and abuse and responding appropriately.

- **Challenge Myths:**

Speak up against victim blaming and misinformation within your circles.

- **Support Services:**

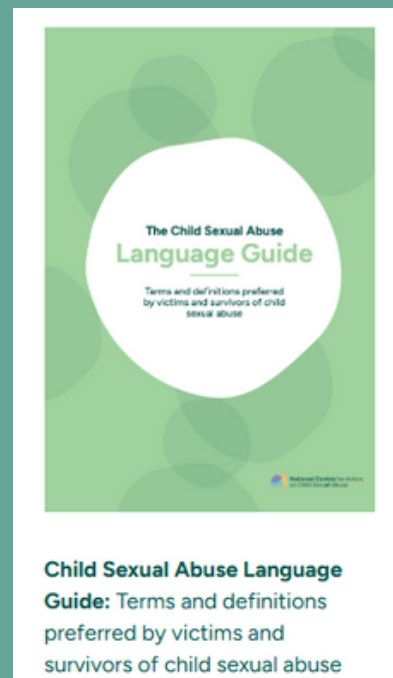
Connect survivors with specialist services like Phoenix for ongoing trauma-informed support.

SECTOR RESOURCES

Child Sexual Abuse Language Guide

The National Centre has launched the Child Sexual Abuse Language Guide, developed with the voices of more than 100 victims and survivors across Australia. The guide provides victim and survivor-informed terms and definitions to support respectful, inclusive and trauma-informed communication about child sexual abuse. It highlights terms to avoid and suggests alternatives that reduce stigma and affirm dignity.

[DOWNLOAD THE LANGUAGE GUIDE HERE](#)

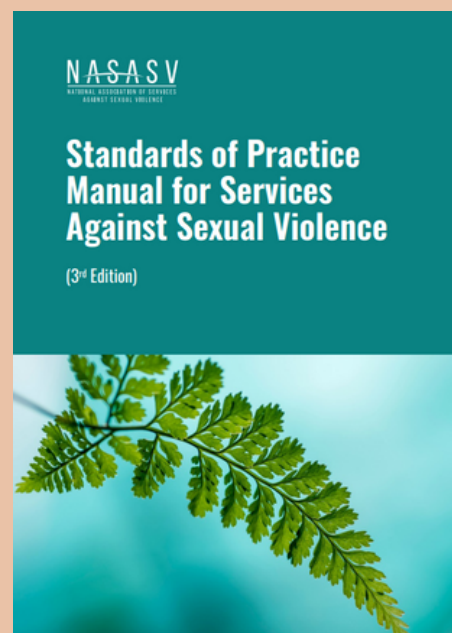


National Standards of Practice Manual for Services (3rd Edition)

The purpose of these Standards is to ensure accessible, high quality, and consistent service provision. This Edition provides guidance on the provision of services to adults, children and young people who have experienced sexual assault, and children and young people exhibiting harmful sexual behaviours.



[DOWNLOAD THE MANUAL HERE](#)



SECTOR TRAINING & LINKS



WACOSS Child Safe Foundational Capacity Building Webinar Recordings

REGISTER HERE

Pandora Soundbyte Sessions



REGISTER NOW

Pandora Soundbyte Sessions are 1.5-hour, high-impact training bursts designed for busy practitioners who want to sharpen their skills and stay ahead in their family and domestic violence practice. Each session focuses on a single, targeted area – blending evidence-based theory with practical tools you can apply immediately in your work.



National Centre for Action on Child Sexual Abuse

NCACSA Change Academy

The Change Academy is the professional learning hub of the National Centre, dedicated to helping practitioners, organisations and the community prevent child sexual abuse and support victims and survivors.

THE CHANGE ACADEMY

Australian Childhood Foundation

The Australian Childhood Foundation has developed a new resource kit to support young people at risk of child sexual exploitation. The practice guide is accompanied by on-demand training Responding to Child Sexual Exploitation.

REGISTER HERE



Bright Futures Webinars & CoP

Free webinars are available to people working in the children's education and care sectors and members of the community, including parents and carers. Frontline practitioners who work directly with children in education, childcare, support work, social work, youth justice may find these resources useful to their practice contexts.

REGISTER NOW

You are also invited to join the Bright Futures **Community of Practice** to connect with other industry professionals and contribute to keeping kids safe across Australia.

If you would like to join monthly online meetings, please email: brightfutures@danielmorcombe.com.au



INFORMATION HERE

ARTICLES & REPORTS

Support boost for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse - WA Govt

National Principles for Child Safe Organisations - calendar of micro-events: WA Children's Week - WA Govt

Commissioning Project - Child Sexual Abuse Therapeutic Services - WA Govt

The Australian Human Rights Commission welcomes the appointment of Deb Tsorbaris as the new National Children's Commissioner - Australian Govt

National Best Practice Framework for Early Childhood Intervention - Australian Govt

eSafety: Social Media Age Restrictions Hub





In-Person

GET
YOUR
TICKET
NOW

TRAINING

The Pathologisation of Sexual Abuse MASTERCLASS

Phoenix in partnership with

VictimFocus

CHALLENGE | CHANGE | INFLUENCE



PHOENIX IS PROUD TO BE HOSTING DR JESSICA TAYLOR

Date: Tuesday 4 November 2025

Time: 9:30am – 4:30pm

Trainers: Dr Jessica Taylor & Jaimi Shrive

Venue: City West Lotteries House, 2 Delhi Street West Perth

Cost: \$195 + GST + Fees (Not for Profit Rate)



training@phoenix.asn.au



www.phoenix.asn.au

REGISTER NOW

