



Building communities that keep children safe from domestic and family violence

NATIONAL
CHILD
PROTECTION
WEEK 2021

NAPCAN PREVENT
CHILD ABUSE
& NEGLECT

TURNING CONVERSATION INTO ACTION

Speakers:

- Anne Hollonds, National Children's Commissioner
- Jodie Griffiths-Cook, ACT Public Advocate and Children and Young People Commissioner
- Moo Baulch, Director of Primary Prevention at Women's and Girls' Emergency Centre (WAGEC)
- James Parfitt (Fejo), Manager and Founder, Top End Dreaming

In this webinar on **Friday 10 September 2021** we discussed:

- What children and young people are telling us about their experiences of domestic and family violence
- How those of us working with children can be more aware of domestic and family violence, and how those of us working with domestic and family violence victim-survivors can be more child aware
- The need to support children and young people as victim-survivors in their own right
- How factors including sexuality, gender, culture and disability can impact where there's violence happening at home
- What we can do to make it better for the next generation

The theme for National Child Protection Week (5 - 11 September 2021) was **Every child, in every community, needs a fair go**. To treat all of Australia's children fairly, we need to make sure every family and community has what kids need to thrive and be healthy.

But not every family has these resources. This is why we need to support every child, family and community according to their needs. This will create a healthier, fairer Australia for all children.

During the week a series of webinars was curated to explore this theme. The following sheet provides links to resources and topics that were mentioned in the above webinar, to help us **turn this conversation into action**.





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To rewatch the webinar go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=NENDYuDkQI8

Information relevant to this webinar includes:

Children and Young People Commissioner ACT

- *Now You Have Heard Us, What Will You Do?* Consultation report www.hrc.act.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Booklet-young-peoples-experiences-of-family-violence.pdf
- Video - *My world. Insights from young people on domestic and family violence* www.youtube.com/watch?v=VjZRyYJ6ccM
- For more information www.hrc.act.gov.au/childrenyoungpeople

National Children's Commissioner

- To find out more about the National Children's Commissioner www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/childrens-rights.
- Statement for the National Summit for Women's Safety www.humanrights.gov.au/about/news/statement-national-summit-womens-safety
- Video - *Children as victims of domestic violence* www.youtube.com/watch?v=7iJthyr4OzQ

Women's and Girls' Emergency Centre:

- For more information about Moo Baulch's work, or to contact her, visit WAGEC at www.wagec.org.au
- See below for a copy of Moo's slide showing the 8 Rs of Responding to Child Disclosures - Recognise, Respond, Reassure, Respect, Record, Refer, Recover, Reconnect

Videos from James Parfitt-Fejo:

- Marri Kakajuwi WURRUMIYANGA - Community Law Stories www.youtube.com/watch?v=vkEN2OHITC8
- Child Protection - Part 1 - Safety Planning www.youtube.com/watch?v=YD5CmhFHpAE





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- Child Protection - Part 2 - Child Removal with Kinship Care
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Abq-YaX-6ys
- James can be contacted at James@topenddreaming.com.au

National Plans:

- [National Plan for Preventing Violence Against Women and Their Children Fourth Action Plan](#)
- [Consultations \(now closed\) to inform the next Plan for Preventing Violence Against Women and Their Children](#)
- National Summit on Women's Safety
www.regonsite.eventsair.com/national-summit-on-womens-safety

Framing research: This year's National Child Protection Week theme and campaign were based on the latest Australian research on how to frame communication around child wellbeing including:

- The *Core Story for Early Childhood Development and Learning* at www.telethonkids.org.au/projects/HPER/core-story - and learn more with the eLearning module here www.corestory.talentlms.com
- The *Reframing Parenting* project at www.parentingrc.org.au/programs/reframing-parenting
- ***Passing the Message Stick*** gives clear advice about how to use language to help change the story on self-determination and justice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
www.passingthemessagestick.org

Additional information to support conversations:

- Raising children network www.raisingchildren.net.au
- eSafety Commission www.esafety.gov.au
- ThinkUKnow Campaign www.thinkuknow.org.au
- True Relationships www.true.org.au
- *Welcome to Consent* by Yumi Styne and Dr Melissa Kang (10 - 14 years)
www.hardiegrant.com.au/publishing/bookfinder/book/welcome-to-consent-by-yumi-stynes/9781760507497
- *ABC of Safety & Consent* by Jayneen Sanders (4 - 10 years)
www.e2epublishing.info/abc





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- Talk Soon, Talk Often www.healthywa.wa.gov.au/Articles/S_T/Talk-soon-Talk-often
- Chanel Contos petition for consent in schools www.teachusconsent.com
- Talk Revolution www.talkrevolution.com.au

NAPCAN Programs:

- Love Bites is NAPCAN's respectful relationships education program for young people of high school age www.napcan.org.au/Programs/love-bites/
- Watch the Love Bites video on NAPCAN's youtube channel www.youtube.com/watch?v=jJuHYnMfT28&t=1s
- Respectful relationships education in out-of-school settings www.napcan.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/NAPCAN-Trauma-informed-RRE-FINAL-1.pdf
- *Safer Communities for Children* is a new community protective behaviours program www.napcan.org.au/Programs/safer-communities-for-children
- Brochure *Domestic and Family Violence Hurts Children Too* www.napcan.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/FINAL-DVbrochure-NATIONAL-1.pdf

Support lines if needed:

- 1800 RESPECT - 1800 737 732
- Lifeline - 131114
- Sexual Assault Helpline - 1800 010 120
- DVConnect Womensline - 1800 811 811
- DVConnect Mensline - 1800 600 636

Related campaigns to join:

- Everybody's Home - www.everybodyshome.com.au
- Raise The Rate - www.raisetherate.org.au
- Family Matters - www.familymatters.org.au
- Every Child - www.everychild.co
- Australia Together - www.australiatogether.org
- Ending Loneliness Together - www.endingloneliness.com.au





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Upcoming Weeks in October:

- Anti-Poverty Week (2021 theme is focused on children) 17 - 23 October
www.antipovertyweek.org.au
- Children's Week 23 - 31 October www.childrensweek.org.au

Include the voices of children in your work:

- For advice about how to include the voices of children in your work contact your State or Territory Children's Commission.
- For ideas about using art to talk to children about their communities, see NAPCAN's Art Activity page www.napcan.org.au/art-activity/ and watch the short video compilation of artworks at www.youtube.com/watch?v=qtudlb0oO9A&t=1s

For more information, contact:

NAPCAN National Stakeholder Manager, Madelene McGrath,
madelene.mcgrath@napcan.org.au.



Thank you for your commitment to ensuring every child in every community has a fair go.





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**WOMEN'S
AND GIRLS'
EMERGENCY
CENTRE**

RESPONDING TO CHILD DISCLOSURES

- 01. RECOGNISE** | when a child's words or behaviours are demonstrating signs of unhealthy relationships and/or domestic and family violence.
- 02. RESPOND** | to disclosures by listening carefully, calmly and in a non-judgmental manner.
- 03. REASSURE** | the child that telling you was the right thing to do and thank them for trusting you.
- 04. RESPECT** | the child's autonomy and be transparent. You will have to let someone know, it is because you want to keep them safe and try and allow choice wherever possible i.e., who would you like to tell, would you like me to be there with you, do you want to let them know now or in a few minutes.
- 05. RECORD** | the disclosure, write down and date the comments and statements made by the child using their exact words. Record any observations about the child's mood or demeanour.
- 06. REFER** | and communicate this information to the Child Protection Helpline or the Child Wellbeing Unit to assist in the assessment and investigation process.
- 07. RECOVER** | by taking care of yourself. Disclosures of violence or trauma is upsetting and after hearing about it you may feel sad, angry, or helpless. Self-care is key.
- 08. RECONNECT** | by continuing to show up for the child or young person in a consistent, calm, non-judgemental way.

