Mapping tool for Minimum Practice Standards for Specialist and Community Support Services Responding to Child Sexual Abuse

Purpose

The National Centre has developed a mapping tool to assist specialist and community support services in implementing the Minimum Practice Standards for Specialist and Community Support Services Responding to Child Sexual Abuse (MPS). The National Office for Child Safety, within the Attorney-General's Department, launched the MPS in September 2023, as part of the National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse 2021-2030 and provide a set of principles and quality benchmarks for services to promote safe and effective service provision.

The purpose of this tool is to help organisations begin the process of aligning their current practices with the MPS by identifying strengths and areas to start the implementation process.

Why is this Important?

Effective responses to child sexual abuse require organisations to adopt practices that meet the highest standards of care. The MPS represent collective wisdom from national consultations on the minimum threshold that specialist and community support services should be attaining in responding to child sexual abuse. They are designed to guide service provision and can support or enhance work that may already be occurring in the sector.
By aligning your organisation's practices with these standards, you can:

- Ensure your service provides consistent, high-quality care.

- Strengthen trust with victims, survivors, and the community.

- Enhance the skills and confidence of your workforce.

Who is this Tool For?

The MPS apply to specialist and community support services responding to child sexual abuse across Australia.

This tool is designed for quality assessors, managers, and other staff responsible for ensuring safe and effective services aligned with the MPS.

It is particularly helpful for organisations that are required or work to align their service provision to more than one set of standards or guidelines.

How to Use the Mapping Tool

The mapping tool has been designed to assist you to begin the implementation process by aligning your organisation's current practice standards and related quality systems and processes with the MPS.

Six standards were selected for comparison with the MPS, based on considerations including:

- **geography and reach** - national standards or guidelines where possible.
- **coverage -** organisational standards rather than individual professional standards or guidelines.
- **status -** ideally standards or guidelines that are accredited, inspected or required.
- **alignment —** standards or guidelines that are critical for the services the MPS are intended for.

Based on these considerations, the following six standards or guidelines have been identified and included in this mapping tool:

1. National Principles for Child Safe Organisations
2. National Standards for out-of-home care (2011)
3. National Safety and Quality Mental Health Standards for Community Managed Organisations
4. NDIS Practice Standards and Quality Indicators
5. NASAV National Standards of Practice Manual for Services
6. Engaging with victims and survivors of child sexual abuse: A practice guide for workers and organisations: An Australian Government initiative.

The Mapping tool contains:

- **Map of Existing Standards**: A comparison of standards that your organisation may already have in place with the MPS.
- **Gap Identification**: Areas where your current practices may not fully meet the MPS, highlighting where improvements or adjustments may be needed.

Steps to Get Started

1. **Review Existing Standards**: Use the mapping tool to identify where your organisation's current standards align with the MPS.

2. **Identify Gaps**: Look for areas where improvements or adjustments may be needed.
3. **Plan for Implementation**: Create an action plan using the tool's guidance to address gaps and ensure better alignment with the MPS.
4. **Track Progress**: implementation is a continuous process. Further work will be needed to fully implement the MPS and sustain these standards overtime. For examples you can access the MPS Implementation Guide here.