

MEDIA RELEASE

National Child Protection Week 2015



4 September, 2015

This Sunday, Father's Day, marks the start of [National Child Protection Week](#) 2015, which is now in its 25th year, and continues to be one of the most significant events on Australia's child protection calendar.

Francis Sullivan CEO of the Catholic Church Truth Justice and Healing Council said the 2015 campaign highlights the importance of primary prevention to reduce child abuse and neglect in Australia.

"This year's theme, 'Be Someone Who Listens to Children', sends an important message that the safety and wellbeing of Australian children should be at the very forefront of our approaches to protecting children and that listening to children is central.

The Royal Commission has recently released a major research report looking at how children understand and experience safety in institutions.

In the report, [Taking Us Seriously: Children and young people talk about safety and institutional responses to their safety concerns](#), children and young people have identified what institutions should do to help them feel safe and be safe.

"Hearing directly from children is key to understanding how best to prevent and respond to child abuse in its many different forms", Mr Sullivan said.

"Unless we are able to provide environments where the primary focus is on children, their participation is valued, they are safe and their carers are appropriately selected and trusted, then children will continue to be at risk," Mr Sullivan said.

National Child Protection Week is coordinated by NAPCAN (National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) and runs from 6-12 September 2015.

NAPCAN was co-founded in 1987 by Rosemary Sinclair AO and Christine Stewart OAM and has made a major contribution to the safety and wellbeing of Australia's children and young people.

Over more than two decades it has raised public awareness of child abuse and neglect and its impacts, and developed and promoted effective prevention strategies and programs.

Highlight Child Protection Week using the resources listed on the next page.

For Schools

Child Protection Week is an opportunity to discuss and raise awareness about the child protection theme and the policies and preventative strategies in place for child protection in schools.

The links below to a range of resources which may assist to highlight Child Protection Week in a way that is appropriate to the local circumstances of schools through:

- Staff discussion [... and some follow-up]
- Poster/s or pamphlets displayed or distributed (electronic link or paper)
- School SRC involvement
- School assembly
- School Newsletter/Bulletin insert
- Parent information and resources (electronic link or paper)

SOME RESOURCES:

Royal Commission research: [Taking us Seriously, How children understand and experience safety in schools and other institutions](#)

Royal Commission poster: Kids summary version of [Taking us Seriously](#)

Napcan poster: [Be someone who listens to children](#)

Napcan poster: [Ways to support and encourage a child's right to speak and be heard](#)

Napcan pamphlet: [Listening to Children](#)

Napcan pamphlet: [Listening to Young People](#)

Catholic Education Diocese of Wollongong pamphlet: [The Care, Wellbeing and Protection of Children and Young People](#)

Australian Government Office of the eSafety Commissioner: [Education resources](#)

[NSW Advocate for Children and Young People](#)

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The Truth Justice and Healing Council is coordinating the Catholic Church's engagement with the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

For more information on the Truth Justice and Healing Council go to: www.tjhcouncil.org.au

For more information on the Royal Commission go to:
<http://www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/>