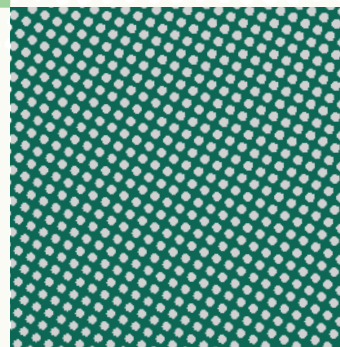
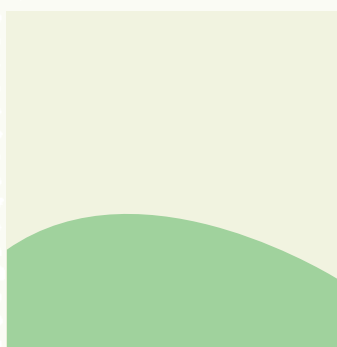
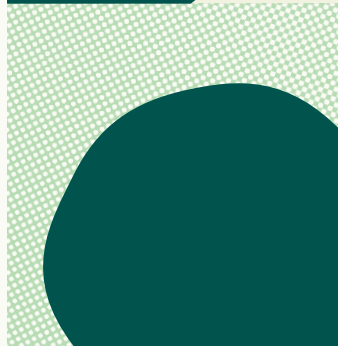
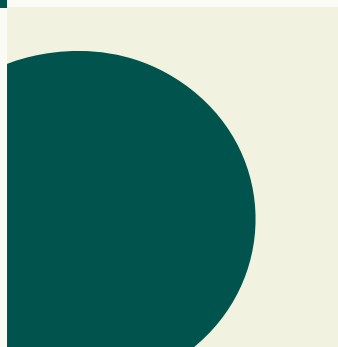
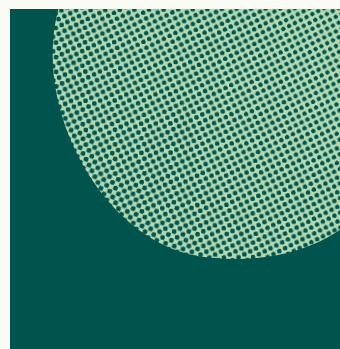


Annual Report

2024-25



National Centre for Action
on Child Sexual Abuse

Table of Contents
Annual Report || 2024-25

Table of contents	2
Acknowledgements	3
Our purpose	4
Our vision	5
Message from board chair	6
Message from the CEO	7
Year at a glance	8
Strategic focus areas	9-20
National leadership	22-25
Communications and reach	26
Finances	27-28
Looking forward	29

Acknowledgement

The National Centre for Action on Child Sexual Abuse (National Centre) respectfully acknowledges and celebrates Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Nations and pay our respects to ancestors and Elders past and present.

We recognise that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, culture and lore continue to lead Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and acknowledge the tireless work to pursue justice outcomes for children and young people.

The National Centre supports decisions affecting people's lives being fundamentally informed by those people. And upholds truth telling and agreement making for justice as essential components of healing.

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 expedite and promote their effective protection and care.



Our purpose

To disrupt the dynamics that have failed to stop child sexual abuse and prevented victims and survivors from being believed, validated and supported in the ways they need.

Our vision

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.

Through our principles, approach and actions, we demonstrate how we honour and respect the experiences and insights of victims and survivors, ensure their privacy and confidentiality and empower their voices to collectively achieve our vision. We hold a commitment to the rights of children, young people and adults to safety and care.

We strongly believe that perpetrators of child sexual abuse should be held accountable for their behaviour. We will support efforts to identify and work with individuals at risk of perpetrating child sexual abuse. We will work to improve the criminal justice system so that such accountability is ensured, that victims and survivors do not experience additional trauma in seeking justice and that the most effective interventions to reduce recidivism are implemented nationally.

Message from the Board Chair

This year has been one of change and renewal for the National Centre. The Board has continued its role in governance and oversight as the National Centre's vision and mission evolve under the leadership of our new CEO, Dr Janine Bush. This transition marks an important time in the life of the organisation, moving from establishment into a period of focused, strategic growth, consolidation and enhanced impact.

We also acknowledge and thank our former CEO, Dr Leanne Beagley, for her leadership and dedication to the National Centre during her tenure. Her contributions have helped lay the foundation for the organisation's ongoing work and we are grateful for her commitment.

Leadership changes are pivotal moments for any organisation, and I am proud of the way our Board, staff and partners have worked together to ensure stability while also embracing fresh perspectives. Janine has brought renewed energy, vision and momentum to our work, and together with a committed, cohesive staff team, we are confident the strengthened direction will position us strongly for the future.

As we look ahead, the Board is optimistic. The changes underway have strengthened our resilience, sharpened our focus and reinforced the importance of working collaboratively towards shared goals.

The National Centre's work this year has been guided by strong collaboration with victims and survivors, practitioners and researchers and delivered by a skilled and committed executive team and staff. On behalf of the Board, I extend my sincere thanks to Janine, the leadership team and all staff whose energy and expertise continue to drive the critical work of the National Centre forward. I would also like to thank my fellow Board members for their stewardship, and as always, the many victims and survivors whose commitment and lived expertise continue to shape and strengthen our work.

Looking ahead, the Board's focus is on the implementation of a refreshed strategic plan with clear impact goals to guide the National Centre's next stage of work. Our priority is to ensure the National Centre continues to embed lived experience at the centre of everything we do and to deliver tangible, lasting change across systems, sectors and communities.

On behalf of the Board, I thank everyone who has contributed to the achievements of this past financial year. It is through our collective efforts—victims and survivors, communities, partners, staff and leaders—that we are moving closer to a safer world for children and a more compassionate, just response for victims and survivors across the life course.

Dr Cathy Kezelman AM

Dr Cathy Kezelman AM

*is a medical practitioner,
President of Blue Knot
Foundation, Chair of
National Centre for
Action on Child Sexual
Abuse*



Message from the CEO

I want to acknowledge the context we've worked in this year, and the disturbing cases of child sexual abuse that have come to light across Australia.

Communities and the systems that serve them have faced confronting truths, and the impact has been profound. Jurisdictional gaps have exposed national vulnerabilities, highlighting the urgent need for systemic improvement. This underscores why the National Centre's work is both vital and timely.

This annual report sets out a year of meaningful progress and growing influence. We placed lived and living experience at the centre of our planning and structure so that expertise guides everything we do.

Our practice tools are in use across sectors and our learning activities reached almost 4,000 participants nationwide, strengthening day-to-day practice and responses.

Our competitive research grant round in 2023 funded 18 projects totalling \$2.99 million, and early outputs are already adding to the evidence base that informs policy and service improvement.

As we enter the new financial year, we have refined our strategic vision and organisational structure to sharpen our focus and amplify social impact.

Our 2025-26 strategic impact goals are to:

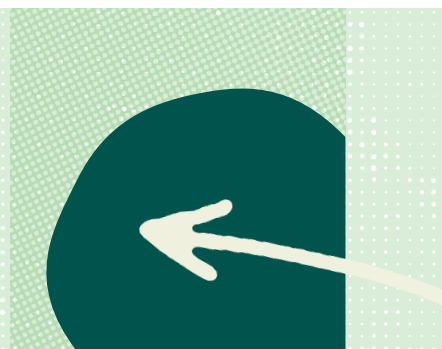
- Embed lived and living experience at the heart of all we do, ensuring that people's voices, wisdom and expertise guide every aspect of our work.
- Build sector capability to prevent harm and improve responses to child sexual abuse, strengthening the knowledge, skills and practices of organisations and professionals across Australia.
- Strengthen policy and systems reform, driving change that makes children and young people safer and ensures victims and survivors are better supported.

This direction builds on the strong foundations established in our first phase and positions us for greater impact in the years ahead.

I thank the National Centre Board - and in particular, our Chair, Cathy Kezelman - for their committed oversight and support. My sincere thanks to our advisors with lived and living experience who generously share their wisdom to inform our work. Finally, to the National Centre staff: thank you for your commitment to action, every day.

We remain determined to create a nation where children and young people are safe and where victim-survivors receive respectful, holistic and effective support.

Dr Janine Bush



Year at a glance
Our impact and reach

25

learning activities delivered to almost 4,000 participants nationwide



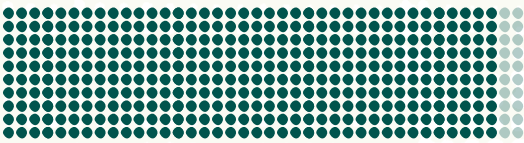
04

In Conversation webinars delivered



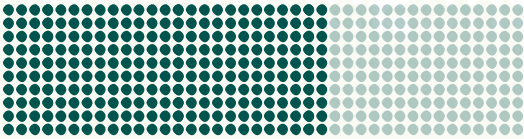
380+

participants engaged in the NT Healing and Recovery Project



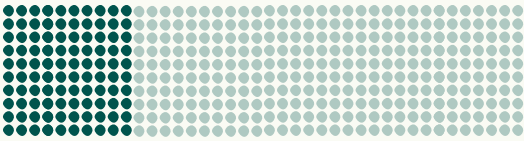
250+

participants attended our National Showcase



100+

victims and survivors consulted on Child Sexual Abuse Language Guide development



18

commissioned research projects underway



50%

increase in website visits achieved



New initiatives

The Change Academy professional learning hub launched

Six new research partnership projects commenced

Our clinical resources achieved RACGP recognition

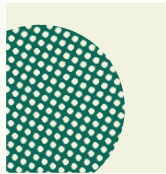
Six Minimum Practice Standards mapping tools published

Strategic focus areas

Our strategy: *Here for Change*

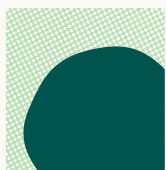
The National Centre continues to be guided by [Here for Change](#), which frames seven critical challenges that represent our shared understanding of what must change.

The challenges we must address:



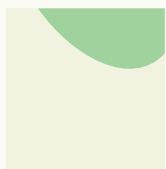
01

Child sexual abuse and its effects across the lifespan of victims and survivors are not well understood or identified in the community.



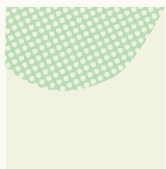
02

People with lived and living experiences of child sexual abuse are often not believed and responded to with compassion.



03

Children, young people and adults with experiences of child sexual abuse (or their parents or carers) are often not identified, protected or well supported when they raise concerns or disclose.



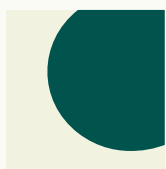
04

Children and young people who have displayed harmful sexual behaviour require adults to better understand and meet their needs.



05

Victims and survivors of child sexual abuse are often unable to access the support and resources that meet their changing needs at different times in their lives.



06

Knowledge about complex and intergenerational trauma and dissociation does not generally inform responses to individuals with lived and living experiences of child sexual abuse.



07

Child sexual abuse will not be stopped unless there is a comprehensive framework for addressing the power dynamics and factors which enable it.

Embedding lived and living experience

A defining focus this year has been the renewed centring of lived and living experience in our organisational structure, governance and knowledge outputs. This shift represents a fundamental commitment to victim and survivor expertise at the heart of all that we do.

Victim and survivor voices in action

The [Child Sexual Abuse Language Guide](#) reflects the National Centre's commitment to centring lived experience.

Informed by the voices of more than 100 victims and survivors and supported by three dedicated working group members, the guide challenges outdated or harmful terminology and provides victim and survivor-endorsed alternatives for use across research, practice, policy and media.

This resource ensures that the language we use honours victims and survivors' experiences, reduces harm and supports recovery.

“Language can either reinforce harmful myths and shift responsibility onto victims, or it can affirm the child's inherent right to protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. We all have an ethical obligation to use language that reduces trauma wherever we can.”

— Angela Obradovic, Lynelle Long, Danielle Rifahi, Reshaping the Conversation Lived Experience Working Group Members

Lived experience was central to our knowledge creation this year. Collaborative blogs co-authored with victims and survivors explored critical intersections such as child sexual abuse and disability and child sexual abuse within contexts of domestic and family violence. These partnerships ensure our resources reflect lived realities and provide practical guidance grounded in victim-survivor wisdom.



Kelly Humphries is a victim survivor of child sexual abuse as well as an author, speaker, advocate, coach and a Research Fellow with the AiLECS Lab (Artificial Intelligence for Law Enforcement and Community Safety) at Monash University. Kel is an expert in child protection and trauma informed approaches, bringing a multi-disciplinary focus to provide perspective, rigour and objectivity for her work on Survivor perspectives on institutional use of child sexual abuse material.

Victim and survivor voices

To acknowledge Safer Internet Day 2025, we interviewed Kelly Humphries - victim and survivor, author, speaker, advocate, coach and Research Fellow at AiLECS Lab for [a blog](#) about National Centre-funded research project, "Survivor perspectives on institutional use of child sexual abuse material".

This project explores the attitudes and knowledge of victims and survivors of crimes involving child sexual abuse material and recommends how these can be embedded by institutions that use these materials.

At our National Showcase in October 2024, victims and survivors were at the forefront of the program, delivering keynotes, leading discussions and shaping the event's narrative. Scholarships were provided to enable victims and survivors from across the country to attend and participate, ensuring diverse voices were represented and heard.

Looking forward, the National Centre has begun work to evolve its advisory and participatory structures, ensuring that lived experience expertise is embedded in a sustainable, systemic way across all programs and work of the National Centre.

These changes will create stronger pathways for survivors to inform governance, strategy and practice.

Survivor perspectives on institutional use of child sexual abuse material



Building sector capability

Building sector capability has been central to our work this year, with initiatives spanning from foundational education to advanced practice frameworks. Our approach recognises that effective responses to child sexual abuse require skilled, confident professionals across all sectors.

Change Academy strengthening knowledge and expertise

The Change Academy represents our most significant capability-building achievement. Launched at our National Showcase in October 2024, this professional learning hub offers evidence-based training through online courses.

The Change Academy learning programs are designed to strengthen the knowledge, skills and confidence practitioners need to protect children and young people from child sexual abuse and better respond to and support victims and survivors.

Through synthesising and bringing together research evidence and practitioner and lived experience expertise, we develop and offer courses, digital practice tools and webinars that foster a more compassionate and trauma-informed community.

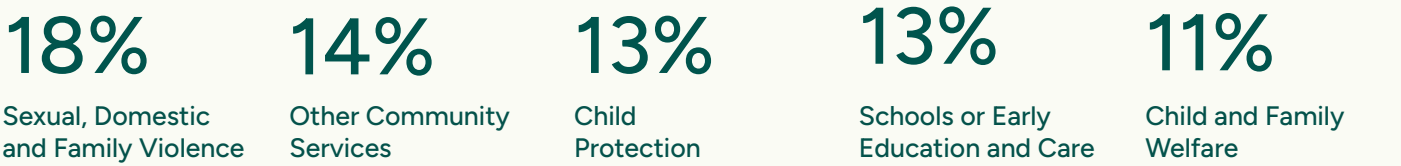
Key offerings for 2024-25 include:

- [Foundations of child sexual abuse](#)
- [Understanding and responding to disclosures of child sexual abuse from children and young people](#)
- [Supporting boys and men to disclose child sexual abuse](#)
- [Being a safe adult for LGBTIQ+ young people who are victims and survivors of child sexual abuse](#)

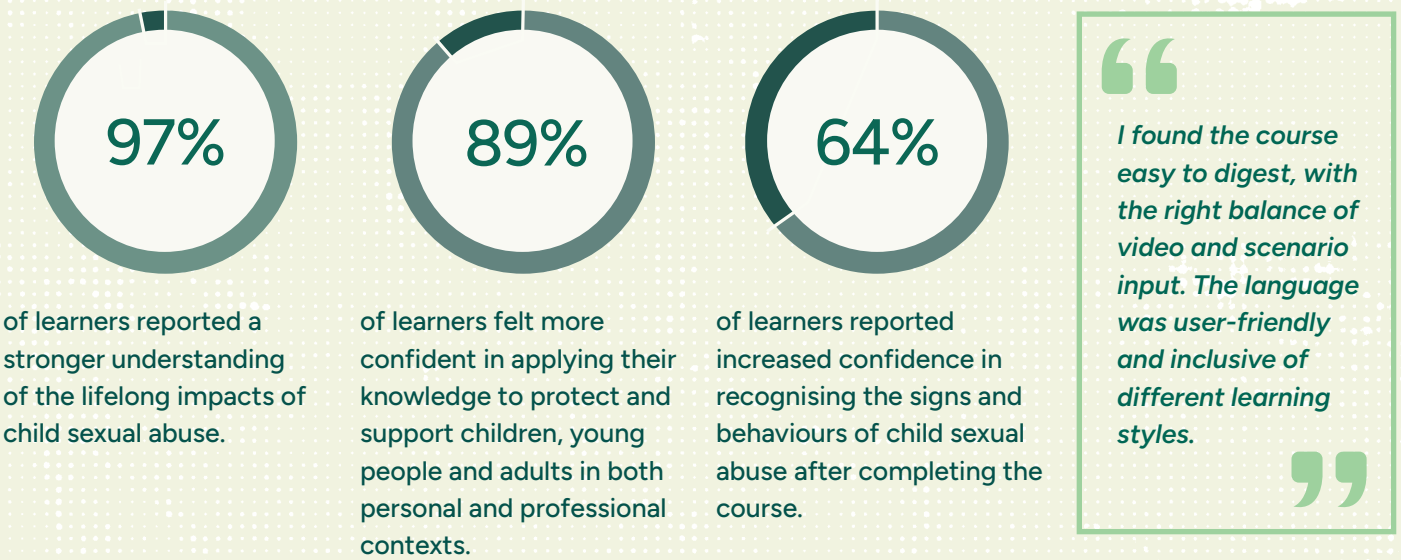
Our professional learning hub demonstrates a measurable impact on learners' confidence in recognising and responding to child sexual abuse.

Reaching key sectors

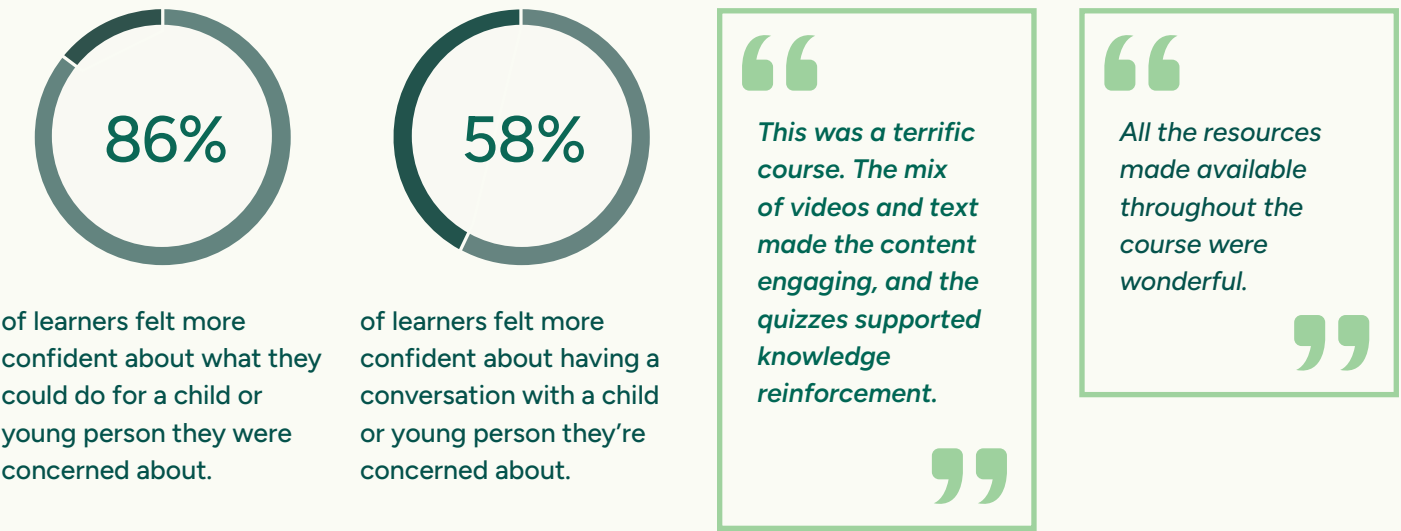
Our courses are reaching a number of key sectors. Below is a breakdown of the top 5 sectors engaging with our foundational courses:



Foundations of child sexual abuse



Recognising and responding to disclosures of child sexual abuse from children and young people



Beyond our learning hub

We have also:



Delivered bespoke training to diverse audiences including workshops with organisations such as Big Sister Experience, Legal Aid NSW and The Y.



Partnered with Flinders University to co-design a Human Services Capability Framework which will embed child sexual abuse prevention and response skills into nursing, psychology and social work curricula, creating long-term workforce capability.



Developed six mapping tools for the Minimum Practice Standards, enabling organisations to assess their alignment with key national principles and improve their trauma-informed care practices.



Undertook a Learning and Development Survey which provided us with critical insights into workforce training needs, informing our capability-building strategies and highlighting gaps across sectors.



Primary Health Network collaboration

Resources developed within the [Strengthening Primary Health Care Responses](#) project were strongly guided by the Project Advisory Group, which comprised key representatives from Primary Health Networks, National Association of Services Against Sexual Violence, Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (RACGP), Allied Health Professions Australia, People with Disability Australia and Lived Experience Advisers.

Extensive consultation with victims and survivors, workers and practitioners informed the development of 'Create safer spaces in primary health care' and its easy read translation, 'Feeling safer in health services'.

A [webinar](#) was conducted in collaboration with RACGP and Knowmore Legal Service surrounding mandatory reporting requirements, with a second session to be run in late 2025. These, in addition to the resources developed more broadly by the National Centre, continue to shape and guide best practice in primary health care.

Creating safety in primary health care

Primary health care practitioners have a unique opportunity to contribute to improved health outcomes and provide supportive, safe experiences for people who have experienced sexual violence, including child sexual abuse.

On World Health Day 2025, we launched '[Create safer spaces in primary health care](#)'.

Developed in collaboration with victims and survivors, this resource shares practical tips on how to contribute to safer physical, emotional and online spaces in primary health care settings.

We also commissioned the Council for Intellectual Disability to translate this practice tool into an [easy read resource](#), ensuring its accessibility for people with disability.



Northern Territory Healing and Recovery Project

This initiative represents a milestone in First Nations-led, culturally grounded responses to child sexual abuse. Funded by Northern Territory Health, the project demonstrates how Aboriginal knowledge systems and survivor voices can lead transformative change.

Over six months, we engaged 136 community members from four remote communities and Katherine township, alongside 244 participants from government and non-government services. Consultations were guided by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and grounded in yarning, workshops and informal engagements, supporting cultural safety and local leadership.

It positions First Nations voices, cultural practices and intergenerational healing as central to recovery and aligns with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social and Emotional Wellbeing framework.



The resulting Healing and Recovery Practice Guide integrates five knowledge domains:



Lived experience



Cultural knowledge



Practitioner knowledge



Research knowledge



Systems knowledge

Communities emphasised the need for healing responses that combine traditional practices such as bush medicine, storytelling, ceremony and connection to Country, with specialist therapeutic support. As one participant noted,

“ Healed people heal people ”

highlighting the importance of strengthening informal networks of care, a deep strength existing within communities.

The Practice Guide has informed delivery of pilot services by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, creating both immediate support and an evidence base for broader system reform. This project demonstrates how national systems can be reshaped by centring First Nations-led approaches and weaving together cultural and clinical knowledge.



Building the evidence base

Our research activities continue to build the evidence base to address the seven critical challenges outlined in our *Here for Change: Five Year Strategy 2023-2027*.

Our approach is influenced by lived experience expertise and strengthens the evidence base by mobilising research and practice-based knowledge to inform solutions across individual, community, organisational, service and system levels.

A critical part of this evidence base was establishing a baseline dataset on Australian attitudes in relation to child sexual abuse in 2024.

The Australian child sexual abuse attitudes, knowledge and response study

In October 2024, the National Centre released the Australian child sexual abuse attitudes, knowledge and response study ([Community Attitudes Study](#)).

The first of its kind in Australia, this study surveyed over 4,000 adults across the country to learn about their attitudes towards, knowledge of and responses to child sexual abuse, harmful sexual behaviours and the needs of victims and survivors.

The findings revealed critical gaps in the public's understanding of and ability to identify and respond to child sexual abuse in Australia, highlighting the need for national and local strategies and efforts to enhance community capacity.

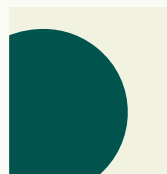
The National Centre has published a range of resources on the study including findings, insights and infographics, along with an article in *The Conversation* and international speaking events.

Commissioned research program

We continued to deliver our commissioned research program, which was formally launched in 2023 with 18 projects.

The commissioned research program spans a breadth of topic areas associated with child sexual abuse, including disclosure experiences, harmful sexual behaviours, out-of-home care contexts, safeguarding and community awareness and legal system responses.

Our commissioned research program funds the work of over 100 multidisciplinary investigators from more than 50 organisations across Australia. The following commissioned research projects concluded in 2024-25, with the remainder due to conclude by mid-2026.



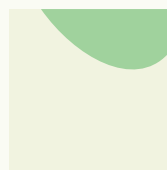
01

Developing and implementing a framework for abuse prevention through culture change and organisational development (Fiona Boyle, Kooyoora)



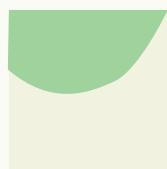
02

Evaluating a harmful sexual behaviour education program in a residential care setting (Melinda Clarke, Life Without Barriers)



03

Supporting continuous quality improvement in safeguarding at Hockey Australia and other national sporting organisations (Jarrod Dowdy, Hockey Australia)



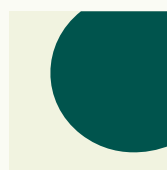
04

Investigating experiences of child sexual abuse disclosure and disbelief in the Family Court (Tunya Petridis & Dr Morag MacSween)



05

Differentiating adverse childhood experience profiles of male youths who exhibit harmful sexual behaviours (Dr Lisa Thomsen, Griffith University)



06

Survivor perspectives on institutional use of child sexual abuse material (A/Prof Campbell Wilson, Monash University and Bravehearts Foundation).

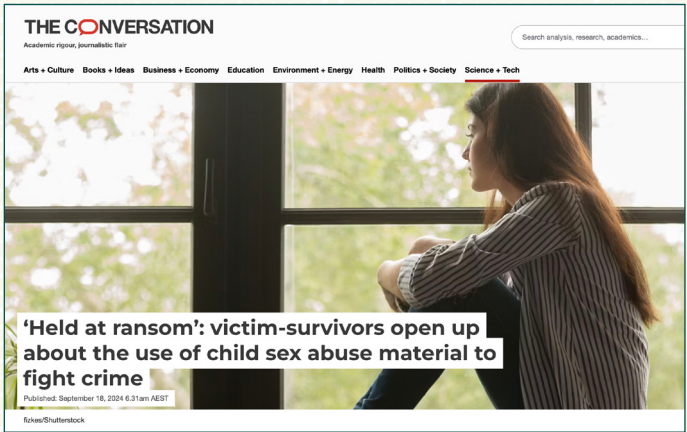
Commissioned research program

These projects have added to the evidence base in relation to diverse topics including culture change and organisational development, the efficacy of safeguarding education, the need for more trauma-informed legal processes and identifying opportunities for early intervention in male youths who exhibit harmful sexual behaviours.

Key activities and outputs include:



A Framework and 'how to' guide for strengthening safeguarding for cultural change



National articles opening up the conversation: 'Held at ransom': victim-survivors open up about the use of child sex abuse material to fight crime'

Publication of peer reviewed journal articles:

The child behind the victim: Survivor experiences of children's harmful sexual behavior

Disclosure of online child sexual victimisation: Findings from the Australian Child Maltreatment Study

Prevalence and characteristics of online child sexual victimization: Findings from the Australian Child Maltreatment Study - ScienceDirect

How Children and Young People Disclose That They Have Been Sexually Abused: Perspectives From Victims and Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse

Online child sexual victimisation

The National Centre funded research by Professor Kerryann Walsh (QUT) and Professor Ben Mathews (QUT) examining the prevalence, nature and health outcomes of online child sexual abuse. Along with colleagues from the Australian Institute of Criminology and eSafety Commissioner, the research team has published a number of data infographics.

[Disclosure of online child sexual victimization - The Australian Child Maltreatment Study \(ACMS\)](#)

[Children's online sexual victimization in Australia - The Australian Child Maltreatment Study \(ACMS\)](#)

[Online child sexual victimisation: What young people told us - The Australian Child Maltreatment Study \(ACMS\)](#)

To continue developing the evidence base, we stood up additional research projects across 2024-25 examining topics such as:

- Child sexual abuse prevention education in early childhood.
- Upskilling the community sport volunteer workforce to respond to child abuse in sport.
- Exploring accessibility of child sexual abuse prevention programs across Australia, with a particular focus on rural and remote areas.
- Evaluating foundational training for the Victorian specialist sector.
- Developing a workforce capability statement to underpin how workers prevent and respond to child sexual abuse across the lifespan.

These projects are due to conclude in 2025-2026.

National leadership

National Centre Showcase 2024

Our two-day National Showcase, 'Reshaping the Conversation' in October 2024 brought together over 250 participants, creating a national platform for knowledge exchange and innovation. The event represented a significant milestone in bringing together Australia's leading voices in child sexual abuse prevention and response.

Victims and survivors participated on all panels throughout the two days and delivered daily opening and closing keynotes.

Scholarships were provided to 15 victims and survivors to attend and participate, while funding was also provided for all National Centre college members to ensure their full participation.

The Showcase brought together high-level leaders across government statutory bodies, peak sector organisations, universities and research institutions. This included victim-survivors national and state commissioners, CEOs of major service delivery organisations, senior clinical advisors from hospital networks and leading academic researchers from universities across Australia.





Thought leadership

Our In Conversation webinar series

These sessions brought together lived experience, research, cultural and practice expertise to explore complex issues such as the intersection of family violence and child sexual abuse; drivers of abuse and prevention efforts; impacts to and within family systems; and compassionate aged care for victims and survivors. Each webinar created dialogue to inform policy and practice.

Compassionate aged care

In May 2025 the National Centre hosted an In Conversation titled '[Compassionate aged care for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse](#)'.

Many older adults are victims and survivors of child sexual abuse and many have never disclosed their experience. As they enter, engage with, or rely more heavily on services such as aged and primary health care, it is critical that caregivers create environments where older adults feel comfortable disclosing.

Our panel explored the topic of older adults who are living with the impacts of child sexual abuse and the importance of trauma-responsive care.

Keynotes and advisory groups

Our growing reputation has led to invitations for national and international conference presentations, participation in expert groups and policy advisory roles. Involvement with the National Harmful Sexual Behaviour Clinical Reference Group, the HSB Clinical Therapeutic Framework project, and the Five Country Ministerial work highlights our expertise and impact at the highest levels.

Presenting at events such as the Early Childhood Australia National Conference and the International Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health ensures our insights reach frontline professionals and influence sector discussions.

Blogs

Throughout the year we published several blogs informed by lived experience, practice and research expertise. These publications provided timely commentary on significant dates such as World Family Doctor Day and World Day of Fight Against Sexual Exploitation, shared insights from our In Conversation webinars and amplified the voices of victims and survivors. Blogs published include:



Australian children experiencing disability are at risk of sexual abuse



A holistic approach to preventing child sexual abuse



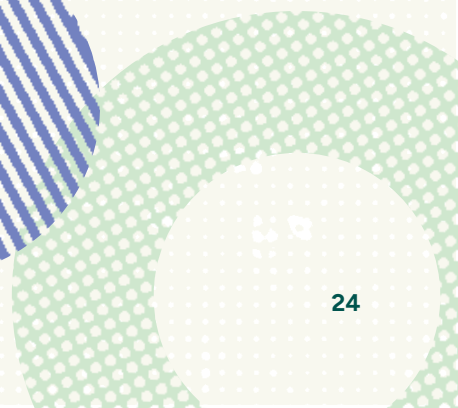
Practicing at the intersection of child sexual abuse and domestic violence



The growing crisis of child sexual abuse material and its impacts



How practitioners can fight child sexual exploitation

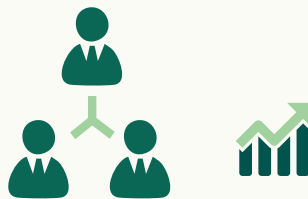


Partnerships and collaboration



Victim and survivor partnerships:

Lived experience working groups remained central to our collaborative approach. From shaping the Child Sexual Abuse Language Guide to designing the National Showcase program, victims and survivors were partners in knowledge creation and dissemination.



Government engagement:

We worked closely with the Tasmanian Government on their Change for Children Strategy, engaged with ACT and South Australian teams on community attitudes research implications and contributed to Five Country Ministerial work on victim-centric approaches. These collaborations position the National Centre as a trusted advisor on policy development and implementation.



Research partnerships:

Six new projects commenced, covering parent-focused prevention education, professional roles in preventing harmful sexual behaviours, community sport workforce development, accessibility of prevention resources, Victorian specialist sector training evaluation and comprehensive workforce capability development. These partnerships leverage academic expertise while ensuring research addresses practical needs.



Sector networks:

Engagement with practitioner networks and peak bodies across health, education, child protection, disability and aged care ensured our resources were relevant and accessible. Participation in expert working groups, sector events and collaborative projects strengthened relationships and created opportunities for knowledge exchange.

These partnerships demonstrate both the outputs delivered in 2024-25 and the groundwork laid for future systems change. By collaborating across sectors with health professionals, universities, governments, victims and survivors and peak bodies, the National Centre is building trust and creating conditions for a more coordinated, capable and compassionate national response.

Communications and reach

Our digital communication platforms:

845k+ 

People reached

4,623 

New followers gained

60% 

Channel growth

Our website had:

~100k

Website views

39,382

Total users

8,363

File downloads

Most viewed pages:

- 01 [Resources](#)
- 02 [The Australian child sexual abuse attitudes, knowledge and response study](#)
- 03 [The Change Academy](#)
- 04 Top blog: [Why are children and young people still being sexually abused?](#)

Most downloaded resources:

- 01 [Indicators and impacts of child sexual abuse](#)
- 02 [The Australian child sexual abuse attitudes, knowledge and response study \(prevention infographic\)](#)
- 03 [Understanding children’s disclosure of sexual abuse](#)

Finances

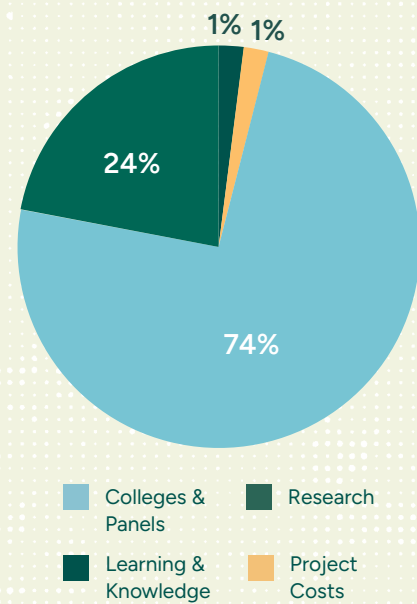
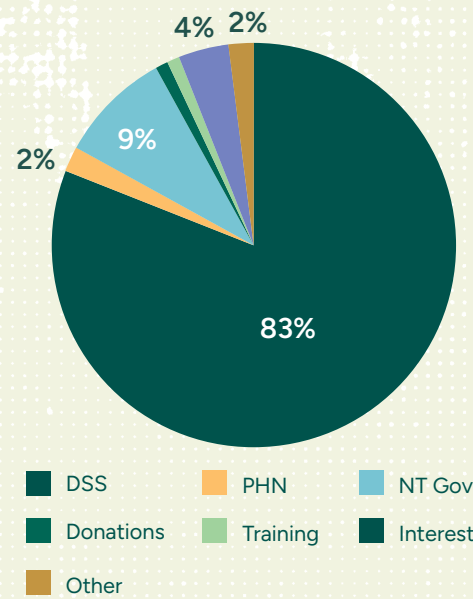
With principal funding from the Commonwealth Department of Social Services, the National Centre continued to invest strategically in the people, systems and sector capability that underpin its mission.

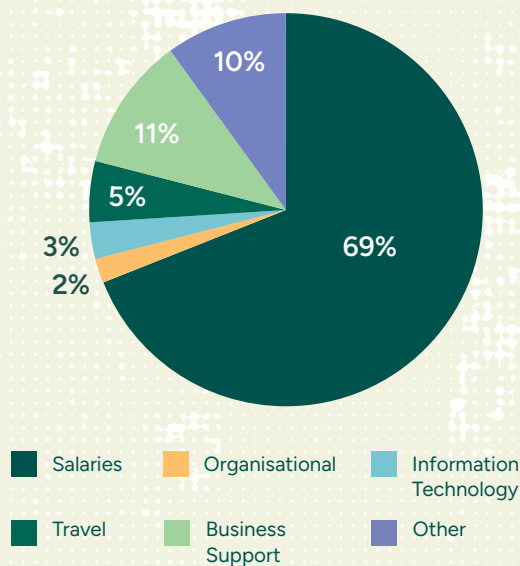
Revenue

The majority of our revenue was provided through the Department’s core funding, supplemented by project funding from the Northern Territory Government and the Primary Health Networks, alongside smaller contributions from donations, training and interest.

Contract and project cost

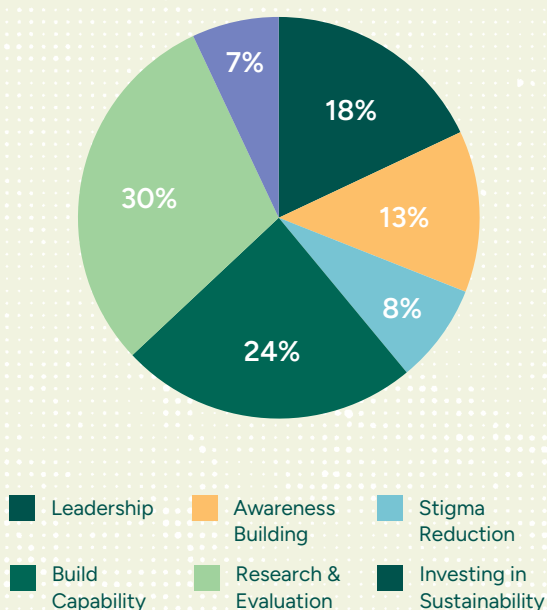
Funds were directed to areas of greatest long-term impact - research and evaluation, capability building, leadership development and awareness raising - with continued investment in stigma reduction and organisational sustainability. These allocations reflect the National Centre’s strong commitment to lived and living experience, systems reform and sector strengthening.





Salaries and overhead

Now entering its final year of its five-year funding agreement with the Department of Social Services (concluding in October 2026), the National Centre has refined its strategic plan, adopted five priority goals and implemented an Improvement Action Plan to strengthen governance, deepen engagement with lived experience and align operations with strategic objectives.



Expenditure by function area

Expenditure remained tightly managed to maximise impact and value for money. The largest share of project funding supported commissioned research and evaluation, followed by investment in learning and knowledge initiatives and support for lived experience structures. Operational expenditure was primarily staff-related, reflecting the National Centre's focus on in-house expertise and delivery, with remaining costs directed to business support, IT, travel and other essential operational functions.

Looking forward

As we move into 2025-26, the National Centre is positioned for expanded impact through our refined strategic framework. Our focus on embedding lived experience, building sector capability and strengthening policy and systems reform provides clear direction for continued growth and influence.

Key priorities include evolving our advisory structures to strengthen lived experience engagement, expanding the Change Academy's offerings, completing commissioned research projects, mobilising knowledge and deepening partnerships across government and community sectors.

The evidence base we have built in our establishment phase provides a solid foundation to continue to build the evidence base in a variety of ways, including with lived experience advisers to inform policy, advocacy and systems reform. Our sector capability-building initiatives will create the skilled workforce needed for effective responses.

The challenges ahead are significant, but our achievements this year demonstrate the power of partnership, the importance of lived experience leadership and the value of evidence-based approaches. Together, we are creating lasting change in how Australia understands, prevents and responds to child sexual abuse.





National Centre for Action
on Child Sexual Abuse