



National Centre for Action  
on Child Sexual Abuse

Review:  
Enhancing the capability of  
Australia's Primary Health  
Workforce to respond to child  
sexual abuse and sexual  
violence.

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December 2024

# Acknowledgements

The National Centre for Action on Child Sexual Abuse (National Centre) respectfully acknowledges and celebrates the many Traditional Owners of the lands throughout Australia and pay our respects to ancestors of this country and Elders past and present. We recognise that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, culture and lore have existed within Australia continuously for over 65,000 years.

We acknowledge the ongoing leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across Australia and those who have and continue to work tirelessly to address inequalities and improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander justice outcomes for children and young people.

We seek to honour the lived and living expertise of all victims and survivors of child sexual abuse, harnessing all ages, cultures, abilities and backgrounds, and commit to substantially addressing the harm of child sexual abuse, now and well into the future. We recognise that there are children and young people today who are experiencing sexual abuse and dedicate ourselves to doing all we can to promote their effective protection and care.

## Our Commitment

The establishment of a national centre to raise awareness and understanding of the impacts of child sexual abuse, support help-seeking and guide best practice advocacy and support and therapeutic treatment was a key recommendation (9.9) of the 2017 Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The Royal Commission identified that ongoing national leadership is necessary to improve outcomes for victims and survivors of past child sexual abuse and prevent future child sexual abuse.

Established in late 2021, the National Centre is a partnership between three respected organisations with strong histories of leadership in responding to child sexual abuse - Australian Childhood Foundation, Blue Knot Foundation and the Healing Foundation (each a Founding Member). The National Centre has an integrated governance structure that embeds the expertise of adults with lived and living experience of child sexual abuse, the rich strength of knowledge of First Nations Peoples and the voices of children and young people, as well as the expertise of researchers, practitioners, justice organisations, corporate entities, government and policy leaders.

At its core, the National Centre is a symbol of hope and an essential vehicle for action for many victims and survivors of child sexual abuse. Its vision is for a community where children are safe and victims and survivors are supported to heal and recover, free of stigma and shame – a future without child sexual abuse.

To achieve its vision, the National Centre:

- ensures the knowledge and voice of victim and survivors of child sexual abuse is at the core of all of its activities
- commissions critical research
- builds the workforce capability of organisations working with victims and survivors of child sexual abuse.
- strives to raise community awareness of the nature of child sexual abuse and how to prevent it.

*The National Centre for Action on Child Sexual Abuse acknowledges funding from the Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care.*

## **Contents**

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>Abstract .....</b>                      | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>Introduction.....</b>                   | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>Findings.....</b>                       | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>Discussion .....</b>                    | <b>11</b> |
| <b>Conclusion .....</b>                    | <b>12</b> |
| <b>Appendix A – Search results.....</b>    | <b>13</b> |
| <b>Appendix B- Survey instrument .....</b> | <b>22</b> |

# Abstract

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## Aim

The study aims to identify and review existing and relevant practice-based knowledge resources available to and tailored for the Primary health care workforce, to identify existing gaps and inform the development of future practice-based knowledge resources targeted to General Practitioners and primary health care workers and practitioners.

## Methodology

A systematic desktop review of existing, publicly available and relevant resources for the primary health care workforce considering practice-based knowledge resources planned or underway via the Primary Health Networks Family Domestic and Sexual Violence (FDSV) pilots.

Informed by the National Centre's survey of Primary Health Networks and stakeholders, it considered resources which were:

- Published and/or edited within the past five years
- Developed and/or adapted for the Australian context
- Available for specific priority population groups
- Locally developed, place-based responses and resources (considering intersectionality and accessibility)
- Provided in a variety of formats

## Summary

The findings of the study revealed a lack of clear information and guidance tailored to primary health care workers and practitioners on sexual violence and child sexual abuse, with limited to no resources targeted to these topic areas. These findings were validated and supported by feedback gained through a stakeholder survey developed and delivered alongside the study.

Of the 97 websites reviewed as part of the desktop review, less than one third contained any information, reference, or resources surrounding child sexual abuse (28%), and of this 28%, only three of these were targeted/developed to primary health care workers and practitioners.

# Introduction

In July 2023 the National Centre for Action on Child Sexual Abuse (the National Centre) commenced a project to support the primary health care workforce to better respond to children and adults who have experienced sexual violence and abuse, to identify existing gaps, and inform the development of future practice-based knowledge resources targeted to General Practitioners (GP's) and primary health care workers and practitioners.

By the end of the three-year project, *Strengthening Primary Health Care Workforce*, the National Centre will have developed a set of knowledge resources, produced and available at different points over the life of the project, to make it easier for primary health care organisations, workers and practitioners to support those who have experienced sexual abuse and violence as children or adults, informed by people who have lived and living experience of such trauma.

Primary health care workers, practitioners, and providers work in an increasingly challenging and complex environment. They are central to contributing to improved short- and long-term health outcomes in communities across Australia for people with lived and living experience of child sexual abuse and/or adult sexual violence.

To inform the work of the *Strengthening Primary Health Care Workforce* project the National Centre undertook a study to assess what practice-based knowledge resources exist for developing the capability of the Primary Health Care workforce to better respond to children and adults who have experienced sexual violence and abuse. The review included consideration of practice-based knowledge resources planned or underway via the Primary Health Networks (PHN's) Family Domestic and Sexual Violence (FDSV) pilots.

This report provides the findings of this study which consists of an environmental scan of existing relevant knowledge resources available to and within the primary health care sector.

## Methodology

The National Centre undertook a systematic desktop review of existing relevant practice-based knowledge resources available to and within the primary health care sector. The review included consideration of work already underway via the PHN FDSV pilots.

The environmental scan of existing, relevant knowledge resources considered the following:

- Resources that were published and/or edited within the past five years
- Resources that were developed and/or adapted for the Australian context
- Community awareness of the resource, including local, regional, state and/or national reach
- Availability of culturally specific resources for First Nations Peoples and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Peoples, considering local, regional, state and/or national reach
- Locally developed, place-based responses and resources surrounding sexual violence and/or child sexual abuse (considering intersectionality and accessibility)
- Availability of similar resources that are easily accessible and contain information that may appear to be duplication.

## Aim

This review aimed to identify and collate publicly available knowledge resources that support primary health care workers and practitioners to best respond to and support people who have experienced sexual violence and child sexual abuse and identify gaps to inform future resource development.

## Scope

Identify practice-based knowledge resources directed to primary health care workers and practitioners including among others; general practitioners, registered nurses, pharmacists, physiotherapists, dentists, occupational therapists.

## Setting

Knowledge resources developed for the Australian health care system context were included – all international resources were excluded from the analysis.

## Search strategy

A grey literature search was conducted through the Google search engine to identify websites, repositories, and other available resources. The term 'sexual abuse,' was combined with key terms ('general practitioner', 'primary health network', 'resource', 'guideline' etc.) to identify relevant resources. A date filter was applied to identify resources with publication dates ranging from 1 January 2017 to September 2023. The search string was designed specifically within the parameters of the Google search function and consisted of a search string of no more than 32 words. The complete list of search strings for all databases are provided in Appendix 1.

## Inclusion/Exclusion criteria

|                   | Inclusion   | Exclusion   |
|-------------------|---|---|
| Participant group | Primary health care professionals i.e. General Practitioners (GP's), nurses, midwives, pharmacists, dentists, Aboriginal health practitioners, psychologists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, social workers, chiropractors, mental health practitioners, alcohol and other drug practitioners, sexual health and reproduction practitioners | Resources directed at hospital-based workers or specialists |
| Abuse type        | Child sexual abuse specifically   | Financial abuse, emotional/psychological abuse              |
| Study type        | Resources developed for use by practitioners i.e. guidelines, fact sheets, webinars etc.  | Published research studies or literature reviews            |
| Settings          | Primary health networks in Australia  | International resources                                     |
| Timeframes        | Studies published within the last 5 years (2017-2023)   | Studies with a publication date older than 2017             |

## Screening

Screening of resources was conducted by one research project team member. A total of 100 entries returned from the Google search were screened.

## Data collection

A standardised form (initially piloted on three included resources) was used for data extraction of relevant resource information. One research project team member extracted the following data from included knowledge resources:

- Resource characteristics: 'owners' of the resources, date of last update/publication, type of resources,
- Targeted population – i.e. priority population (CALD, Rural), Children and Young People, Victim-Survivors
- Information provided in the resource
- Other: funding sources, details of where to find the resource

The data was synthesised narratively, and relevant information summarised and clearly presented in tables and graphs.

## Search results

The first 95 links identified in the electronic Google search were screened. Of these 95, a total of 50 were examined further. Characteristics of the 50 included knowledge resources are presented in Appendix A

## Search strings

("sexual violence" OR "sexual abuse" OR "sexual assault")

AND

("GP" OR "general practitioner" OR "general practice" OR "primary health network" OR "nurse" OR "PHN" OR "allied health" OR "pharmacist" OR "occupational therapist" OR "paramedic" OR "physio")

AND

("resource" OR "training" OR "education" OR "practice guide" OR "guideline" OR "tool" OR "professional development")

# Findings

The desktop review found that of the included knowledge resources, only eight (17%) had content focused solely on child sexual abuse followed by 11 (23%) that had a mix of adult and child sexual abuse content. Of those focused solely on child sexual abuse, only three (6%) were directed at health care professionals/nurses.

A total of 47 resources were identified from the desktop review and are listed in Appendix A. Knowledge resources included national-based resources (n = 18), as well as those developed in each state: Victoria (n = 6), Queensland (n = 7), New South Wales (n = 5), Western Australia (n = 3), South Australia (n = 4), Tasmania (n = 3) and Northern Territory (n = 1).

## Type of knowledge resource

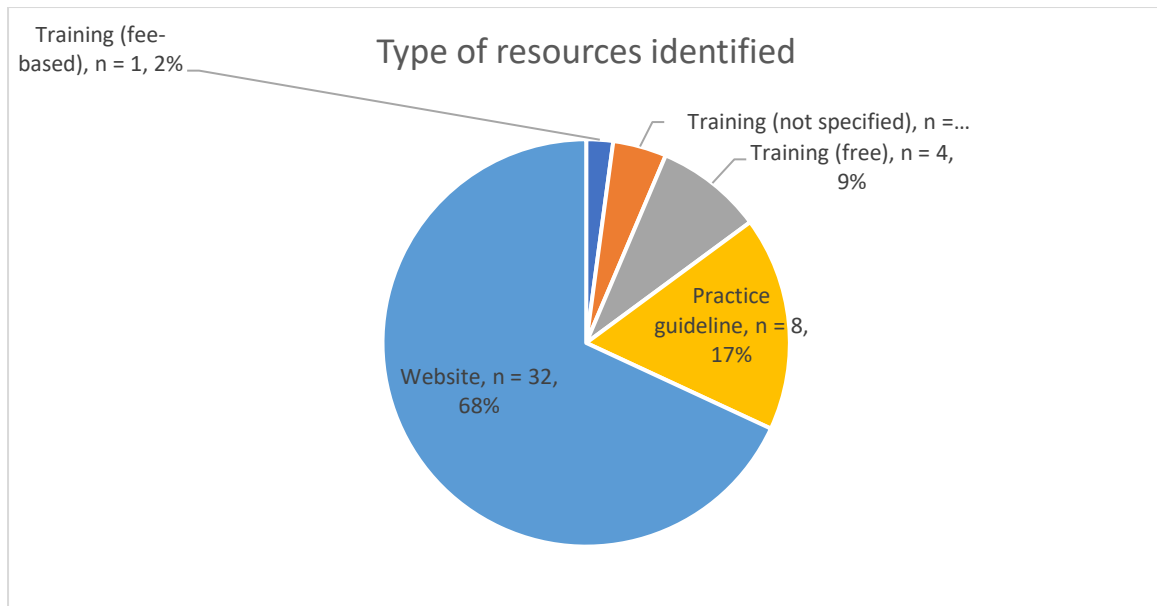
The types of knowledge resources identified in the search included: websites (n = 32), practice guidelines (n = 8) and training resources including courses and relevant information (n = 7).

Websites included stand-alone online knowledge resources, as well as organisational websites with multiple pages and lists/links to support services.

When considering the practice guidelines, five were categorised as practice guidelines i.e. best practice standards and evidence-based guidelines on appropriate identification, treatment, response and reporting of sexual abuse. The remaining three practice guidelines were identified as being service-related i.e. compulsory hospital-based or practice-based guidelines outlining policies, procedures and requirements of practice in a certain place of employment relating to the management of sexual abuse.

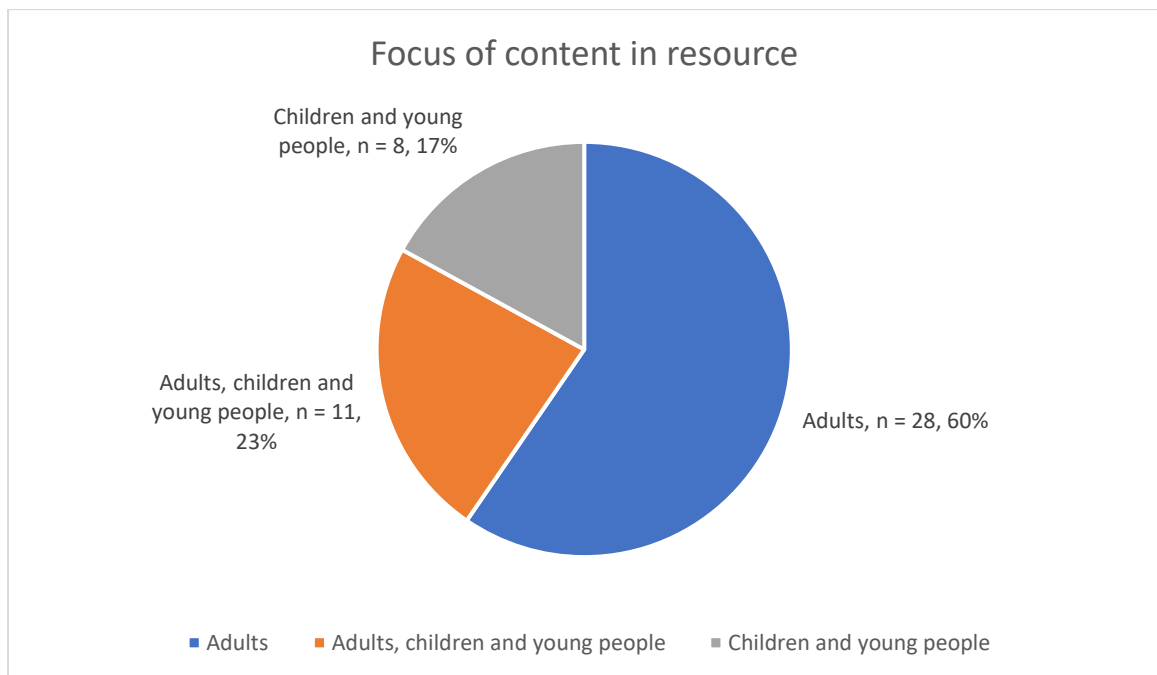
Only one of the training courses and workshops identified as fee for service, four were identified as being free for health professionals and the remaining two did not specify whether the training was associated with a cost. A total of five training offerings required a login or registration in order to access content, two training resources were freely available online. Training providers included: universities (n = 2, Monash University and Central Queensland University), a stand-alone organisation (n = 1, RACGP), and health services (n = 3, Sexual assault referral centre in the Northern Territory, and two primary health networks (Western Sydney and Western Victoria).





### Focus of content in knowledge resource

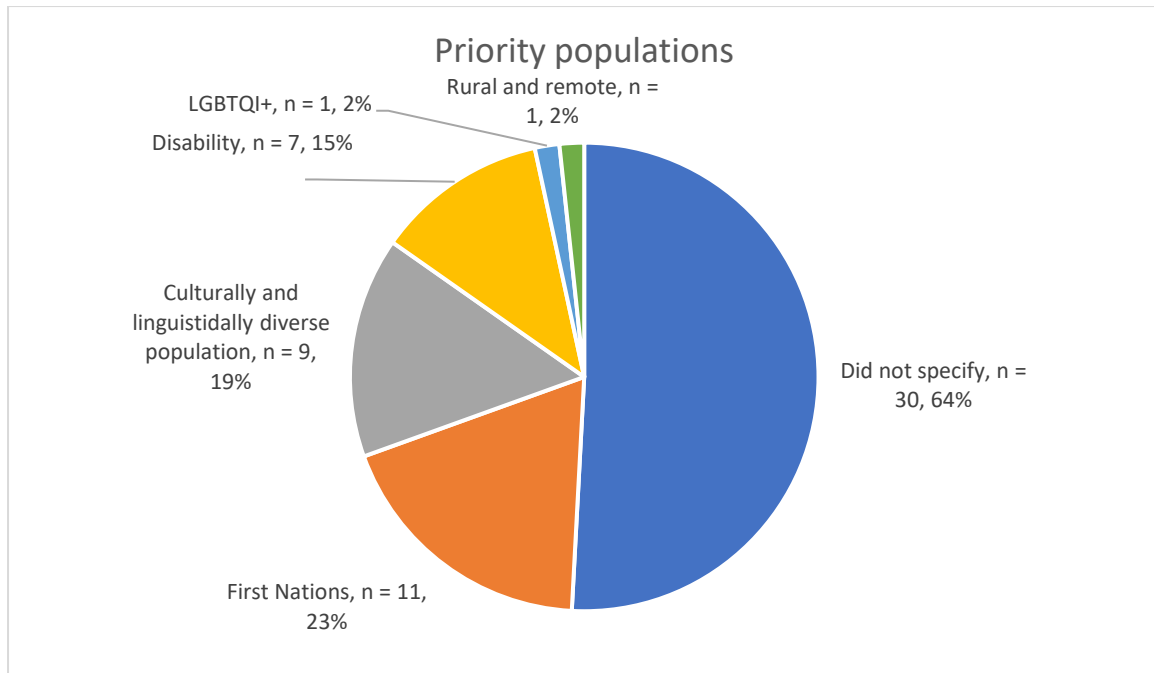
The knowledge resources were directed mostly to sexual violence or abuse in the adult population (n = 28, 60%), followed by sexual abuse in both adult and children and young people populations (n = 11, 23%), and child sexual abuse (n = 8, 17%)



### Knowledge resources addressing priority populations

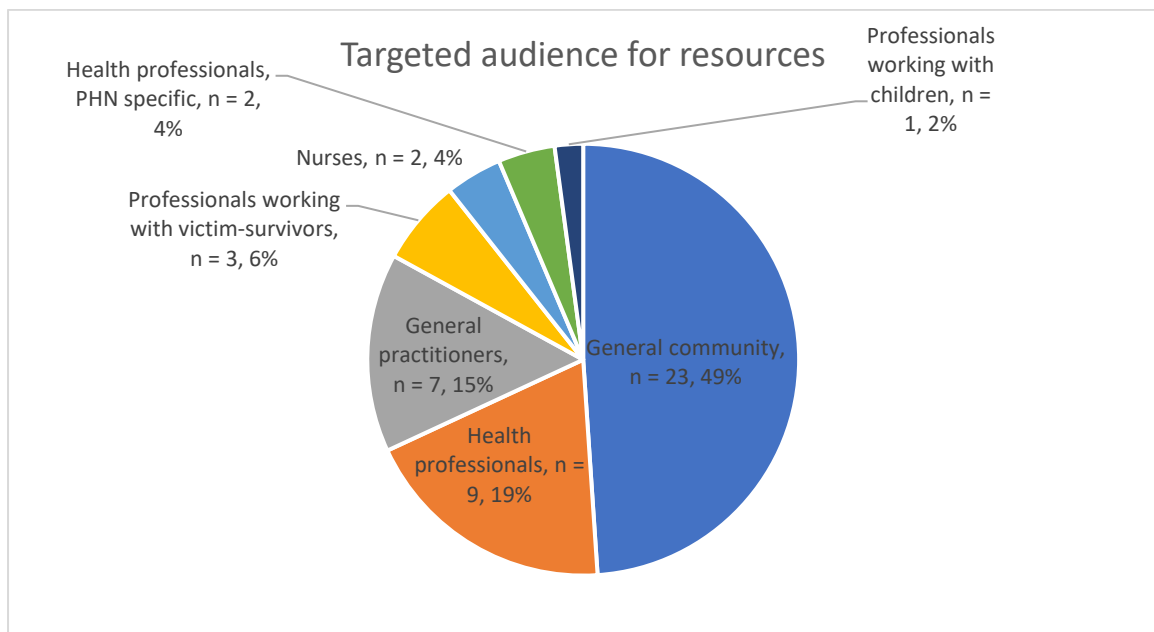
When considering the priority populations addressed in the identified knowledge resources, 23% included information on First Nations people, 19% on culturally and linguistically diverse populations, 15% on the disability population, 2% on the LGBTQI+ population and 2% on rural populations. A total of 64% of resources did not specify a priority population.

When considering the language used in knowledge resources, only eight (17%) had translated resources into other languages.



### Target audience

The majority of knowledge resources were targeted at the general community (49%), followed by health professionals in general (19%), general practitioners (15%), professionals working with victim-survivors (6%), health professionals specific to PHN's (4%), nurses (4%), and professionals working with children (2%).



# Discussion

This desktop review supports the need for tailored knowledge resources to increase knowledge and support improved practice for Primary Health Care Workers and practitioners on child sexual abuse and sexual violence.

These findings were validated and supported through stakeholder feedback gained via an online survey which asked about existing knowledge resources, gaps and priority worker groups conducted by the National Centre between 7 August and 15 September 2023.

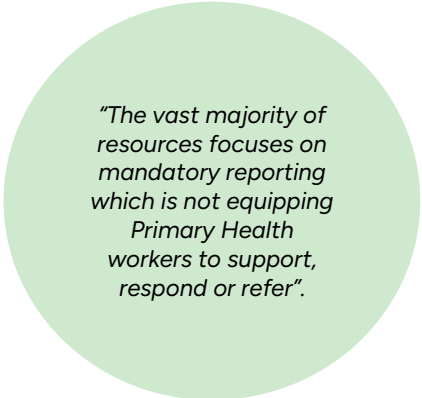
Further feedback elicited through a discussion paper distributed in November 2023 to Primary Health Networks across Australia and other interested parties confirmed these initial findings and provided detailed insights and guidance regarding priority practice-based knowledge resources to be developed.

The insights gained through the online survey extended the results of the desktop review. Most survey items were multiple-choice and supplemented by open-ended questions. The questions sought information on the types of child sexual abuse knowledge resources that were known to and used by respondents, culturally specific resources available to respondents, perceptions of gaps in available knowledge resources and priority professions requiring additional resource support.

A copy of the survey instrument and findings and analysis of key data from the survey is provided in Appendix B.

Key themes identified include important gaps for health care workers and practitioners in foundational knowledge and a lack of currently available knowledge resources providing information across the following key areas:

- understanding of child sexual abuse and adult sexual violence (including prevalence) and the short- and long-term impacts
- knowledge resources tailored towards priority patient populations including First Nations, disability, LGBTQI, elderly, culturally and linguistically diverse, children under 10 years of age as well as patients with mental health needs
- clinical practice and decision-making related to child sexual abuse and adult sexual violence
- resource and service options
- child sexual abuse and adult sexual violence training and education for primary health care workers and practitioners
- availability of patient facing materials to raise awareness of child sexual abuse and adult sexual violence.



*“The vast majority of resources focuses on mandatory reporting which is not equipping Primary Health workers to support, respond or refer”.*

In regard to clinical practice the following additional information was provided that required further guidance:

- appropriate screening/identification/response to disclosure of child sexual abuse or sexual violence, referral to suitable services
- support on clinical decision-making in ‘grey areas’ of practice relating to sexual abuse
- practical information on trauma-informed care including how to ask questions in a trauma informed way, establishing and maintaining a trauma informed

- environment for patients, community support for health care workers and practitioners in managing the work and vicarious trauma.
- the need for the development of specialised sexual abuse/assault knowledge resources and services available to patients in each state as well as on a national level was also highlighted with some reference to the need for an understanding of options that general practitioners could refer patients to when waiting for acute crisis therapy.

## Conclusion

Overall, the gap in knowledge resources, training and education provided and/or available to general practitioners and other health professionals was noted and consultation indicated the need for more consistent training to improve primary health workers and practitioners understanding and awareness of child sexual abuse and sexual violence and the impacts of this form of abuse.

There was a clear indication and desire for further knowledge and understanding in supporting and treating priority populations with a request for knowledge resources tailored to specific patient populations, including First Nations, disability, LGBTQI, elderly, culturally and linguistically diverse, children under 10 years of age as well as people who live with mental ill health.

It is important to balance the need to ensure all knowledge resources take an intersectional lens considering different population groups as well as exploring where and how to compliment and advance this knowledge with additional targeted resources.

*"The findings represent our collective experience in information gathering thus far. Our observations reveal challenges stemming from the absence of clear definitions concerning child sexual abuse and adult sexual violence, indicating a prevalent issue across the sector".*

These findings will inform future knowledge resources to be developed as part of the Strengthening Primary Health Care Responses Project.

## Appendix A – Search results

| Name of resource   | Provider                           | Jurisdiction | Summary   | Type of resource | Audience              |
|--|------------------------------------|--------------|---|------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>National resources</b>  |                                    |              |   |                  |                       |
| Recognising and Responding to Sexual Violence in Adults<br><br><a href="https://www.monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/study/professional-education/responding-to-sexual-violence">https://www.monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/study/professional-education/responding-to-sexual-violence</a>   | Monash University                  | National     | Three-unit Course for health practitioners in Recognising and Responding to Sexual Violence - Unit 1: Sexual violence: Drivers and Impacts, Unit 2: Responding to Sexual Violence in Adults, Unit 3: Responding to Sexual Violence in At-Risk Patients. | Training         | Health professionals  |
| Examination of patients presenting following sexual violence within an intimate partner violence relationship<br><br><a href="https://medcast.com.au/blog/examination-of-patients-presenting-following-sexual-violence-within-an-intimate-partner-violence-relationship">https://medcast.com.au/blog/examination-of-patients-presenting-following-sexual-violence-within-an-intimate-partner-violence-relationship</a> | Medcast                            | National     | Online article that describes how patients may present following inter-personal violence, how to respond, and the prevalence of sexual assault.   | Website          | General practitioners |
| People who have experienced sexual assault or trauma<br><br><a href="https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/ncsp-healthcare-provider-toolkit/working-with-patients/sexual-assault-or-trauma">https://www.health.gov.au/our-work/ncsp-healthcare-provider-toolkit/working-with-patients/sexual-assault-or-trauma</a>  | Department of Health and Aged Care | National     | Information on how to engage patients in the National Cervical Screening Program who have experienced sexual assault or trauma  | Website          | Health professionals  |
| Mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect   | Australian Institute of            | National     | Guide on mandatory reporting laws which require specified people to report designated types of suspected child maltreatment to  | Website          | General community     |

|   |   |          |   |                 |  |
|---|---|----------|---|-----------------|--|
| <a href="https://aifs.gov.au/resources/resource-sheets/mandatory-reporting-child-abuse-and-neglect">https://aifs.gov.au/resources/resource-sheets/mandatory-reporting-child-abuse-and-neglect</a>   | Family Studies (AIFS)   |          | specified state or territory authorities. These include: medical practitioners.   |                 |  |
| Sexual violence in Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities<br><br><a href="https://www.1800respect.org.au/case-studies-and-articles/case-study-sexual-violence-in-cald-communities">https://www.1800respect.org.au/case-studies-and-articles/case-study-sexual-violence-in-cald-communities</a> | 1800RESPECT   | National | Informative case study for professionals to advise on the kinds of information needed to make a comprehensive plan for women from CALD backgrounds who are experiencing sexual violence.                              | Website         | Professionals who work with victim-survivors |
| Independent learning program for GPs<br><br><a href="https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:e34b66a9-06ff-497a-89a9-1104b2e6633e">https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:e34b66a9-06ff-497a-89a9-1104b2e6633e</a>   | Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP)         | National | Self-administered case-study assignment for general practitioners to assist with the recognition, documentation and early management of managing a patient presenting following a sexual assault.                     | Training (free) | General practitioners                        |
| Responding to a disclosure of child sexual abuse<br><br><a href="https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:985e3150-3564-46ed-8c64-5c3fd182c900">https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:985e3150-3564-46ed-8c64-5c3fd182c900</a>   | Emerging Minds, National Workforce Centre for Child Mental Health | National | Clear guidance on how to respond to a disclosure of child sexual abuse, both that is current or that has occurred in the past.  | Website         | Professionals working with children          |
| Multi-cultural Centre for Women's Health<br><br><a href="https://www.mcwh.com.au/publications/">https://www.mcwh.com.au/publications/</a>   | Multi-cultural Centre for Women's Health                          | National | Resources available on sexual assault, translated into other languages,   | Website         | General community                            |
| The Australian Parenting Website<br><br><a href="https://raisingchildren.net.au/">https://raisingchildren.net.au/</a>   | The Australian Parenting Website                                  | National | Resources available targeting child sexual abuse, grooming and childhood sexual development and sexual behaviour according to different ages. Includes articles for parents of children with autism and disabilities. | Website         | General community                            |
| Bravehearts<br><br><a href="https://bravehearts.org.au/">https://bravehearts.org.au/</a>  | Bravehearts   | National | Broad information available on grooming, age and developmentally appropriate behaviours, grooming, myths, online child exploitation,  | Website         | General community                            |

|   |   |          |   |                    |                       |
|---|---|----------|---|--------------------|-----------------------|
|   |   |          | teaching children personal safety, and how to respond to disclosure.  |                    |                       |
| RACGP White Book - Abuse and Violence, Working with our patients in general practice (4th edition)<br><br><a href="https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:f4fb281d-a24f-4440-9fc4-aafd95b3e3bb">https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:f4fb281d-a24f-4440-9fc4-aafd95b3e3bb</a> | Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) | National | Evidence-based guidance on appropriate identification and response in clinical practice to patients experiencing abuse and violence. In particular, it focuses on intimate partner and sexual violence and children experiencing abuse. | Practice guideline | General practitioners |
| 2022 RACGP curriculum and syllabus for Australian general practice – Abuse and violence<br><br><a href="https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:6f7c148f-c1d9-4901-b1ac-1ddc5dfd4a8b">https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:6f7c148f-c1d9-4901-b1ac-1ddc5dfd4a8b</a>            | Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP) | National | Training module for general practitioners on managing patients presenting with potential abuse/violence   | Training (free)    | General practitioners |
| Sexual assault and rape<br><br><a href="https://healthresourcedirectory.org.au/en/health-resource-directory/sexual-assault/">https://healthresourcedirectory.org.au/en/health-resource-directory/sexual-assault/</a>  | Health Resource Directory                                 | National | Online resource with information on sexual assault, the role of the GP and support services.  | Website            | General community     |
| Sexual assault and rape<br><br><a href="https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/sexual-assault-and-rape">https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/sexual-assault-and-rape</a>  | Health Direct   | National | Online article on sexual assault, what it is, what to do and links to helplines and support services.   | Website            | General community     |
| Responding to sexual assault – a practical guide<br><br><a href="https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:04e1f0e9-3769-499b-95a2-0f33e394deec">https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:04e1f0e9-3769-499b-95a2-0f33e394deec</a>   | Jean Hailes for Women’s Health                            | National | General informative resources, outlining the steps to take after sexual abuse, and links to support services.   | Website            | General community     |
| Sexual Violence<br><br><a href="https://www.nasasv.org.au/sexual-violence">https://www.nasasv.org.au/sexual-violence</a>  | National Association of Services Against Sexual           | National | Includes link to the standards of practice for professionals providing services to children and adults who have experienced sexual abuse or harmful sexual behaviours. The NASASV website also lists National and State plans to        | Website            | General community     |

|   |   |          |  |                      |                      |
|---|---|----------|--|----------------------|----------------------|
|   | Violence (NASASV)                                 |          | reduce sexual violence against women as well as other reports on sexual assault in Australia, definitions of sexual assault, and prevention initiatives.   |                      |                      |
| Sexual assault in Australia<br><a href="#">Sexual violence - Australian Institute of Health and Welfare</a>   | Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) | National | Report on the prevalence of sexual abuse in Australia, definition of abuse, who the perpetrators are and links to support services.  | Website              | General community    |
| What is Sexual Abuse?<br><a href="https://yourtoolkit.com/behaviours/sexual-abuse/">https://yourtoolkit.com/behaviours/sexual-abuse/</a>  | Yourtoolkit.com                                   | National | Resource containing information on sexual abuse and provides a step-by-step guide on personal safety, support services and money matters.  | Website              | General community    |
| <b>Queensland-based resources</b>   |   |          |  |                      |                      |
| Guideline for the Management of care for people 14 years and over disclosing Sexual Assault<br><a href="https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:652dfd08-0510-427a-96ef-71ef27d7398d">https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:652dfd08-0510-427a-96ef-71ef27d7398d</a>                  | Queensland Health                                 | QLD      | Recommendations regarding best practice to support the management of people 14 years and over who have disclosed Sexual Assault. The guideline recognises that services can be adapted as appropriate to suit local capabilities. This guideline applies to all Hospital and Health Services (HHSs) in Queensland. | Practice guideline   | Health professionals |
| Sexual Assault<br><a href="https://www.health.qld.gov.au/sexualassault">https://www.health.qld.gov.au/sexualassault</a>   | Queensland Health                                 | QLD      | Webpage with list of fact sheets and resources   | Website              | Health professionals |
| Failing to report sexual offences against children<br><a href="https://www.qld.gov.au/law/crime-and-police/types-of-crime/sexual-offences-against-children/failure-to-report">https://www.qld.gov.au/law/crime-and-police/types-of-crime/sexual-offences-against-children/failure-to-report</a> | Queensland Government                             | QLD      | Webpage with information on what is defined as a child sexual offence, and the consequences of failing to report abuse, how to report an offence, support services   | Website              | General community    |
| Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Course<br><a href="https://bedifferent.cqu.edu.au/enrol/index.php?id=1653">https://bedifferent.cqu.edu.au/enrol/index.php?id=1653</a>   | Central Queensland University                     | QLD      | Online, short-course micro-credential provides nurses with knowledge and performance skills to provide competent, comprehensive, patient-centred, coordinated care to adult and adolescent (14 years and over) patients being  | Training (fee-based) | Nurses               |



|  |  |     |   |                          |                                     |
|--|--|-----|---|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|  |  |     | evaluated for sexual assault, or suspected of having been sexually assaulted.   |                          |                                     |
| True relationships and reproductive health<br><a href="https://www.true.org.au/">https://www.true.org.au/</a>  | True Relationships and Reproductive Health             | QLD | List of factsheets available that focus on Child Safety i.e. communicating about sexuality and pornography with children, communicating about sexuality with children and promoting personal safety, sexual development in early childhood as well as sexual assault. Your Body, Your Choice factsheets available in several languages.   | Website                  | General community                   |
| Living Well<br><a href="https://livingwell.org.au/">https://livingwell.org.au/</a>   | Living Well  | QLD | Website with resources targeted at men who have experienced child sexual abuse or sexual assault, including: e-learning portal, short videos hosted on YouTube, trauma informed compassionate work with male victim and survivors, mindfulness, group program manual, working with men with an intellectual disability who have been sexually abused, articles/information on abuse and disclosure short courses. | Website                  | General community                   |
| What is sexual violence<br><a href="https://iwss.org.au/">https://iwss.org.au/</a>   | Immigrant Women's Support Service (IWSS)               | QLD | Resources available on sexual assault, myths and facts, and all are translated into other languages.  | Website                  | General community                   |
| <b>Victoria-based resources</b>  |  |     |   |                          |                                     |
| Family Violence<br><a href="https://westvicphn.com.au/health-professionals/health-topics/family-and-childrens-health/family-violence/">https://westvicphn.com.au/health-professionals/health-topics/family-and-childrens-health/family-violence/</a> | Western Victoria Primary Health Network                | VIC | A-LIVES training package provided to health professionals to guide them on how to initiate sensitive and supportive conversations with patients who may be experiencing family violence.  | Training (not specified) | Health professionals - PHN specific |
| Support Understanding Awareness Resources<br><a href="https://www.gvcasa.com.au/resources.html">https://www.gvcasa.com.au/resources.html</a>   | Goulburn Valley Centre Against Sexual Assault (GVCASA) | VIC | Resources available defining sexual assault, impact of sexual assault, legislation around sexual assault, myths and facts, and provides links to support services. Training packages are available for professional groups.   | Website                  | General community                   |

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| Common impacts of sexual assault<br><br><a href="https://www.sasvic.org.au/resources">https://www.sasvic.org.au/resources</a>  | Sexual Assault Services<br>Victoria  | VIC | Online resources available for the general community including: understanding sexual assault, child sexual assault, harmful sexual behaviours in children and young people, information specifically for men, how to best support someone after sexual assault as well as videos on sexual assault from the police. Resources also available for professionals, including links to specialist sexual assault services. | Website            | General community                            |
| Education and Training<br><br><a href="https://www.casahouse.com.au/index.php?page_id=136CASA%20House">https://www.casahouse.com.au/index.php?page_id=136CASA%20House</a>  | Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA), The Royal Women's Hospital   | VIC | Online fact sheets on child sexual abuse, sexual assault, indicators, male rape, how to support someone who has experienced sexual violence. Education and training opportunities available for the community and professionals.   | Website            | General community                            |
| Having a Health Check After Sexual Assault<br><br><a href="https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:43e92506-93c1-41c5-ab34-24d922d2e229">https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:43e92506-93c1-41c5-ab34-24d922d2e229</a>  | South Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault and Family Violence, Monash Health                                     | VIC | Easy to read guide for adults who have been sexually abused and who have an intellectual disability or acquired brain injury. Information on what is sexual assault, what to do when it happens, what happens at a health check, talking to police about a report.   | Website            | General community                            |
| Establishing the connection: Guidelines for practitioners and clinicians in the sexual assault and alcohol and other drug sectors<br><br><a href="https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:e8cc0656-2c8a-43a4-b1fd-47a2da573419">https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:e8cc0656-2c8a-43a4-b1fd-47a2da573419</a> | Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS), CASA Forum (Victorian Centres Against Sexual Assault), Uniting Care | VIC | Information on sexual assault prevalence, how to respond, how to refer to appropriate support services, and links to specialist support services.  | Practice guideline | Professionals who work with victim-survivors |
| <b>New South Wales-based resources</b>   |  |     |  |                    |  |
| Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence   | Nepean Blue Mountains Primary Health Network   | NSW | Information for general practitioners on understanding domestic and family violence, link to training opportunities, action plans and guides and lists of resources.   | Website            | General practitioners                        |

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|---|---|-----|---|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <a href="https://www.nbmphn.com.au/Health-Professionals/Services/Domestic-Family-and-Sexual-Violence">https://www.nbmphn.com.au/Health-Professionals/Services/Domestic-Family-and-Sexual-Violence</a>   |   |     |   |                          |                                    |
| Graduate Certificate in the Medical and Forensic Management of Adult Sexual Assault<br><br><a href="https://education.wsahs.nsw.gov.au/course/info.php?id=319">https://education.wsahs.nsw.gov.au/course/info.php?id=319</a>                                | Western Sydney Local Health District                        | NSW | Course intended to provide knowledge and skills to performs functions associated with medical and forensic management of adult sexual assault in a health setting.  | Training (not specified) | Health professionals               |
| Responding to sexual assault (adult and child) policy and procedures<br><br><a href="https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:4d01d9f2-d21f-4c56-a9a7-b1cc5b721c28">https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:4d01d9f2-d21f-4c56-a9a7-b1cc5b721c28</a> | New South Wales Government                                  | NSW | Summary of mandatory requirements of health services in NSW in responding to children, young people and adults who have, or may have, been sexually assaulted and their families, carers and significant others.  | Practice guideline       | Health professionals               |
| Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence<br><br><a href="https://thephn.com.au/what-we-do/domestic-family-violence">https://thephn.com.au/what-we-do/domestic-family-violence</a>   | Hunter New England and Central Coast Primary Health Network | NSW | Webpage for general practices containing information on the DSFV action plan, training and referral pathways.   | Website                  | Health professionals- PHN specific |
| When she talked to you about the violence – A toolkit for GPs in NSW<br><br><a href="https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:725cf1f9-12f7-487b-9f8d-04444664c80b">https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:725cf1f9-12f7-487b-9f8d-04444664c80b</a> | Women’s Legal Service NSW                                   | NSW | Resource that provides a definition of domestic violence, including sexual violence, signs in adults and children, how to ask questions of a patient, how to respond to disclosure, initial safety planning, support schemes such as a crisis payment through Centrelink and victim support, continuity of care, and referrals. | Website                  | General practitioners              |
| <b>South Australian-based resources</b>   |   |     |   |                          |                                    |
| Sexual abuse in childhood - pregnancy, birth and postnatal care considerations  | Department of Health and Wellbeing,                         | SA  | Guideline intended for use in the identification and support of women who have experienced  | Practice guideline       | Health professionals               |

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| <a href="https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:7985098a-3918-4334-9bf7-1952e968287f">https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:7985098a-3918-4334-9bf7-1952e968287f</a>  | South Australian Government  |    | childhood sexual abuse and who are pregnant, giving birth and and in the postnatal period.  |                    |                      |
| Sexual Health Information Networking & Education<br><br><a href="https://shinesa.org.au/">https://shinesa.org.au/</a>  | Sexual Health Information Networking and Education (SHINE)                             | SA | Website with links to various resources on sexual health, sexual abuse articles published on other forums.  | Website            | General community    |
| Information for victims of sexual assault – Understanding your choices, accessing support and the legal process<br><br><a href="https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:c4a86505-e987-400a-9f51-8fb9b9a453d2">https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:c4a86505-e987-400a-9f51-8fb9b9a453d2</a> | Victims of Crime South Australia, Government of South Australia                        | SA | Information guide for people who have been sexually assaulted. Outlines what is sexual assault, myths and facts, what to do, medical care needed, information on making a report, and where to get help.  | Website            | General community    |
| Rape and Sexual Assault – Rape and Sexual Assault – Topics<br><br><a href="https://www.wchn.sa.gov.au/our-network/yarrow-place/rape-and-sexual-assault-topics">https://www.wchn.sa.gov.au/our-network/yarrow-place/rape-and-sexual-assault-topics</a>  | Yarrow Place Rape and Sexual Assault Service   | SA | Webpage with information on: the services that the health service itself provides, fact sheet on medical care following a sexual assault, legal options, supporting someone after a sexual assault, and the service also provides training for health professionals.  | Website            | General community    |
| <b>Western Australia-based resources</b>   |  |    |   |                    |                      |
| Sexual Assault Response<br><br><a href="https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:12ba5e9c-f3fe-458c-b0be-b51021514e86">https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:12ba5e9c-f3fe-458c-b0be-b51021514e86</a>   | Community Health, Child and Adolescent Health Service, Government of Western Australia | WA | Clinical nursing manual, intended to support nurses working in schools to provide primary health care for young people who have experienced sexual assault. Includes: definitions of child sexual abuse, and sexual assault, how to approach, respond, refer and report abuse, documentation required as well as a list of resources. | Practice guideline | Nurses               |
| Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC) - Professionals  | King Edward Memorial Hospital, North Metropolitan Health Service,                      | WA | Resources for health professionals working with victim-survivors, including: education and training, information and fact sheets.   | Website            | Health professionals |

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| <a href="https://www.kemh.health.wa.gov.au/For-Health-Professionals/SARC">https://www.kemh.health.wa.gov.au/For-Health-Professionals/SARC</a>  | Government of Western Australia                                      |     |   |                    |  |
| Sexual Support Service<br><a href="https://www.gwhcc.org.au/services/sexual-assault-support-service/">https://www.gwhcc.org.au/services/sexual-assault-support-service/</a>  | Goldfield's Women's Health Care Centre                               | WA  | Information provided on what sexual assault is, what to do, and getting help.   | Website            | General community                            |
| <b>Tasmania-based resources</b>  |  |     |   |                    |  |
| Responding to family and sexual violence: A guide for service providers and practitioners in Tasmania<br><a href="https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:3432327b-593a-4d37-966f-073424ea842f">https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:3432327b-593a-4d37-966f-073424ea842f</a> | Tasmanian Government   | TAS | Practice guide that has been developed for service providers and practitioners who come into contact with victim-survivors and/or perpetrators of family and sexual violence. Includes: definitions of family violence and sexual assault, and the services available to support those impacted by the abuse. | Practice guideline | Professionals who work with victim-survivors |
| Guide to Responding to Disclosure of Sexual Abuse of an Adult with a Disability<br><a href="https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:d58122a0-3e9d-4aaf-8bbe-e26aade76118">https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:d58122a0-3e9d-4aaf-8bbe-e26aade76118</a>                       | Laurel House   | TAS | Guide to assist general practitioners in responding appropriately to the disclosure of sexual assault by an adult with a disability.  | Practice guideline | General practitioners                        |
| Sexual Violence<br><a href="https://www.safefromviolence.tas.gov.au/sexual-violence">https://www.safefromviolence.tas.gov.au/sexual-violence</a>   | Tasmanian Government   | TAS | Webpage with definition of sexual violence, consent, types of sexual violence, Tasmanian legislation around sexual violence, and lists specialist sexual violence support services.   | Website            | General community                            |
| <b>Northern Territory-based resources</b>  |  |     |   |                    |  |
| Primary Health Response to Sexual Assault<br><a href="https://mylearning.nt.gov.au/course/info.php?id=2022">https://mylearning.nt.gov.au/course/info.php?id=2022</a>   | Sexual Assault Referral Centre (SARC), Northern Territory Government | NT  | Workshop to improve understanding of the immediate needs and appropriate responses in caring for clients in the Northern Territory who attend a pre-hospital setting, a primary health care facility or an emergency department following a sexual assault.   | Training (free)    | Health professionals                         |

## Appendix B- Survey instrument

**Question 1:** What resources currently exist that you are aware of to support General Practitioners (GP) and the broader primary care workforce to respond to people who have experienced sexual violence and or child sexual abuse? Please name them in the comments box or email them to [practice@nationalcentre.org.au](mailto:practice@nationalcentre.org.au). These can be at the local, regional, state or national level.

**Question 2:** What cultural-specific resources currently exist that are you aware of, to support the primary care workforce in responding to the unique needs of First Nations and culturally and linguistically diverse peoples who have experienced sexual violence and or child sexual abuse? Please name them in the comments box or email them to [practice@nationalcentre.org.au](mailto:practice@nationalcentre.org.au). These can be at the local, regional, state or national level.

**Question 3:** If you work in a Primary Health Network or a Health Service, are you currently or do you plan to develop resources to support the primary care workforce to respond to people who have experienced sexual violence and or child sexual abuse? Yes, No, I don't know, Details comments box.

**Question 4:** In your view, what are the gaps in available resources that are needed to support the primary care workforce to respond to people who have experienced sexual violence and or child sexual abuse? Please list them in the comments box. Be as specific as possible.

**Question 5:** If you had to list the areas of-knowledge that primary care workers need in order of priority of which you think is needed first, second, and so on, what would they be? List to move to priority order include:

- Fundamentals on sexual violence and child sexual abuse e.g., what is it, prevalence, impacts
- Signs and symptoms of sexual violence and child sexual abuse and screening for these
- Common language framework for discussing sexual violence and child sexual abuse
- How to respond to disclosures
- Understanding the impacts of sexual violence and child sexual abuse across the life course
- Responding to the unique needs of First Nations and culturally and linguistically diverse peoples
- Key issues for General Practice when responding to sexual violence and child sexual abuse
- HealthPathways – how to navigate my HealthPathway for sexual violence and child sexual abuse
- Specific topics such as child marriage, female genital mutilation, online/technology facilitated sexual violence and abuse
- Risk assessment
- Legal and information sharing issues
- General counselling skills for providing compassionate ongoing support to people affected by sexual violence and or child sexual abuse
- Other – comments box.

**Question 6:** In providing resources to address the above knowledge areas what format and duration should they be in (to get the most uptake)? This may be different for different workforces, so please let us know your profession in the comments box.

- Duration – short duration/length less than 2 minutes (viewing or reading time)
- Duration – medium up to 15 minutes
- Duration – long, indepth of 1 hour or more
- Format – video
- Format – animation
- Format – snapshot
- Format – practice guide
- Format – tool kit (multiple resources listed in the one resource)
- Format – webinar
- Format – framework, such as common language framework
- Other – comments box.

**Question 7:** In your view, who are the priority professions to target support resources to?

- General practitioner (GP)
- Nurse
- Allied Health
- Midwife
- Pharmacist
- Dentist
- Aboriginal health practitioner
- Psychologist
- Physiotherapist
- Occupational Therapist
- Social Worker
- Chiropractor
- Mental health practitioner
- Alcohol and other drug practitioner
- Sexual health and reproduction practitioner
- Other – comments box.

**Question 8:** Are there any meeting forums or consultations currently, or planned with stakeholders regarding the development of resources to support the primary care workforce to respond to people who have experienced sexual violence and or child sexual abuse? Not that I know of, Yes, comments box.

**Question 9:** Is there anything else you want to say about resources to support the primary care workforce to respond to people who have experienced sexual violence and or child sexual abuse? Comments box.

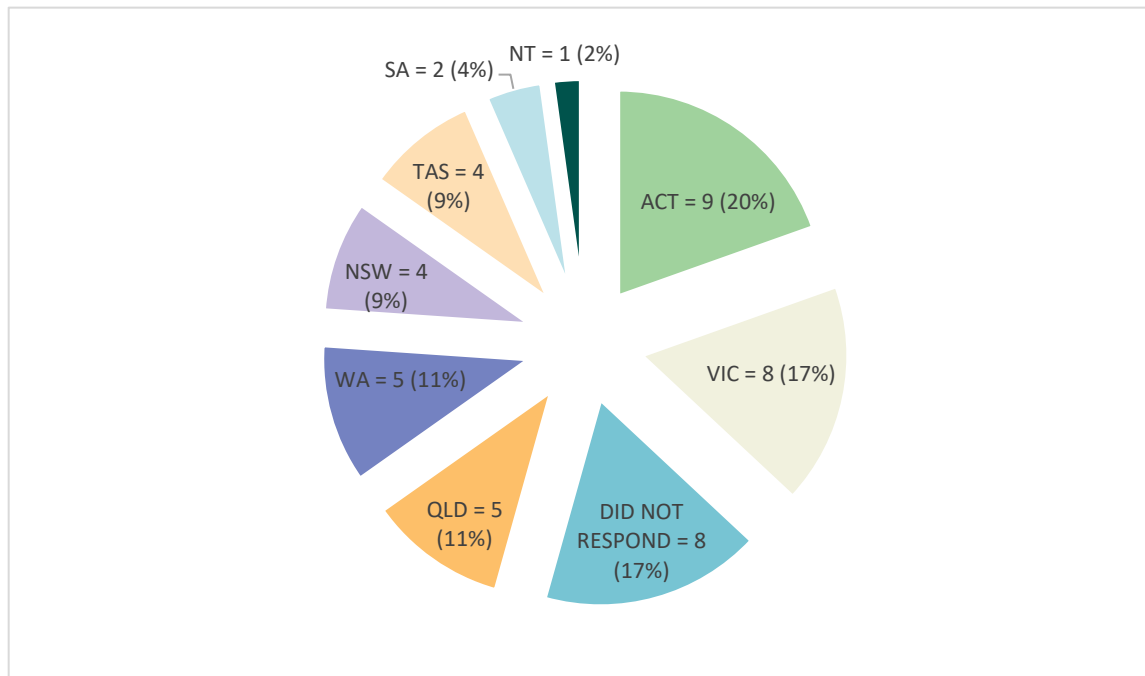


# Findings and analysis of survey data

The response rate was calculated with the denominator being the number of surveys sent out electronically by the National Centre team. An accurate response rate is difficult to ascertain as surveys were distributed to representatives at primary health network pilot sites and asked to be distributed among colleagues.

A total of 46 participants completed the survey. Of these, 20% were from ACT and 17% from Victoria. A total of 17% of respondents did not specify their home state.

FIGURE 1. BREAKDOWN OF RESPONSES BY STATE



We surveyed stakeholders with knowledge of child sexual abuse resources applicable to the primary health care network. This included the key informants from the following stakeholder organisations:

- The National Centre
- National Centre Project Advisory Group
- Primary Health Networks (n=31)
- Primary Care Clinicians and medical doctors
- Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Services
- Sexual violence services across Australia, including the National Association of Services Against Sexual Violence (NASASV)
- Department of Health and Aged Care.

### Data Collection

The survey was distributed using an email link via Survey Monkey Inc. to stakeholders over a five-week period, between 7<sup>th</sup> August and 15<sup>th</sup> September 2023. The survey was self-administered by participants. Participants were informed that their responses would be kept confidential and would be de-identified. Reminders were emailed to participants one week before the end of the data collection period.

### Survey design

The survey comprised 10 questions and was developed by the National Centre team. Each item was based on the following:

- their alignment with the Department of Health and Aged Care contracted project deliverables
- National Centre insight of knowledge gaps and learning needs in sexual abuse and violence, and a
- rapid scan of primary health network internet sites and research (limited to last 10 years) to understand what training and resources were available, and what training needs had already been identified. An example of the sources included: National Centre Learning and Professional Development Survey, 2022; National Survey of Workers in the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Sectors, 2018 (Social Policy Research Centre) and General practice service use and satisfaction among female survivors of childhood sexual abuse (Coles et al., 2015).

Most survey items were multiple-choice and supplemented by open-ended questions. The questions sought information on: the types of child sexual abuse resources that were known to and used by respondents, culturally-specific resources available to respondents, perceptions of gaps in available resources and priority professions requiring additional resource support.

### Data analysis

Descriptive statistics (percentages, frequencies) were used to analyse quantitative data in Excel.

Any qualitative data relating to open-ended questions were thematically analysed using manual inductive coding. This means that significant statements were identified from participant responses and were assigned a code. The codes were then grouped into broader categories with similar content, and these categories were grouped into themes around the study objectives.

**Table 1. Awareness of resources**

Respondents were asked to specify any resources that they were aware of or currently used to support the primary care workforce to respond to people who have experienced sexual violence or child sexual abuse. A range of resources were identified, and are listed in the table below.

Respondents identified national resources (n = 24), Victoria (n = 9), ACT (n = 7), Queensland (n = 5), Western Australia (n = 2), Tasmania (n = 2), South Australia (n = 1), NSW (n = 1) and one international resource as well as one resource that is used across multiple states.

| Name of resource   | Jurisdiction | Summary   | Type of resource            | Audience                   |
|--|--------------|---|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>National resources</b>  |              |   |                             |                            |
| Child abuse – Mandatory reporting requirements<br><br>Australian Family Physician<br><br><a href="https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:cedae6f9-2103-4dc9-95e5-9ba764eb1cd7">https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:cedae6f9-2103-4dc9-95e5-9ba764eb1cd7</a>                                       | National     | Article that outlines the obligations of medical practitioners to report child abuse and highlights the differences that exist in the legislative requirements in each state and territory.   | Published journal article   | Medical practitioners      |
| Introductory self-assessment tool for organisations<br><br>National Office for Child Safety Resources<br><br><a href="https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:b432dece-9d0e-426e-830b-5db4616c61ee">https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:b432dece-9d0e-426e-830b-5db4616c61ee</a>                   | National     | Framework for organisations learn about the National Principles and identify priority areas for improvement. The tool gives examples of what each principle might look like when implemented in practice, and prompts organisations to commit to taking concrete actions to improve their child safe practices. | Online self-assessment tool | Professional organisations |
| Language and terminology guide - Sensitive use of language and images<br><br>National Office for Child Safety Resources<br><br><a href="https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:d7f5cc71-aea7-4449-9e2d-b22832c1b68a">https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:d7f5cc71-aea7-4449-9e2d-b22832c1b68a</a> | National     | A short guide to using appropriate language and terminology, including harmful and re-traumatising language to avoid.   | Language guide              | General community          |
| The White Book - Abuse and violence: Working with our patients in general practice (4 <sup>th</sup> edition)<br><br>RACGP  | National     | Evidence-based guidance on appropriate identification and response in clinical practice to patients experiencing abuse and violence.  | Best practice guide         | Health practitioners       |

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| <a href="https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:e5891e3e-be65-4922-b5e4-2b317683158b">https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:e5891e3e-be65-4922-b5e4-2b317683158b</a>   |          |  |  |   |
| Responding to children and young people's disclosures of abuse<br><br>Australian Institute of Family Studies<br><br><a href="https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:2c6033bd-cb9d-41cb-a03f-2af222b02bcb">https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aaid:sc:AP:2c6033bd-cb9d-41cb-a03f-2af222b02bcb</a>           | National | Guide to responding to children and young people's disclosures of abuse. It outlines what we know about how, why, and when children and young people are likely to disclose and suggests actions to take at the time of disclosure and in the longer term. | Guide  | General community                                 |
| Recognising and Responding to Sexual Violence in Adults<br><br>Monash University<br><br><a href="https://www.monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/study/professional-education/responding-to-sexual-violence">https://www.monash.edu/medicine/sphpm/study/professional-education/responding-to-sexual-violence</a>       | National | Course in recognising and responding to sexual violence  | Training program   | Health practitioner                               |
| Professional Development Training and Resources<br><br>Blueknot<br><br><a href="https://professionals.blueknot.org.au/professional-development-training/">https://professionals.blueknot.org.au/professional-development-training/</a><br><br><a href="https://blueknot.org.au/">https://blueknot.org.au/</a> | National | List of training opportunities for individuals and organisations about complex trauma  | Organisation that provides training                          | General community                                 |
| Australian STI Management Guidelines for use in Primary Care<br><br><a href="https://sti.guidelines.org.au/populations-and-situations/adult-sexual-assault/">https://sti.guidelines.org.au/populations-and-situations/adult-sexual-assault/</a>   | National | Guidelines for sexually transmitted diseases   | Clinical practice guidelines                                 | Health practitioners                              |
| 1800 RESPECT<br><br><a href="https://www.1800respect.org.au/resources-and-tools">https://www.1800respect.org.au/resources-and-tools</a>   | National | Information and resources for professionals who support people impacted by domestic, family and sexual violence including risk assessment frameworks and tools, resources for inclusive  | Training and professional development and practice resources | General community as well as health practitioners |

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|  |          | practice and a library of professional case studies and webinars.   |                   |  |
| Black Dog Institute – Ten – The Essential Network for Health Professionals<br><br><a href="https://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/the-essential-network/">https://www.blackdoginstitute.org.au/the-essential-network/</a>  | National | Resources and support to navigate burnout and maintain good mental health   | Support resources | Health practitioners   |
| DRS-4-DRS<br><br><a href="https://www.drs4drs.com.au/getting-help/">https://www.drs4drs.com.au/getting-help/</a>   | National | Support services for doctors  | Support service   | Health practitioners   |
| Secondary Traumatic Stress and Staff Well-being: Understanding compassion fatigue, vicarious trauma and burnout in therapeutic care<br><br>Centre for Excellence in Therapeutic Care - division of the Australian Childhood Foundation<br><br><a href="https://www.cetc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/secondary-traumatic-stress-practice-guide.pdf">https://www.cetc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/07/secondary-traumatic-stress-practice-guide.pdf</a>  | National | Information about secondary stress, vicarious trauma, compassion fatigue and burnout. It describes organisational, client-related and personal risk and protective factors and provides strategies for assessing and addressing staff support and well-being. | Guide             | Practitioners working with children and young people with lived or living experience of child sexual abuse |
| Trauma Stewardship: An Everyday Guide to Caring for Self While Caring for Others<br><br><a href="https://www.amazon.com.au/Trauma-Stewardship-Connie-Burk/dp/157675944X">https://www.amazon.com.au/Trauma-Stewardship-Connie-Burk/dp/157675944X</a>  | National | Guideline on how to ensure caregivers keep themselves emotionally, psychologically, spiritually and physically healthy while dealing with traumas they deal with everyday.  | Book              | Caregivers   |
| Humanising Mental Health Care in Australia: A Guide to Trauma-informed Approaches<br><br><a href="https://www.routledge.com/Humanising-Mental-Health-Care-in-Australia-A-Guide-to-Trauma-informed-Approaches/Benjamin-Haliburn-King/p/book/9780367076603?utm_source=google&amp;utm_medium=cpc&amp;utm_term=search&amp;utm_campaign=B044448_ca2_10p_4ss_t050_1a">https://www.routledge.com/Humanising-Mental-Health-Care-in-Australia-A-Guide-to-Trauma-informed-Approaches/Benjamin-Haliburn-King/p/book/9780367076603?utm_source=google&amp;utm_medium=cpc&amp;utm_term=search&amp;utm_campaign=B044448_ca2_10p_4ss_t050_1a</a> | National | Outline of trauma-informed approaches necessary to provide a more compassionate model of care for those who suffer with mental illness.   | Book              | Health practitioners   |

|  |          |   |   |                            |
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| <a href="https://www.ourwatch.org.au/">ever-green-pmax-aucampaign&amp;qclid=EAlaIqobChMlysWJ27H-gQMVRIwPAh1GwA97EAAYASAAEgK6TPD_BwE</a>  |          |   |   |                            |
| Our Watch<br><a href="https://action.ourwatch.org.au/">https://action.ourwatch.org.au/</a>   | National | Tools and information to promote gender equality and prevent violence against women.  | Organisation providing prevention initiatives | General workforce          |
| Child sexual abuse: Get the facts<br>National Office for Child Safety<br><a href="https://www.childsafety.gov.au/resources/child-sexual-abuse-get-facts">https://www.childsafety.gov.au/resources/child-sexual-abuse-get-facts</a>   | National | Information and statistics to learn more about child sexual abuse. It helps to dispel common myths and misconceptions, and help people understand the role they can play in protecting children and young people. | Fact sheet                                    | General community          |
| Services for victim/ survivors of sexual assault<br>Identifying needs, interventions and provision of services in Australia<br>Australian Institute of Family Studies<br><a href="https://aifs.gov.au/resources/practice-guides/services-victimsurvivors-sexual-assault">https://aifs.gov.au/resources/practice-guides/services-victimsurvivors-sexual-assault</a> | National | Review on services that currently exist for victim/survivors of sexual assault.   | Literature review                             | General community          |
| How to ask adult mental health clients about sexual abuse<br>Australian Institute of Family Studies<br><a href="https://aifs.gov.au/resources/short-articles/how-ask-adult-mental-health-clients-about-sexual-abuse">https://aifs.gov.au/resources/short-articles/how-ask-adult-mental-health-clients-about-sexual-abuse</a>                                       | National | Information on adult abuse survivors and disclosure.  | Guide   | Mental health practitioner |
| Adult survivors of childhood trauma: Complex trauma, complex needs<br>Australian Journal of General Practice, RACGP<br><a href="https://www1.racgp.org.au/ajgp/2020/july/adult-survivors-of-childhood-trauma">https://www1.racgp.org.au/ajgp/2020/july/adult-survivors-of-childhood-trauma</a>   | National | Conceptual framework for the assessment and management of adult survivors of childhood adversity  | Published journal article                     | General practitioners      |

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| <p>Safer Families Toolkit</p> <p>Centre of Research Excellence Safer Families - University of Melbourne, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, LaTrobe University and South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute</p> <p><a href="https://www.saferfamilies.org.au/toolkit">https://www.saferfamilies.org.au/toolkit</a></p> | National                                    | Set of tools that can be used within clinical practice or other health service settings. The tools are designed to help identify and respond to those experiencing domestic abuse and violence.        | Online resource              | Health practitioner                         |
| <p>Emerging Minds</p> <p><a href="https://emergingminds.com.au/?s=sexual+abuse">https://emergingminds.com.au/?s=sexual+abuse</a></p>   | National                                    | Range of resources informing on child sexual abuse, responding to disclosures of child sexual abuse, including practice papers, fact sheets, podcasts, webinars, and articles.                         | List of online resources     | General community                           |
| <p>FullStop Australia</p> <p><a href="https://fullstop.org.au/training">https://fullstop.org.au/training</a></p>   | National                                    | Provision of training on sexual, domestic and family violence.   | Training provider            | General workforce                           |
| <p>Survivors and Mates Support Network (SAMSN)</p> <p><a href="https://www.samsn.org.au/">https://www.samsn.org.au/</a></p>  | National                                    | Provision of training focusing on appropriate support for male survivors of child sexual abuse.  | Training provider            | General workforce and victims and survivors |
| <p>Domestic and Family Violence Awareness Training</p> <p><a href="https://www.agpal.com.au/news/domestic-family-violence-awareness-training/">https://www.agpal.com.au/news/domestic-family-violence-awareness-training/</a></p>  | National                                    | Training to increase awareness of domestic and family violence   | Training provider            | General practitioners                       |
| <p>HealthPathways</p>  | State – each individual state has their own | Resources on sexual violence and child abuse   | Online portal                | Primary care clinicians                     |
| <b>Victoria-based resources</b>  |   |  |                              |   |
| <p>Child abuse: additional resources</p> <p>The Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne</p> <p><a href="https://www.rch.org.au/clinicalguide/guideline_index/Child_abuse__Additional_resources/">https://www.rch.org.au/clinicalguide/guideline_index/Child_abuse__Additional_resources/</a></p>   | VIC   | List of several resources used to assist health professionals in reporting a child at risk, recording injuries, responding to sexual assault, decision-making for children as well as support services | Clinical practice guidelines | Health professionals                        |



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| Safe and Equal<br><br><a href="https://safeandequal.org.au/training-events/browse/">https://safeandequal.org.au/training-events/browse/</a>   | VIC | Training, courses and events on family violence.   | Training provider | General workforce          |
| Resources<br><br>Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA), The Women's - The Royal Women's Hospital<br><br><a href="https://www.casahouse.com.au/index.php?page_id=137">https://www.casahouse.com.au/index.php?page_id=137</a><br><a href="https://www.thewomens.org.au/health-professionals/clinical-education-training/sexual-assault-education-programs">https://www.thewomens.org.au/health-professionals/clinical-education-training/sexual-assault-education-programs</a> | VIC | Education and information on sexual assault. Training opportunities provided.  | Online resources  | General community          |
| Impacts of child sexual assault<br><br>The Royal Women's Hospital<br><br><a href="https://www.thewomens.org.au/health-information/violence-against-women/impacts-of-child-sexual-assault">https://www.thewomens.org.au/health-information/violence-against-women/impacts-of-child-sexual-assault</a>  | VIC | Article on understanding the impact of child sexual assault on women who are pregnant or individuals becoming a parents.   | Online article    | Health practitioner        |
| Centre Against Sexual Assault – Central Victoria<br><br><a href="https://casacv.org.au/fact-sheets-resources/">https://casacv.org.au/fact-sheets-resources/</a>   | VIC | Fact sheets on sexual abuse in children and young people, how to support a person who has been sexually assaulted, sexting and grooming.   | Online resources  | General community          |
| Making a report to child protection<br><br>Victoria State Government – Families, Fairness and Housing<br><br><a href="https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/making-report-child-protection">https://providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/making-report-child-protection</a>  | VIC | Information on when and how to make a report to child protection when there is a belief that a child has suffered or is likely to suffer significant harm as a result of abuse or neglect. | Guide             | General community          |
| Child development and trauma guide  | VIC | Overview of typically developing children to assist with the assessment of children.   | Practice guide    | Practitioners working with |

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| Victoria State Government – Human Services<br><br><a href="https://www.cpmanual.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/child_development_%26_trauma_intro_2012.pdf">https://www.cpmanual.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/child_development_%26_trauma_intro_2012.pdf</a>  |     |   |  | children and young people |
| Children at Risk Learning Portal<br><br>Victoria State Government – Department of Health<br><br><a href="https://vulnerablechildren.kineoportal.com.au/">https://vulnerablechildren.kineoportal.com.au/</a>  | VIC | Training and resources for health professionals working with vulnerable children in identifying and responding to child abuse and neglect.  | Training provider  | Health practitioners      |
| RACGP Family Violence GP Education Program (Victoria)<br><br><a href="https://www.racgp.org.au/the-racgp/faculties/vic/racgp-family-violence-gp-education-program">https://www.racgp.org.au/the-racgp/faculties/vic/racgp-family-violence-gp-education-program</a>   | VIC | Training on family violence.  | Mixed-modalities   | General practitioners     |
| <b>Australian Capital Territory-based resources</b>  |     |   |  |                           |
| Keeping children and young people safe<br><br>ACT Government Community Services<br><br><a href="https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/children-and-families/child-and-youth-protection/keeping-children-and-young-people-safe">https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/children-and-families/child-and-youth-protection/keeping-children-and-young-people-safe</a> | ACT | A guide to reporting child abuse and neglect in the ACT   | Guide to reporting child abuse or neglect to Child and Youth Protection Services | General community         |
| Reporting child abuse and neglect<br><br>ACT Government<br><br><a href="https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/s/article/reporting-child-abuse-and-neglect-tab-overview">https://www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/s/article/reporting-child-abuse-and-neglect-tab-overview</a>   | ACT | Overview of mandated reporting of child abuse or neglect  | Online webpage   | Mandated reporters        |
| Provide Information about Child Abuse and Neglect  | ACT | Overview of when to make a report relating to the safety and well-being of children and young people to Child and Youth Protection Services | Factsheet  | General community         |

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| ACT Government Community Services<br><br><a href="https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/children-and-families/child-and-youth-protection/child-and-youth-protection-services/provide-information-about-child-abuse-and-neglect">https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/children-and-families/child-and-youth-protection/child-and-youth-protection-services/provide-information-about-child-abuse-and-neglect</a> |     |  |                                   |   |
| ACT Child Protection Training<br><br>EPEC Education<br><br><a href="https://www.childprotectiontraining.com.au/act-child-protection">https://www.childprotectiontraining.com.au/act-child-protection</a>   | ACT | List of accredited courses for relating to identifying and reporting children and young people at risk, as well as supporting the rights and safety of children and young people | Child protection courses – online | General community                           |
| Canberra Rape Crisis Centre<br><br><a href="https://crcc.org.au/adult-survivors-of-childhood-sexual-abuse/">https://crcc.org.au/adult-survivors-of-childhood-sexual-abuse/</a>   | ACT | List of resources on sexual assault, impact of sexual assault, myths and facts and reporting of abuse.   | List of online resources          | General community                           |
| Service Assisting Male Survivors of Sexual Assault (SAMSSA)<br><br><a href="https://samssa.org.au/surviving-childhood-sexual-assault/">https://samssa.org.au/surviving-childhood-sexual-assault/</a>   | ACT | Information on childhood sexual assault, its impact and coping strategies for victims and survivors.   | Online resources                  | General community and victims and survivors |
| Domestic and Sexual Violence Support Services<br><br>ACT Government – Community Services<br><br><a href="https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/women/services/womens_directory/domestic_and_family_violence">https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/women/services/womens_directory/domestic_and_family_violence</a>  | ACT | List of support services and resources on sexual violence.   | Online resources                  | General community                           |
| <b>Queensland-based resources</b>  |     |  |                                   |   |
| Brisbane Rape and Incest Survivors Support Centre<br><br><a href="https://brissc.org.au/resources/">https://brissc.org.au/resources/</a>   | QLD | List of resources that provide practical information and education for people within broader communities on sexual violence  | List of online resources          | General community                           |

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| Queensland Sexual Assault Network (QSAN)<br><a href="https://qsan.org.au/resources/">https://qsan.org.au/resources/</a>   | QLD | List of resources providing information on services available for victims and survivors as well as information about sexual violence                         | List of online resources            | General community |
| Centre Against Sexual Violence Inc.<br><a href="https://casv.org.au/what-is-sexual-assault/">https://casv.org.au/what-is-sexual-assault/</a>  | QLD | List of resources relating to sexual assault and supporting someone who has disclosed sexual assault   | List of online resources            | General community |
| Zig Zag Young Women's Resource Centre Inc.<br><a href="https://zigzag.org.au/community-education/">https://zigzag.org.au/community-education/</a>   | QLD | Training and education opportunities for schools and community events about the nature and prevalence of sexual assault and its impacts on young women       | Organisation that provides training | General community |
| Education and training<br>Gold Coast Centre against sexual violence<br><a href="https://www.stopsexualviolence.com/education">https://www.stopsexualviolence.com/education</a><br><a href="https://www.stopsexualviolence.com/_files/ugd/9a7ce2_952d79c5354246d192d962aca885c931.pdf">https://www.stopsexualviolence.com/_files/ugd/9a7ce2_952d79c5354246d192d962aca885c931.pdf</a> | QLD | Educational programs, professional development, organisational training and promotional material.<br>Resources on responding and preventing sexual violence. | Training provider                   | General community |
| <b>Western Australian-based resources</b>   |     |  |                                     |                   |
| The Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC)<br>King Edward Memorial Hospital<br><a href="https://www.kemh.health.wa.gov.au/Other-Services/SARC/Resources">https://www.kemh.health.wa.gov.au/Other-Services/SARC/Resources</a>   | WA  | Webpage with a range of booklets, directories, videos and factsheets about sexual trauma   | Online resources                    | General community |
| Phoenix Support & Advocacy Service Inc<br><a href="https://www.phoenix.asn.au/need-help/resources/">https://www.phoenix.asn.au/need-help/resources/</a>   | WA  | List of resources providing information about child sexual abuse, books, agencies that support children and young people                                     | List of online resources            | General community |
| <b>Tasmanian-based resources</b>  |     |  |                                     |                   |

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| Sexual assault support service (SASS)<br><a href="https://www.sass.org.au/">https://www.sass.org.au/</a>  | Tasmania      | List of resources including fact sheets, information booklets, posters, policy submissions and report relating to sexual assault   | Online resources                    | General community                              |
| Laurel House Sexual Assault Support<br><a href="https://laurelhouse.org.au/our-projects/disability-workforce-support-project-resources/">https://laurelhouse.org.au/our-projects/disability-workforce-support-project-resources/</a>  | Tasmania      | Support service with education and resources for schools, adults and teachers. Additional toolkit and resources for the disability workforce                                   | Organisation that provides training | General community                              |
| <b>South Australian-based resources</b>   |               |  |                                     |  |
| Yarrow Place<br><a href="https://www.wchn.sa.gov.au/our-network/yarrow-place/yarrow-place-training-and-education">https://www.wchn.sa.gov.au/our-network/yarrow-place/yarrow-place-training-and-education</a>   | SA            | Professional development, training and education provided to workforces to assist work in the area of sexual violence, relationship violence and domestic and family violence. | Training provider                   | General workforce                              |
| <b>New South Wales-based resources</b>  |               |  |                                     |  |
| Caseworker tools and resources<br>NSW Government Communities and Justice<br><a href="https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/providers/children-families/child-protection-services/resources/chapters/respond-to-child-sexual-abuse">https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/providers/children-families/child-protection-services/resources/chapters/respond-to-child-sexual-abuse</a> | NSW           | Toolkit to assist with identifying, understanding and responding to child sexual abuse where it is disclosed or suspected, but not confirmed.                                  | Toolkit                             | Child protection caseworkers and practitioners |
| <b>International resources</b>  |               |  |                                     |  |
| International Society for the Study of Trauma and Dissociation<br><a href="https://www.isst-d.org/public-resources-home/">https://www.isst-d.org/public-resources-home/</a>   | International | Fact sheets, webinars and resources on trauma and dissociation. The organisation also provides training and events.  | Online resources                    | Health practitioners                           |

**Table 2. Priority patient population resources**

Respondents were asked to specify any resources that they were aware of or currently used to support the primary care workforce to respond to people from priority patient populations who have experienced sexual violence or child sexual abuse. A range of resources were identified and are listed in the table below.

Respondents identified national resources (n = 11), Western Australia (n = 5), Victoria (n = 4), Tasmania (n = 3), Queensland (n = 2), NSW (n = 2), ACT (n = 2), Northern Territory (n = 1).

| Name of resource  | Jurisdiction | Summary  | Mode: online, face to face etc. | Audience          | Priority patient population                  |
|---|--------------|--|---------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| <b>National resources</b>   |              |  |                                 |                   |  |
| Keeping our kids safe: Cultural Safety and National Principles for Child Safe Organisations<br><br>National Office of Safety, Victorian Aboriginal Child Care Agency, SNAICC<br><br><a href="https://www.childsafety.gov.au/system/files/2022-10/child-safe-report.pdf">https://www.childsafety.gov.au/system/files/2022-10/child-safe-report.pdf</a> | National     | Guide that is intended to support organisations engaging with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to implement the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations in a culturally safe way. | Guideline                       | Organisations     | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people |
| Cultural safety for Aboriginal children<br><br>Commission for Children and Young People<br><br><a href="https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/tipsheet-cultural-safety-aboriginal-children.pdf">https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/assets/resources/tipsheet-cultural-safety-aboriginal-children.pdf</a>  | National     | Information on creating a culturally safe environment for Aboriginal children  | Fact sheet                      | Organisations     | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people |
| Social and Emotional Wellbeing Frameworks - Pat Dudgeon and Graham Gee  | National     | Information on social and emotional well-being and its relationship with mental health and mental health   | Framework                       | General community | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people |

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| <a href="https://www.telethonkids.org.au/globalassets/media/documents/aboriginal-health/working-together-second-edition/wt-part-1-chapt-4-final.pdf">https://www.telethonkids.org.au/globalassets/media/documents/aboriginal-health/working-together-second-edition/wt-part-1-chapt-4-final.pdf</a>              |          | disorders from an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' perspective   |                                 |  |  |
| Healing Foundation<br><a href="https://healingfoundation.org.au/resources/?resource_theme=31">https://healingfoundation.org.au/resources/?resource_theme=31</a>  | National | Resources available on healing programs, healing terms and intergenerational trauma   | Training and education provider | General community  | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people |
| Healing the Past by Nurturing the Future - Cathy Chamberlain<br><a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8506449/">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC8506449/</a>  | National | Research paper - aimed to co-design perinatal awareness, recognition, assessment and support strategies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents experiencing complex trauma.                              | Published research paper        | Health practitioners   | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people |
| NASASV National Standards of Practice Manual for Services National Association of Services Against Sexual Violence (NASASV)<br><a href="https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aai:d:sc:AP:9acb636a-fc6b-44c3-bffa-997fca10f83d">https://acrobat.adobe.com/id/urn:aai:d:sc:AP:9acb636a-fc6b-44c3-bffa-997fca10f83d</a> | National | Guideline on accessible, high quality and consistent service provision for adults, children and young people who have experienced sexual assault and children and young people exhibiting harmful sexual behaviours | Guideline                       | Organisations providing services to victims and survivors of sexual abuse and harmful sexual behaviour | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people |
| Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities<br><a href="https://fullstop.org.au/get-help/find-services/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-communities">https://fullstop.org.au/get-help/find-services/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-communities</a>   | National | Information on sexual, domestic and family violence rates, list of support services   | Online resource                 | General community  | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people |
| Supporting people from CALD, migrant and refugee experiences of violence<br><br>1800 RESPECT<br><a href="https://www.1800respect.org.au/inclusive-practice/cald">https://www.1800respect.org.au/inclusive-practice/cald</a>  | National | Information on experiences of violence, responding to experiences of violence and how to talk about support   | Online resource                 | General community  | CALD, migrants and refugees                  |

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| WellMob<br><a href="https://wellmob.org.au/">https://wellmob.org.au/</a>  | National | Online search engine that assists in identifying other resources  | Online resource   | General community | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people |
| 13YARN<br><a href="https://www.13yarn.org.au/about-us?gclid=EAlalQobChMI2tGGvoD_gQMV-FRIAB3tDgZzEAAYASAAEgl6dvD_BwE">https://www.13yarn.org.au/about-us?gclid=EAlalQobChMI2tGGvoD_gQMV-FRIAB3tDgZzEAAYASAAEgl6dvD_BwE</a> | National | National crisis support line  | Service provider  | General community | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people |
| Plain English, Easy Read and Other Language Fact Sheets<br><br>BlueKnot<br><br><a href="https://blueknot.org.au/resources/blue-knot-fact-sheets/">https://blueknot.org.au/resources/blue-knot-fact-sheets/</a>            | National | Information for different groups affected by complex trauma including childhood trauma and abuse. This includes those who have experienced it, and those who support them personally and professionally.* | Fact sheets       | General community | CALD   |
| <b>Western Australian-based resources</b>   |          |   |                   |                   |  |
| Yorgum Healing Services<br><a href="https://yorgum.org.au/services/">https://yorgum.org.au/services/</a>  | WA       | Service provider – healing services, counselling, family support  | Service provider  | General community | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people |
| Derbarl Yerrigan Health Services<br><a href="https://www.dyhs.org.au/">https://www.dyhs.org.au/</a>   | WA       | Medical service   | Service provider  | General community | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people |
| Ishar Multicultural Services<br><a href="https://www.ishar.org.au/">https://www.ishar.org.au/</a>   | WA       | Service provider – counselling, clinical psychology, mental health as well as able to provide community education/training.   | Service provider  | General community | CALD, migrants and refugees                  |
| Sexuality Education Counselling and Consultancy Agency (SECCA)<br><a href="https://www.secca.org.au/workshops">https://www.secca.org.au/workshops</a>   | WA       | Training provider - education and therapeutic support for people with disability regarding their sexuality and relationships  | Training provider | General community | People with a disability                     |
| Resources for Aboriginal people and community   | WA       | Online resources relating to sexual trauma, its impacts, intergenerational  | Online resources  | General community | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people |



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| <a href="https://www.kemh.health.wa.gov.au/Other-Services/SARC/Resources/aboriginal">https://www.kemh.health.wa.gov.au/Other-Services/SARC/Resources/aboriginal</a>   |     | trauma, and responding to sexual trauma disclosure  |                   |                   |  |
| <b>Victoria-based resources</b>   |     |   |                   |                   |  |
| Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander women health service, Royal women's hospital<br><br><a href="https://www.thewomens.org.au/health-professionals/support-services-professionals/badjurr-bulok-wilam-for-atsi-women">https://www.thewomens.org.au/health-professionals/support-services-professionals/badjurr-bulok-wilam-for-atsi-women</a> | VIC | Culturally-sensitive health service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women   | Service provider  | General community | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people |
| Indigenous support services and resources<br>Sexual Assault Crisis Line (SACL)<br><br><a href="https://www.sacl.com.au/links/indigenous-support-services-and-resources/">https://www.sacl.com.au/links/indigenous-support-services-and-resources/</a>   | VIC | List of support services and resources  | Online resources  | General community | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people |
| Multicultural Centre for Women's Health<br><br><a href="https://www.mcwh.com.au/training/">https://www.mcwh.com.au/training/</a>  | VIC | Training provider – prevention of violence against migrant and refugee women,   | Training provider | General community | CALD, migrants and refugees                  |
| Victorian Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (VACCHO)<br><br><a href="https://www.vaccho.org.au/">https://www.vaccho.org.au/</a>   | VIC | Peak representative organisation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health in Victoria   | Service provider  | General community | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people |
| <b>Tasmania-based resources</b>   |     |   |                   |                   |  |
| Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre (TAC)<br><br><a href="https://tacinc.com.au/">https://tacinc.com.au/</a>  | TAS | Service provider - aged care program, community advocacy, counselling, cultural awareness program, dental health promotion, health service etc. | Service provider  | General community | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people |
| South East Tasmanian Aboriginal Corporation (SETAC)   | TAS | Service provider - community carers, health checks  | Service provider  | General community | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people |

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| <a href="https://setac.org.au/services/">https://setac.org.au/services/</a>   |     |  |   |                      |  |
| Migrant resource centre (MRC Tas)<br><a href="https://mrctas.org.au/">https://mrctas.org.au/</a>  | TAS | Service and training provider -<br>Counselling, cultural awareness<br>education, mental health services.           | Service<br>provider   | General<br>community | CALD, migrants<br>and refugees                     |
| <b>Queensland-based resources</b>   |     |  |   |                      |  |
| Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander<br>People<br><br>Queensland Sexual Assault Network<br>(QSAN)<br><br><a href="https://qsan.org.au/resources/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islanders/">https://qsan.org.au/resources/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islanders/</a> | QLD | List of resource available including:<br>information on trauma, impact of<br>trauma, healing and support services. | Online<br>resources   | General<br>community | Aboriginal and<br>Torres Strait<br>Islander people |
| Immigrant Women's Support Service<br>(IWSS)<br><br><a href="https://www.iwss.org.au/">https://www.iwss.org.au/</a>  | QLD | Service provider – counselling, crisis<br>support and information on sexual<br>violence                            | Service<br>provider and<br>online<br>resources<br>translated<br>into other<br>languages | General<br>community | CALD, migrants<br>and refugees                     |
| <b>New South Wales-based resources</b>  |     |  |   |                      |  |
| Wirringa Baiya<br><br><a href="https://www.wirringabaiya.org.au/">https://www.wirringabaiya.org.au/</a>   | NSW | Community legal centre for Aboriginal<br>and Torres Strait Islander women,<br>children and youth                   | Service<br>provider   | General<br>community | Aboriginal and<br>Torres Strait<br>Islander people |
| Immigrant Women's SpeakOut<br>Association<br><br><a href="https://www.speakout.org.au/">https://www.speakout.org.au/</a>  | NSW | Service provider – domestic violence   | Service<br>provider   | General<br>community | CALD, migrants<br>and refugees                     |
| <b>Australian Capital Territory-based resources</b>   |     |  |   |                      |  |
| Winnunga Nimmitjyah Health Service<br>(ACT)<br><br><a href="https://winnunga.org.au/">https://winnunga.org.au/</a>  | ACT | Aboriginal community controlled<br>health and community service  | Service<br>provider   | General<br>community | Aboriginal and<br>Torres Strait<br>Islander people |

|  |     |   |                  |                   |  |
|--|-----|---|------------------|-------------------|--|
| The Nguru Program<br><a href="https://crcc.org.au/the-nguru-program/">https://crcc.org.au/the-nguru-program/</a>               | ACT | Culturally appropriate counselling for members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, who have experienced sexual assault, and their families. | Service provider | General community | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people |
| <b>Northern Territory-based resources</b>  |     |   |                  |                   |  |
| Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory<br><a href="https://www.amsant.org.au/">https://www.amsant.org.au/</a> | NT  | Health service provider   | Service provider | General community | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people |

## Development of knowledge resources

A total of six respondents stated that the Primary Health Network or Health service that they worked in were currently or planning to develop knowledge resources to support the primary care workforce in responding to child sexual abuse. These knowledge resources included the following: resources related to the care and support of priority populations including disability, trans, queer and gender diverse services, as well as family violence program development with the RACGP training packages for GPs, reviewing Health Pathways adult and child sexual assault pathways and the provision of first responder to sexual violence training.

Respondents reported important gaps in four key areas: resources tailored towards priority patient populations, clinical decision-making, resource and service options as well as training and education for primary health care workers and practitioners.

*“A primary health care team on the ground trained in trauma informed practice”.*

Respondents perceived a need for more resources to be tailored to specific patient populations, including First Nations, disability, LGBTQI, elderly, culturally and linguistically diverse, children under 10 years of age as well as patients with mental health needs.

Respondents advised that there was a need for more clinical and practice guidelines relating to: appropriate screening/identification/response to disclosure of child sexual abuse or sexual violence, referral to suitable services, support on clinical decision-making in ‘grey areas’ of practice relating to sexual abuse, practical information on trauma-informed care as well as support for health care professionals in managing the work and vicarious trauma.

Respondents also highlighted there was a need for the development of clear lists of specialised sexual abuse/assault resources and services available to patients in each state as well as on a national level. Some respondents indicated that there was a need for the provision of service options that general practitioners could refer patients to when waiting for acute crisis therapy.

The final recommendation from respondents related to a perceived gap in training and education provided to general practitioners and other health professionals. Respondents called for more training to improve understanding and awareness of child sexual abuse and sexual violence and the impacts of this form of abuse.

*“Health professionals are at risk of vicarious trauma, particularly if we’ve experienced previous trauma ourselves.”*

*“Unfortunately lived experience is what leads many of us to engage in this work”.*

## Priority areas of knowledge

Figure (a) illustrates the top 3 priority topic areas as chosen by respondents in the survey. Areas of knowledge that were the highest priority included: “how to respond to disclosures” (n = 13), “fundamentals on sexual violence and child sexual abuse e.g., what is it, prevalence, impacts” (n = 12), and “signs and symptoms of sexual violence and child sexual abuse and screening for these” (n = 9).

Topics that were rated of lowest priority included: “specific topics such as child marriage, female genital mutilation, online/technology facilitated sexual violence and abuse” (n = 0 rated Priority 1),

“legal and information sharing issues” (n = 0 rated Priority 1), “knowledge about supporting different priority groups - disability, LGBTIQ+, aged persons” (n = 0 rated Priority 1) and “HealthPathways – how to navigate my HealthPathway for sexual violence and child sexual abuse” (n = 0 rated Priority 1).

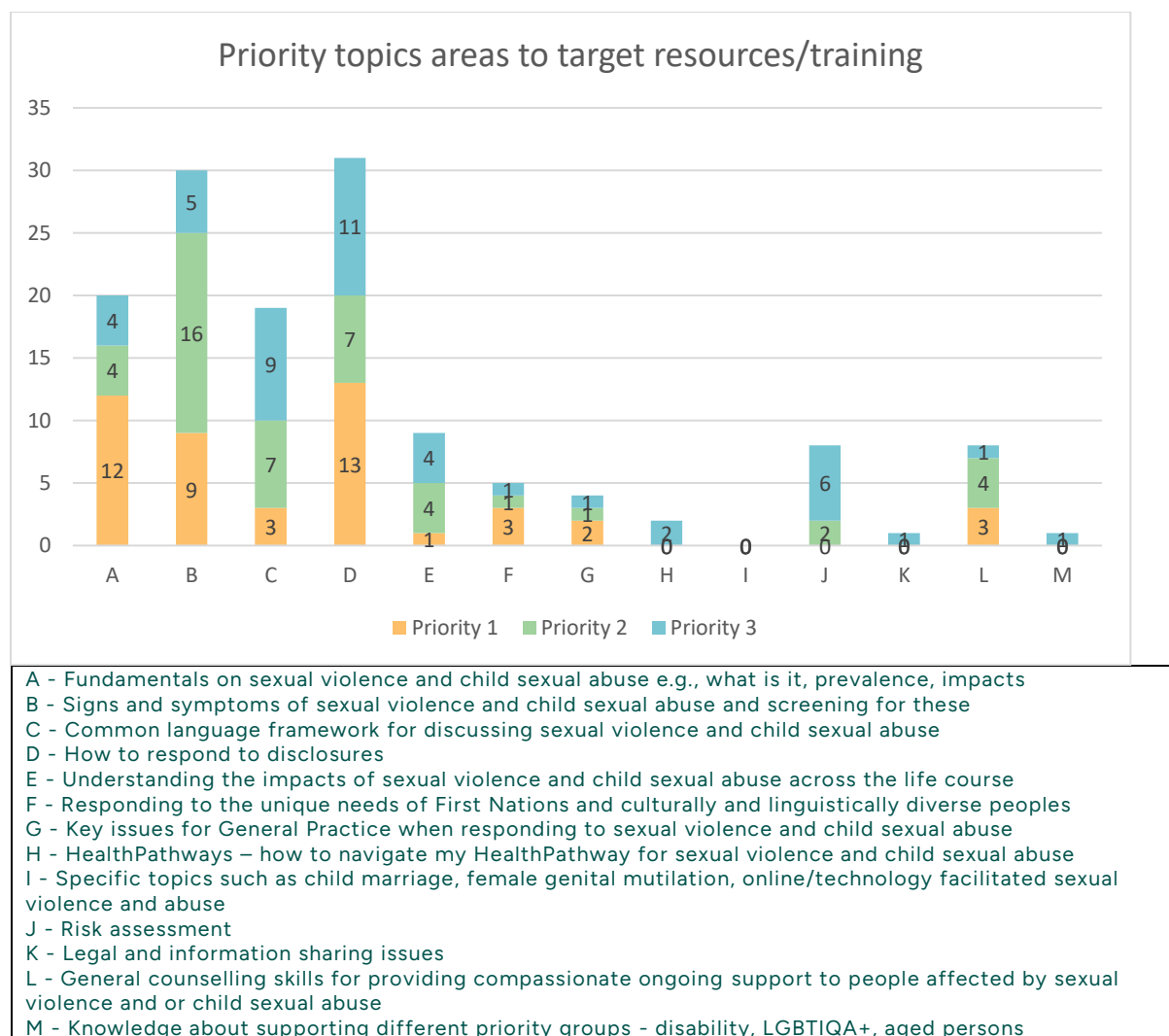


Figure (a)

Primary health care workers and practitioners commented on the need for more clinical support in response to the following types of needs that people may present with in clinics: appropriate responses to historical disclosure, treating or consulting with individuals that have abused, referral options for patients when crisis services have a wait list as well as how to appropriately conduct forensic investigations and collect important samples/specimens when victims and survivors don't want to involve the police.

*"If GPs ask, 9/10 women will disclose but GPs don't have time and often won't ask because of time constraints and pressure of not being able to bill accordingly - ie these consults take time and many sessions"*

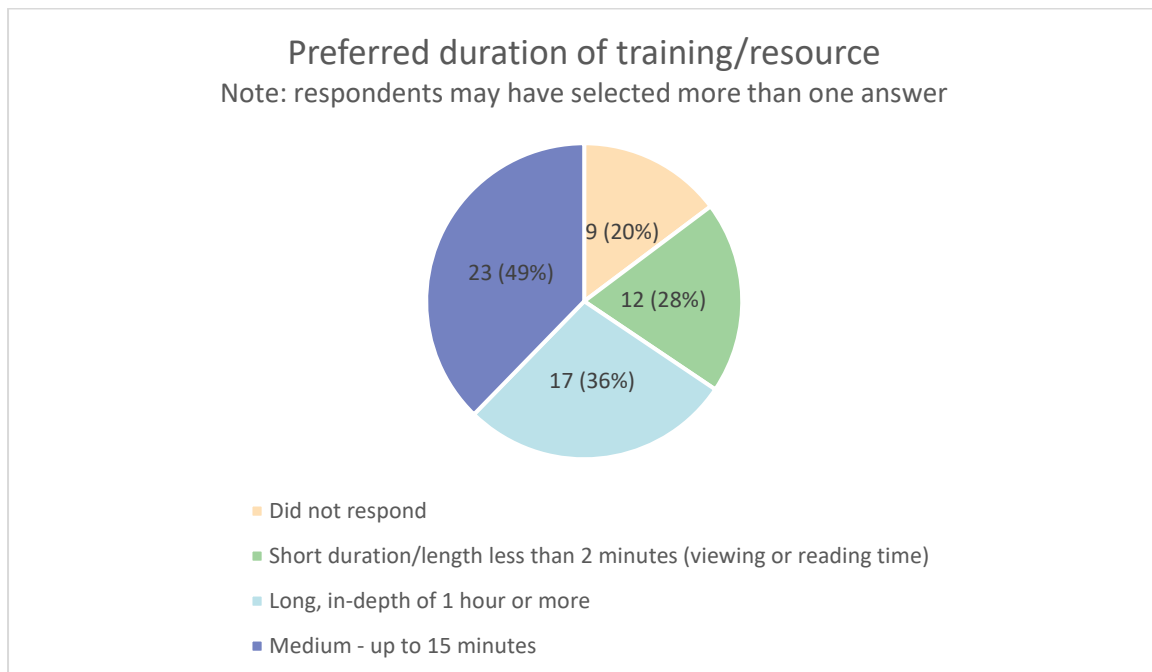
Further education around a range of child sexual abuse and sexual violence topics was also highlighted as important to include in knowledge resources. These topics included: patterns of re-victimisation, organised abuse and trafficking and the impact of child sexual abuse.

There was also a need for more tailored knowledge resources – particularly for neurodivergent patients and culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Health practitioners also highlighted a need for more resources around self-care, ensuring that health professionals felt adequately supported to prevent burnout, moral injuries and vicarious trauma.

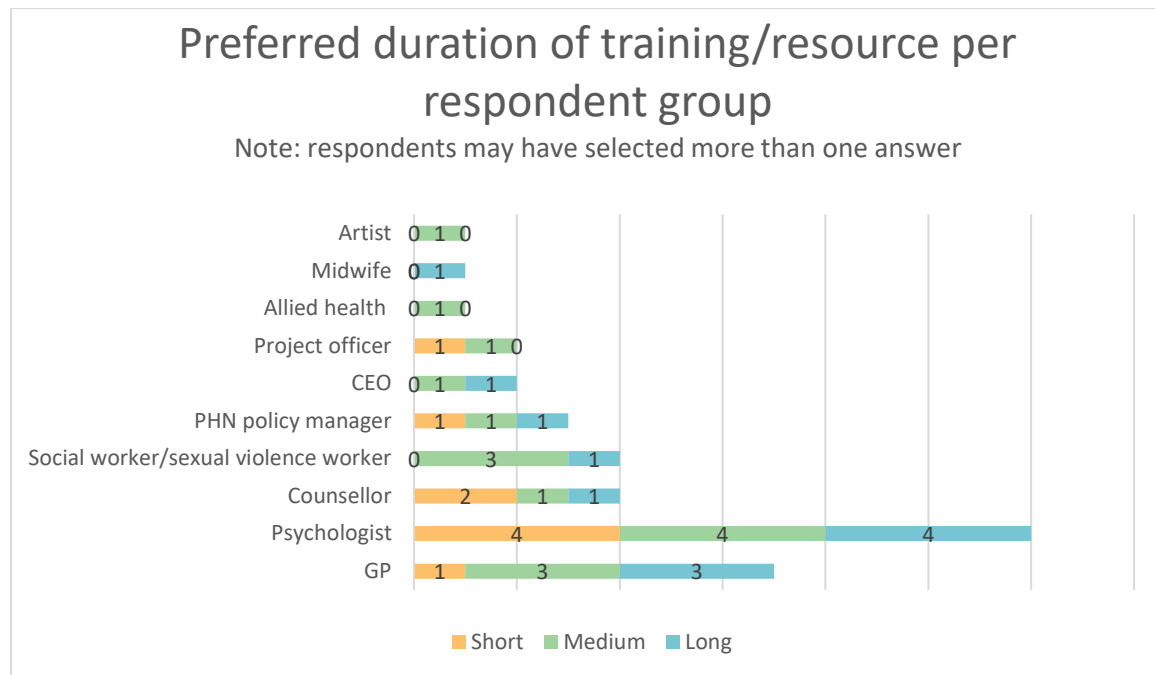
### Preferred duration of resources

When considering the time needed to allocate to training/resources, just under half of respondents preferred the 'medium' i.e. up to 15 minutes (n = 23, 49%) as the preferred duration, followed by 'long' i.e. 1 hour or more (n = 17, 36%), and 'short' i.e. less than 2 minutes (n = 12, 28%).



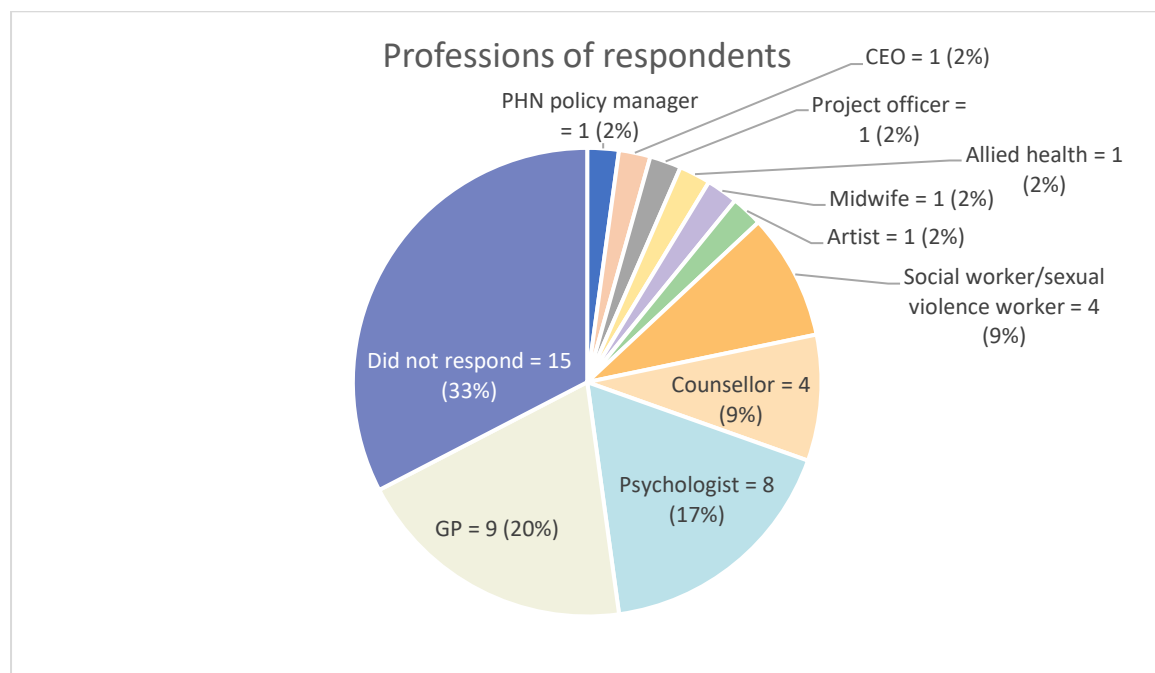
We further analysed the data to consider the preferred duration of training across each individual professional group. Counsellors and psychologists were found to prefer resources with a 'short'

duration, whereas GPs and social workers/sexual violence workers preferred the 'medium' to 'long' duration resources.



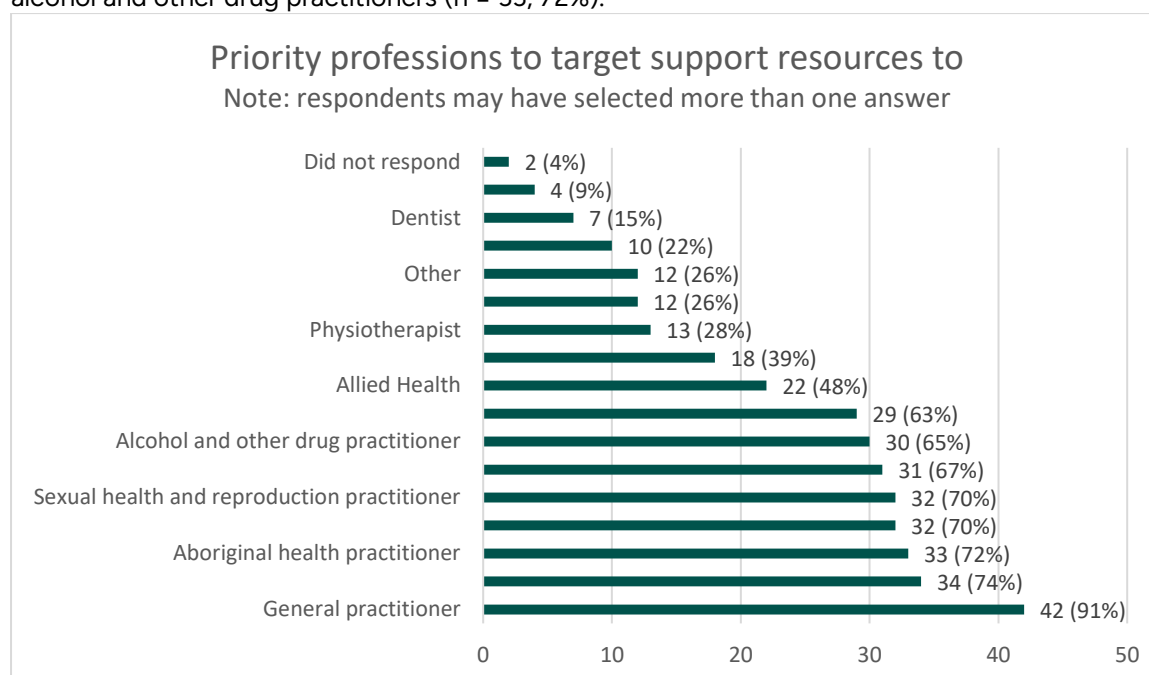
### Part C - List of respondent's professions

When considering the professions of respondents, approximately 20% of the sample were GP's (n = 9), 17% were psychologists (n = 8), 9% were counsellors (n = 4) and 9% were social workers/sexual violence workers (n = 4). The remaining respondents were individuals from a range of professions including CEO, project officer, allied health, midwife, artist and policy manager.



## Priority professions to target

When respondents were asked to consider the priority professions to target support resources to, the most common responses included: general practitioners (n = 42, 91%), followed by Aboriginal health practitioners (n = 34, 74%), sexual health and reproduction practitioners (n = 33, 72%) and alcohol and other drug practitioners (n = 33, 72%).



We further analysed the data to understand the key professions that were considered a priority for resource development by the four most commonly represented professions of respondents i.e. general practitioners, psychologists, social workers and counsellors.

Across all four professions, general practitioners were considered the key target population. There was some variation across the rankings from each profession, however mental health practitioners, Aboriginal health practitioners, sexual health and reproduction practitioners, alcohol and other drug practitioners and nurses were commonly selected target professions.

| Profession           | Perception of where resources need to be targeted  |
|----------------------|--|
| GP (n = 9)           | General practitioner = 8<br>Mental health practitioner = 7<br>Alcohol and other drug practitioner = 6<br>Sexual health and reproduction practitioner = 6<br>Social worker = 6<br>Psychologist = 6<br>Nurse = 5<br>Aboriginal health practitioner = 4<br>Allied health = 3<br>Midwife = 3<br>Pharmacist = 2<br>Dentist = 1<br>Physiotherapist = 2<br>Occupational therapist = 0<br>Chiropractor = 0 |
| Psychologist (n = 8) | General practitioner = 8<br>Aboriginal health practitioner = 7   |



|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | Nurse = 7<br>Allied health = 6<br>Mental health practitioner = 6<br>Alcohol and other drug practitioner = 6<br>Sexual health and reproduction practitioner = 6<br>Psychologist = 5<br>Social worker = 5<br>Occupational therapist = 4<br>Midwife = 4<br>Pharmacist = 2<br>Dentist = 2<br>Physiotherapist = 2<br>Chiropractor = 1 |
| Social worker/sexual violence worker (n = 4) | General practitioner = 3<br>Aboriginal health practitioner = 3<br>Sexual health and reproduction practitioner = 3<br>Nurse = 2<br>Allied health = 2<br>Midwife = 2<br>Psychologist = 2<br>Physiotherapist = 1<br>Social worker = 1<br>Mental health practitioner = 1<br>Alcohol and other drug practitioner = 1                  |
| Counsellor (n = 4)                           | General practitioner = 4<br>Aboriginal health practitioner = 4<br>Social worker = 4<br>Mental health worker = 4<br>Alcohol and other drug practitioner = 3<br>Sexual health and reproduction practitioner = 3<br>Psychologist = 2<br>Nurse = 1<br>Allied health = 1  |

Respondents were asked to add any target professions that they felt had been missed in the table above. A total of 12 respondents provided a response, and a range of specific professions were listed including: non-clinical staff i.e. reception/administrative staff, support workers, cleaners, ward aides, security guards etc. at health services, community workers in mental health, community nurses, family support caseworkers, nurse practitioners, medical students, emergency department staff, child care workers as well as a range of school staff including school counsellors, educators, school nurses etc.

Further responses about knowledge resources to support the primary care workforce to respond to people who have experienced sexual violence and/or child sexual abuse highlighted some of the reported challenges and gaps for primary health care providers:

- greater awareness within the broader health system of the prevalence of child sexual abuse and sexual violence, including the broad ranging health impacts.
- challenges in rural/metropolitan areas in completing referrals, due to a stretched service system, contributing to extensive wait times of up to 12 months for therapeutic services.
- the lack of involvement of health professionals in discussions surrounding what is needed, and invitation to participate in events such as conferences on sexual violence.
- lack of debriefing and funded supervision.
- resources that meet the broad needs of the community.
- lack of collaboration between service providers and General Practitioners.

- working conditions of General Practitioners which contribute towards time constraints, workforce shortages, and the structure of primary care funding.
- training not currently mandated in the areas of sexual violence and child sexual abuse.
- lack of services available in rural/remote areas of Australia.

*“I think the gap is linking people to the services they need at the time in a sensitive and empathic manner”.*

*“Training should demonstrate the impacts on health (to show that this is relevant to the health sector) and provide the skills so the workforce feel capable and confident in responding to disclosures and recognising the signs”*