

New Research

Australian Sport Volunteers and Child Safeguarding

Survey of 218 community sport volunteers (2024) reveals high motivation to respond to abuse but critical capability and support gaps

Summary of:

Woessner, M. N., Parker, A. G., McLachlan, F., & Pankowiak, A. (2026). The Capabilities, Opportunities and Motivations of Sport Volunteers to Respond to Child Abuse: Results From a National Survey in Australia. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*.
<https://doi.org/10.1177/08862605251413520>

This work was conducted in close collaboration with the Safe and Inclusive Sport Research Group Lived Experience Committee, comprising seven members with lived experience of diverse forms of child abuse in sport in Australia, as well as Alison Quigley, a lived experience advocate.



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Key findings

Volunteers



Summary of new study:

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Key findings

Volunteers



98%
agree

reporting child abuse in
sport **is important!**

Only 37%

believe that the current
system for reporting child
abuse in sport are effective



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Key findings

Volunteers



1 in 3 lacked policies for receiving disclosures



1 in 5 fear consequences for raising concerns about abuse

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Study Link in Bio!

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Original Research

The Capabilities, Opportunities and Motivations of Sport Volunteers to Respond to Child Abuse: Results From a National Survey in Australia

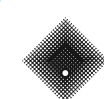
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This work is dedicated to all those who have experienced abuse in sport as a young person, and to critical allies, who speak up and fight for change. It is specifically dedicated to all those who advocate at the grassroots level of sport around the world, often in the shadow, and at great personal cost.

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