

Responding to adult victims and survivors of child sexual abuse

Some Australian adults have been told by another adult they were sexually abused as a child

35% had received an adult's disclosure of child sexual abuse

Most, but not all supported the adult victim-survivor

77% reported providing emotional support to the disclosing adult

When asked what they would do if, in the future, they were told by their adult friend, or another adult about being sexually abused as a child

If it was their friend, most wanted to respond compassionately

91% would try to be caring toward their friend

91% said their heart would go out to their friend

89% would like to be there for their friend

However, not everyone knew how to respond or be compassionate towards their friend

24% wouldn't really be able to connect with their friend's pain and another

30% didn't know if they would or not

5% would try to avoid their friend

11% said it would be very or extremely important to tell their friend it's best not to talk about it at all

If it wasn't their friend, but another adult...

Most were confident they could respond

79% confident they could talk to an adult disclosing child sexual abuse

74% confident they could comfort an adult disclosing child sexual abuse

Not everyone knew of the impacts of child sexual abuse, which affected their response

13% thought there are no ongoing impacts of child sexual abuse

33% said they didn't understand the impacts of child sexual abuse well enough to respond appropriately to an adult disclosure

60-70% knew that child sexual abuse can also negatively impact job, financial and housing security, physical health, and cultural and spiritual connections

This data reminds us we need to enhance adults' understanding, empathy and compassion towards adult victims and survivors of child sexual abuse.