



16 Days of Activism – 25 November to 10 December 2016

DAY 15. 9 DECEMBER 2016

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

* In 2014-15, there were 42,457 abuse cases substantiated against children; in NSW, Victoria, Western Australia, Tasmania and the ACT emotional abuse was the most common type. In Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory it was neglect that was most common. It is widely accepted that child abuse is seriously under-reported.

* There were 5,474 cases of sexual abuse (13.7%); by State and Territory the figures were: NSW 2,634; VIC 1,631; Qld. 323; WA 551; SA 196; TAS 27; ACT 15; NT 97.

* Nationally, girls were twice as likely as boys to suffer sexual abuse (16.7% and 9% respectively). Boys had a higher rate of physical abuse.

* In Australia, state and territory governments have the statutory responsibility for protecting children from abuse and neglect. Having separate jurisdictions can result in some children 'falling through the cracks' so there is now a national framework (COAG decision 2009) which is for 2009-2020.

* Data for 2014-15 indicated that some 27.2 per 1,000 children were new clients of protection services and that 72.8% of these had previously been the subject of an investigation, care and protection order and/or out of home care placement.

* Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are 7 times as likely as non-indigenous children to be receiving child protection services.

* In July 2015 a 13 year old girl's father was among 8 WA men charged with 503 child abuse charges against her. The father allegedly 'facilitated' the paedophile ring.

* In Queensland, police who visit violent homes will be able to take out Domestic Violence Orders to protect children for the first time under laws introduced in Parliament in August. All government agencies will be able to share with each other red flags raised that a family is in grave danger and needs immediate intervention. These changes stem from the Not Now- Not Ever report by Dame



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Quentin Bryce and mean that children will be protected by police-issued orders even if their parents do not want any action taken.

RESOURCES:

AIFS Child Abuse and Neglect Statistics <https://aifs.gov.au/>

Royal Commission into Institutional responses to Child sexual Abuse
<http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au>

Queensland Government <https://www.qld.gov.au/community/getting-support-health-social-issue/child-sexual-abuse>

HELPLINES:

Police - if an emergency	Phone 000 (triple 0)
Kids Helpline	1800 55 1800
Lifeline	13 11 14
Care Leavers Australia Network (www.clan.org.au)	1800 008 774
Blue Knot Foundation (www.blueknot.org.au)	1300 657 380
Bravehearts (www.bravehearts.org.au) (weekdays 8am – 8pm)	1800 272 831
Act For Kids Centres	www.actforkids.com.au/contact-us/getting-help-qld



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ZONTA SAYS NO
TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

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