

# Research Audit

## 'The 3 Piers' to Prevention: Educate, Empower, Protect

*Solid Foundations to Making Australia the  
Safest Place in the World to Raise a Child.*



**Bravehearts**<sup>inc.</sup>  
Educate Empower Protect  
Our Kids

September 2012

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# Executive Summary

As part of its Vision to ‘Make Australia the Safest Place in the World to Raise a Child’, Bravehearts developed ‘The 3 Piers’ to Prevention Research Audit. The research is a culmination of 15 years intensive research into how to reduce the incidence and ultimately, prevent the occurrence, of child sexual assault.

## ‘The 3 Piers’ to Prevention

**Educate** – All children receive effective personal safety education

**Empower** – All adults are trained, aware and motivated

**Protect** - All systems of community and government engage effectively

‘The 3 Piers’ to Prevention form the solid foundation on which we elaborate specific performance indicators against a set of subjective benchmarks – targets we must reach if we are to effectively protect our children.

We have identified the actions we must take and we have measured the performance of each of Australia’s States and Territories against each other as a first determination of which State is the safest for children. We have then used Australia’s collective result to measure ourselves against our International counterparts in the United States, the United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand.

In doing so, we are now able to determine where in Australia and where in the world, children are the most protected against sexual assault.

Analysis shows that overall; Queensland is currently the top performing State across all 3 Piers, closely followed by New South Wales and Victoria. While New South Wales and South Australia received the highest score for performance in relation to measures for the ‘Educate’ Pier, Victoria and Western Australia performed best against measures on the ‘Empower’ Pier, with Queensland scoring highest on the measures for the ‘Protect’ Pier.

Table 1: Comparative Scores for each Pier by State and Territory

	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Comm (FLC/ UNCROC)	Aust
‘Educate’	59	78	74	59	78	59	63	67		67
‘Empower’	68	67	65	68	67	65	71	71		68
‘Protect’	70	77	73	80	74	71	77	75	54	65
Total	69	75	72	76	73	69	75	74	54	66

The findings from the initial audit were distributed to State and Territory governments in mid June of 2012 with all subsequent feedback now included in this paper. This Audit should however, be considered as a *living document*. We encourage services and government to continue to provide Bravehearts with updates and feedback so we can ensure the accurate representation of the current state-of-play in Australia.

In addition, we acknowledge that the measures have been defined by Bravehearts and are therefore subjective. We remain open to any input that seeks to include, alter or otherwise impact on the measures we have set in such a way as to improve the accuracy, transparency and accountability of the outcome. To provide any feedback on the current measures, please contact Bravehearts through: [research@bravehearts.org.au](mailto:research@bravehearts.org.au).

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# About Bravehearts

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Our **Mission** is to stop child sexual assault in our society.

Our **Vision** is to make Australia the safest place in the world to raise a child.

Our **Guiding Principles** are to at all times, do all things to serve our Mission without fear or favour and without compromise and to continually ensure that the best interests and protection of the child are placed before all other considerations.

Bravehearts has been actively contributing to the provision of child sexual assault services throughout the nation for over 15 years (commencing in 1997). As the first and largest registered charity specifically and holistically dedicated to addressing this issue in Australia, Bravehearts exists to protect Australian children against sexual harm. All activities fall under 'The 3 Piers' and include, though are not limited to:

## **EDUCATE**

- ◆ Early childhood (aged 3-8) 'Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure' primary and pre-school based personal safety programs including cyber-safety;
- ◆ Personal Safety Programs for older children & young people and specific programs aimed at Indigenous children.

## **EMPOWER**

- ◆ Community awareness raising campaigns (Online and Offline) including general media comment and specific campaigns such as our annual national White Balloon Day;
- ◆ Tiered Child sexual assault awareness, support and response training and risk management policy and procedure training and services for all sectors in the community.

## **PROTECT**

- ◆ Specialist advocacy support services for survivors and victims of child sexual assault and their families including a specialist supported child sexual assault 1800 crisis line;
- ◆ Specialist child sexual assault counseling is available to all children, adults and their non-offending family support;
- ◆ Policy and Legislative Reform (Online and Offline) - collaboration with State Government departments and agencies;

Bravehearts Inc. is a National organisation, it is a registered Public Benevolent Institution, registered as a Deductible Gift Recipient, operates under a Board of Management and is assisted by State based Community Regional Committees, Executive Advisory Committees and a Professional Finance Committee.

# Introduction

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Australian government statistics confirm the horrific reality that one in five, (59,000 children each and every year), of our children are sexually assaulted in some way before their eighteenth birthday.

Bravehearts plan is for Australia to reduce this number in half by 2020, that is to prevent 28,000 thousand children from becoming victims of sexual assault and to continue to reduce it thereafter.

The costing associated with achieving this has been completed and shows that with an investment of only \$8million pa and a commitment to work with Bravehearts, the State and Federal Governments can prevent 28,000 Australian children from enduring sexual assault each year and save the taxpayers approx \$5.22 billion pa.

'The 3 Piers' to Prevention is Bravehearts contribution to Outcome Six of Australia's National Framework for the Protection of Australia's Children 2009 - 2020, a Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreed policy.

Successful implementation of 'The 3 Piers' to Prevention will see Australia become the safest place in the world to raise a child by 2020.

There is not a child in this nation that has not already benefited from the tireless work of Bravehearts. Bravehearts has forged a movement for change in how the issue of child sexual assault is dealt with by government, the judiciary and the community at large. Since it's inception in 1997, Bravehearts has moved this taboo subject out of the shadows and into the light.

Bravehearts' work in the areas of specialist therapy, support, education, training, research and legislative reform has made a remarkable, quantifiable and positive difference in protecting everyone's children. Our proven programs are highly effective, our knowledge is unsurpassed and our commitment to achieve our Vision is unbridled.

Bravehearts believes that to provide the best possible protection against child sexual assault in our communities, we need to actively evaluate our approaches to the prevention of this crime.

As part of its Mission to 'Make Australia the Safest Place in the World to Raise a Child', Bravehearts developed 'The 3 Piers' to Prevention approach for the protection against child sexual assault and to provide a basis for assessing how Australia and other countries are progressing in creating child-safe communities.

'The 3 piers' as defined by Bravehearts are:

1. Educate: All children receive effective personal safety education.
2. Empower: All adults are trained, aware and motivated.
3. Protect: All systems of community and government engage effectively.

It is our position that by instituting and implementing this three pronged approach to preventing child sexual assault, we make effective advancement in making Australia the safest place in the world to raise a child. Prevention occurs when:

- a child ceases to become a victim;
- a child uses their skills to avoid being harmed;
- adults believe the disclosures of children and respond accordingly;
- organisations, businesses and individuals change the way they deal with child sexual assault such that the best interests and safety of children become the first priority.

It is intended to be an ongoing project that will provide an overview on how effectively we are responding to the needs of victims and their families and to the need for preventative actions and interventions.

It is Bravehearts certainty that the only way we can successfully respond to this colossal *public health problem of the decade*, is through a *massive societal response* to holistically tackle the issue of child sexual assault, from every angle.

Research over the years has consistently shown that approximately one in five children will be a victim of some form of sexual exploitation before the age of 18. (Finkelhor, 1994; James, 2000; Queensland Crime Commission, 2000; Centre for Disease Control and Prevention, 2006, Mamun, Lawlor, O'Calloghan, Bor, Williams. & Najman, 2007; Price-Robertson, Bromfield and Vassallo, 2010).

In 1997, Dr William Glaser observed that:

*... [Child sexual assault] has accounted for probably more misery and suffering than any of the great plagues of history, including the bubonic plague, tuberculosis and syphilis. Its effects are certainly more devastating and widespread than those of the modern-day epidemics which currently take up so much community attention and resources: motor vehicle accidents, heart disease and, now, AIDS. Yet the public response to child sexual [assault], even now, is fragmented, poorly coordinated and generally ill-informed.*

*Its victims have no National AIDS Council to advise governments on policy and research issues; they have no National Heart Foundation to promote public education as to the risks of smoking and unhealthy lifestyles; they do not have a Transport Accident Commission to provide comprehensive treatment and rehabilitation services for them.*

*A massive public health problem like child sexual [assault] demands a massive societal response. But firstly, we need to acknowledge and understand the problem itself, and this is, sadly enough, a task which both professionals and the community have been reluctant to undertake despite glaringly obvious evidence in front of us.*



# Audit Methodology

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In completing the following audit, we note the issues surrounding inter-jurisdictional comparisons, particularly around definitional differences. However, we believe that it provides a broad picture of how well the nation is faring in protecting our children from sexual exploitation.

Using 'The 3 Piers' as a basis for conducting an audit of programs, services, policies, and legislations, Bravehearts defined a list of indicators and measures to determine how each State and Territory of Australia was performing in relation to protecting children against child sexual assault.

'The 3 Piers' and indicators are:

1. Educate – All children receive effective personal safety education:
  - Personal safety curriculum in schools;
  - Personal safety resources in child care centres;
  - Whole-of-community approach;
  - Cyber-safety Initiatives.
  
2. Empower – All adults are trained, aware and motivated:
  - Specialised professional training – for those who work therapeutically with child sexual assault;
  - Specialised professional training – for those who work with or interact with children;
  - Tailored training – Child protection and foster carers;
  - Tailored training – Medical professionals;
  - Tailored training – Legal professionals;
  - Tailored training – Teaching professionals;
  - General awareness campaigns;
  - Government supported awareness;
  - Social media campaigns.
  
3. Protect – All systems of community and government engage effectively:
  - Specialist counselling for children;
  - Specialist counselling for non-offending family members;
  - Specialist counselling for adult survivors;
  - 24/7 free, specialist crisis/support line;
  - Specialist crisis support, advocacy and information for children;
  - Specialist crisis support, advocacy and information for family;
  - Specialist crisis support, advocacy and information for adult survivors;
  - Specialist counselling for children exhibiting problematic sexualised behaviours (up to 12);
  - Specialist counselling for children exhibiting problematic sexualised behaviours (up to 13-17);

- Support and advice for professionals – Practitioners working therapeutically with children;
- Support and advice for professionals – Those working with children;
- Mandatory reporting requirements;
- Child protection policies;
- ‘Best interest of the child’ principle;
- Inquiries and reviews;
- Specialised research agency;
- Child/victim focussed child protection processes;
- Child/victim focussed criminal justice processes;
- Alternative police reporting options;
- Child/victim focussed sentencing policies;
- Offender management;
- Working with children checks;
- Commissioner/Guardian for children;
- Cyber-safety;
- Family law processes (Commonwealth legislation, assessed separately to State/Territories);
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (Commonwealth responsibility, assessed separately to State/Territories);
- Handling of allegations in religious organisations.

Each indicator was further broken down into measurable criteria (see Appendix A for full list of measurable items).

Ratings (between 0 and 3) were given to each State and Territory of Australia dependent on the level of observation that the jurisdiction had met the criteria.

<b>Ratings:</b>	
<b>0</b>	<b>= Not true (there is no evidence of this indicator/action)</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>= True to some degree (there is some evidence of this indicator/action)</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>= Mostly true (there is reasonable and consistent evidence of this indicator/action)</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>= True (there is extensive and consistent evidence of this indicator/action)</b>

We note that the scales used to assess the States and Territories against each indicator are relatively subjective. In making our assessments, a number of factors were taken into consideration, for example:

- The completeness to which the State or Territory met the measure;
- Geographical size of the State or Territory;
- Geographic spread of the State or Territory;
- Population size (specifically children and young people aged 0-17);
- The size and type of organisation providing a service;
- Capacity and resourcing.

Information was gathered through readily available sources, such as legislation, policy documents, program details, service websites and listings. Information was recorded and collated in a spreadsheet to enable ease of comparison across jurisdictions.

Ratings were tabled against each measurable criterion by State and Territory. To check for reliability, this process was repeated. Scores were then tallied for each pier.

With varying numbers of measurable criteria across 'The 3 Piers' ('Educate' had a total number of 9, 'Empower' had 21, and 'Protect' had 82, see Attachment A), a score of, for example, 18 on one pier would not have the same meaning as a score of 18 on another. To attain a score comparable across all 3 Piers, total ratings out of 100 were given.

For example:

- For the 'Educate' Pier there were a total of 9 measurable criteria across the indicators (see Attachment A).
- Each jurisdiction received a score from 0-3 on each of 9 measurable criteria, meaning that the total possible score for each jurisdiction was 27.
- If State 'A' received a score of 18, to attain a comparable score across all piers State 'A' score would be 67 ( $18/27 * 100$ ).

However if the same State received the same score of 18 on the 'Empower' pier:

- For the 'Empower' Pier there were a total of 21 measurable criteria across the indicators (see Attachment A).
- Each jurisdiction received a score from 0-3 on each of 21 measurable criteria, meaning that the total possible score for each jurisdiction was 63.
- If State 'A' received a score of 18, to attain a comparable score across all piers State 'A' score would be 29 ( $18/63 * 100$ ).

In respect to the methodological approach, we note that a weakness in the current audit is that individual indicators and measures have been treated with equal value. This has been a deliberate approach in this initial paper, as weighting of criteria should be done with caution to assure that they are properly weighted in accordance with the importance of each criterion. In an effort to minimise subjectivity, weighting of individual criteria will be developed with reference to feedback provided on this paper.

The initial results were forwarded to State and Territory governments for feedback in mid June, 2012. Feedback on the scoring was received from a number of States and has been considered in this paper.

We acknowledge that a short timeframe was given for comments, particularly given the extensive number of factors being considered, however, we view this paper as a discussion paper and encourage continued feedback to be provided by both government and non-government agencies.

# Audit Findings

Analysis shows that overall Queensland was the top performing State across all 3 Piers, closely followed by New South Wales and Victoria (for raw scores see Appendix B).

New South Wales and South Australia receiving the highest score for performance in relation to measures for the ‘Educate’ Pier, Victoria and Western Australia equally scored highest on the measures for the ‘Empower’ Pier and Queensland performed best against measures on the ‘Protect’ Pier.

Across all 3 Piers, Australia performed best across the ‘Empower’ Pier.

The score for the measures under the Family Law Processes, adherence to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and handling of allegations by religious organisations (‘Protect’ Pier) were calculated separately to the State and Territory scores as these come under national responsibility.

Table 1: Comparative Scores for each Pier by State and Territory

	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Comm (FLC/ UNCROC)	Aust
‘Educate’	59	78	74	59	78	59	63	67		67
‘Empower’	68	67	65	68	67	65	71	71		68
‘Protect’	70	77	73	80	74	71	77	75	54	65
Total	69	75	72	76	73	69	75	74	54	66

As mentioned previously in this paper, in conducting this audit of programs, legislation, policies and responses across the Australian States and Territories, we note the issues surrounding inter-jurisdictional comparisons, particularly around State and Territory physical demographics. However, taking these into consideration in the overall scoring, we believe these results provide a broad picture of how well the nation is faring in protecting our children from sexual exploitation.

Further explorations of the audit findings are presented below.

**Educate** (*All children receive effective personal safety education*):

Public awareness of the problem of child sexual assault has grown to a point whereby concerns have emphasised the need for widespread preventative programs to be implemented. Accordingly, school-based personal safety programs have emerged increasingly over the last two decades. Bravehearts strongly believes that

one of the best tools we have against child sexual assault is through building resilience in our children. Educating children in personal safety is not about making children and young people responsible for their own safety, but should be focussed on providing children with protective, effective and interactive educations that increases their resiliency and decreases their vulnerability to sexual harm.

- Personal safety curriculum in schools

With the National Safe Schools Framework, there is evidence that all education departments across the country promote personal safety education in their schools. However feedback from schools and the community suggest that the implementation of these programs is in many cases left to teacher discretion. New South Wales and South Australia (followed by the Northern Territory) were found to have the strongest levels of inclusion of material in schools; with well-established, personal safety curriculum actively implemented. In the case of South Australia, there was the strongest evidence that the program has been well-established over a number of years and integrated throughout the school curriculum at all year levels.

- Personal safety resources in child care centres

While there is evidence of the availability of personal safety resources in child care centres across the country, with individual child care providers largely responsible for internal resources there is no coherent implementation of personal safety programs. Bravehearts experience taking its education program to child care centres has demonstrated the desire by many centres to address this issue.

- Whole-of-community approach

There is little evidence that parents are actively engaged in teaching personal safety messages. Nearly all States and Territories noted that this is heavily encouraged within their schools and we recognise the difficulty in ensuring that parent involvement occurs. For personal safety education to have maximum effectiveness, it is desirable that parents be included in the reinforcement of messaging.

External advice and support for those engaged in teaching personal safety is reportedly offered at some level across the country. In their feedback, many jurisdictions noted that this was mainly provided as a component of mandatory reporting training and policy. Contact with teachers and child care workers has indicated that more information on sources of specialised advice is required, with many indicating that they source and seek advice on their own as needed.

**Empower** *(All adults are trained, aware and motivated):*

Bravehearts recognise the incredible importance of general prevention and education in reducing prevalence of child sexual assault in our communities. Research has incontrovertibly found that one of the greatest tools for reducing child sexual assault in our communities is awareness and education. This includes

prevention and awareness programs targeted to adults, with specific training to those who work with children as well as the general community.

- Specialised professional training

There is evidence across the country of limited professional training being available for therapists to some extent, most commonly through professional development. The inclusion of specific training in working with clients who have experienced child sexual assault is still lacking in tertiary courses. Often included as a component of childhood trauma, working in the area of child sexual assault is commonly not covered in-depth. Therapists have indicated the need for more specialised training.

In some States and Territories, there appear to be greater training opportunities through specialised services such as Australian Childhood Foundation, Bravehearts, Child Wise, and the Sexual Assault Resource Centre (Western Australia). With some services (for example, Australian Childhood Foundation, Bravehearts and Child Wise) providing training opportunities across the country.

Specialised training for child protection workers is limited with limited professional development opportunities available in most States and Territories. However, many of these educative opportunities are more broadly focussed and do not provide substantive specific training in child sexual assault. One program that stood out in terms of training in the child protection sector is the new sexualised behaviours online training program for Foster Carers that has been developed in Western Australia. This training program incorporates specific information on child sexual assault including Bravehearts' 'Ditto's Keep Safe Adventure' personal Safety resources.

Specialised training for medical professionals and pharmacists is offered by Bravehearts and the Sexual Assault Resource Centre provides workshops in Western Australia.

While some States reported that child protection was a standard component of training for medical practitioners, our feedback from the profession is that this is generalised training with little specifically targeted around child sexual assault (other than mandatory reporting responsibilities). We have acknowledged the degree of training, but believe that much more work needs to be done in recognising and responding to indicators generally.

With numerous identified issues across the legal system in relation to the prosecution of child sex offenders, the scarcity of specialised training for those in the legal profession on the dynamics and impacts of child sexual assault is an area that needs to be urgently addressed. While, as noted in the response from the ACT, there is evidence of specific training in targeted sectors of the legal system (such as departments of public prosecutions and victim liaison areas), on the whole we are concerned about the lack of understanding of child sexual assault throughout the legal system. Anecdotal evidence and observations of the

criminal, civil and family law areas show that legal professionals, including judges, lack specialised understanding of the dynamics and impacts of child sexual assault on victims.

This becomes a major issue in the system understanding how child sexual assault affects victims, particularly around disclosure and the often complex relationship between victims and offenders.

Specialised training for teachers is reportedly available in all States and Territories. However, in many cases tertiary level training is more broadly focussed on child protection issues. For most States and Territories specialised training around child sexual assault forms an important aspect of mandatory reporting training and further professional development/curriculum training for teachers.

Overall, training across all sectors largely consists of broad child protection education. There are few areas (particularly at university, college levels) that include modules/subject units specifically focussed on child sexual assault. Education tends to cover child abuse and neglect more broadly.

There are a limited number of organisations purportedly providing specialised professional development training. Examples for these opportunities include training workshops by specialised child sexual assault centres, such as Bravehearts, the Ruby Gaea organisation in the Northern Territory and the Sexual Assault Resource Centre who provide training in Western Australia.

- General awareness campaigns

There are concerted efforts to promote awareness and information targeted at the general population. Organisations such as Act for Kids, Advocates for Survivors of Child Abuse, Australian Childhood Foundation, Bravehearts, Child Wise, the Daniel Morcombe Foundation and NAPCAN, are regularly involved in promoting awareness through annual and ad hoc campaigns, but the reach can be limited due to resourcing and funding restrictions. More government support for awareness campaigns is crucial and forms part of the government's responsibility under the National Child Protection Framework.

- Social media campaigns

There are active and ongoing awareness and information campaigns run through social media. Numerous groups, run by organisations (such as Advocates for Survivors of Child Abuse, Australian Communication and Media Authority, Bravehearts, the Daniel Morcombe Foundation, Child Wise, Police and various sexual assault services), are prominent on social media sites.

The potential for these campaigns, particularly in targeting young people with preventative and early intervention messages, could be greater with more concerted effort backed by government to strengthen their impact (as evidenced by the success of online bullying campaigns).

**Protect** *(All systems of community and government engage effectively):*

Protecting children and young people would not be possible without strong, specialised services that provide direct counselling, support and a voice for children, young people and their families, as well as to adult survivors.

An integral component of an effective effort to protect children and young people against child sexual assault must include the availability of effective, affordable service delivery, as well as legislative and policy development and reform that place the protection of children and young people at the forefront.

- **Specialist counselling**

There are specialist counselling services for children, family members and adult survivors in all States and Territories, with many located within broader sexual assault services. Feedback from some jurisdictions indicated that the belief was that scores for availability of specialist counselling services should have been a 3; however, while all States and Territories do have existing specialist services and there are independent psychologists and therapists who specialise with child trauma, the provision of specialist therapeutic services is negatively impacted upon by lack of funding and resourcing, waiting lists and accessibility. Feedback from the sector and those seeking counselling, across the country, suggests that more work is necessary to ensure the adequate resourcing of services.

In addition, with the geographical size and spread of many jurisdictions, it was commonly found that rural and remote areas did not have access to specialist face to face services, although limited telephone options exist in all areas.

All jurisdictions reported the need for more specialised training for therapists, particularly ongoing professional development training.

- **24/7 free, specialist crisis/support line**

There are free 24/7 crisis support lines, nationally (RESPECT) and some state-based 24/7 sexual assault crisis/support lines, as well as crisis/support lines directed at children and young people (KidsHelpLine). There are others including Bravehearts who offer a Crisis support line (1800 Brave 1) during Business hours. However, there is a need for a national 24/7 specialised crisis/support line for child sexual assault matters, with staff trained specifically in the area of providing crisis support, information and referral.

- **Specialist crisis support, advocacy and information**

There are specialist crisis support, advocacy and information for children, young people and adult survivors, as well as family members in all States and Territories, although as with counselling services, many are located within broader sexual assault services. With the geographical size and spread of most jurisdictions, many rural and remote areas do not have access to face to face services, although telephone options exist in most areas.



Within these support services there are specifically trained counsellors and support workers, however all jurisdictions reported the need for more specialised training, particularly ongoing professional development training.

- Specialist counselling for children exhibiting problematic sexualised behaviour (up to 12)

Although this a relatively new area of focus, there are limited specialist counselling programs for children exhibiting problematic sexualised behaviours (aged up to 12) in all States and Territories. With the geographical size and spread of some jurisdictions, many rural and remote areas do not have access to face to face services.

Trained and experienced professionals do exists across the country, however, this is still a relatively new area and those working in the sector acknowledge that focussed specialised training for professionals is needed.

- Specialist counselling for children exhibiting problematic sexualised behaviour (aged 13-17)

There are limited specialist counselling programs for children exhibiting problematic sexualised behaviours (aged 13-17) in all States and Territories. With the geographical size and spread of most jurisdictions, many rural and remote areas do not have access to face to face services.

It is acknowledged that this area of problematic sexualised behaviours can be more difficult to work with, as the young people displaying the behaviours are over the age of criminal responsibility and the behaviours of this older group can be more predatory than the behaviours of younger children. Trained and experienced professionals do exist across the country, however, this is still a relatively new area and those working in the sector acknowledge that focussed specialised training for professionals is needed.

- Support and advice for practitioners and professionals

There is evidence across the country of limited support and advice available for therapists and other professionals working with children – mostly from a small number of agencies that provides this on a national level including Bravehearts. More resourcing and funding is needed to provide specialised services that can provide targeted advice, support and referral.

Knowledge amongst the sectors about the currently available specialist support and advice services is lacking. There is a clear need to promote services to therapeutic practitioners and professionals.

- Mandatory reporting requirements

All States and Territories include mandatory reporting requirements for teachers and childcare workers, as well as various other professions (*information primarily sourced from the Australian Institute of Family Studies publication, 'Mandatory Reporting of Child Abuse and Neglect', June 2012*). Not all jurisdictions included

mandatory reporting for all child-focused sectors in legislation, however where gaps in legislative requirements exist, there is evidence of policy driven requirements.

There is variation in the types of harms that must be reported or what must be reported (for example, terms such as 'reasonable suspicion', 'reasonable grounds to believe' or 'awareness' of harm).

For all jurisdictions there is evidence of training in mandatory reporting obligations and procedures for those working in child related sectors such as education and child care, as well as medical practitioners.

Consistency across the country appears to be increasing; however work still needs to be done to ensure that there is a consistent and transparent process across the country.

- Child protection policies

Across the country there is evidence of the requirement for schools and child care centres to have written child protection policies that outline the responsibilities and processes in relation to child protection issues.

Consistency appears to be increasing, however work still needs to be done to ensure that there is a consistent and transparent process across the country. In many cases, it is up to the individual provider to establish policies and procedures within their organisation.

In addition, in some jurisdictions there are legislative requirements to provide protective, child-safe focussed services. For example, in Queensland, the Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian requires that all employers and businesses regulated by the *Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000* develop and implement child protection policies and risk management strategies to identify and minimise the risk of harm to children and young people who come into contact with the service. This type of approach should be implemented across the country.

- 'Best Interests of the Child' principle

While child protection legislation and many education acts, as well as the Commonwealth Family Law Act explicitly espouse the best interests of the child and there is evidence of the principle in other forms of legislation, we would like to see a blanket statement in all relevant legislation that assures that the best interest of the child is held paramount (such as in penalties and sentencing legislation and legislation aimed at offender management and reporting legislation). As an example, the Australian Capital Territory reports that the recent *Crimes (Child Sex Offenders) Amendment Act 2012* is informed by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

All States and Territories are signatories to COAG's National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020, aimed at ensuring legislative and government responses are focused on interests of the child. While there has been some evidence of the jurisdictions actively implementing the recommendations, it is apparent that, in relation to this current paper, much work still needs to be achieved under Outcome 6 (*Child sexual [assault] and exploitation is prevented and survivors receive adequate support*).

- Inquiries and reviews

All States and Territories, as well as the Federal Government, have held inquiries and reviews over past decades into various aspects of child protection and more specifically into responses to child sexual assault. In all cases, most recommendations are said to have been implemented. Bravehearts notes that additional child sexual assault related Inquiries are also currently underway (for example, Queensland's *Child protection Inquiry*, and the current *Inquiry into Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and Other Non-Government Organisations* in Victoria).

- Specialised research agency

There are agencies and researchers in all States and Territories that conduct research and lobbying in the area of child protection at varying levels, with many focussing projects on the area of child sexual assault. Much more research needs to be done in Australia to understand the prevalence, incidence and realities of child sexual assault in Australia. A more focussed research program would help inform effective policy and legislative response.

- Child/victim focussed child protection processes

All States and Territories have a dedicated statutory department for child protection. However, in recognition of the complexity of the impacts of child sexual assault on the child/young person, the family and on adult survivors, there is a need to ensure a whole-of-government approach to child protection. As an example of this approach; after the 2004 *Protecting Children* Inquiry in Queensland, a child safety directors network was established made up of child safety directors from each government department. The Australian Capital Territory reports a similar approach with meetings of all Directors General overseeing the progress of the *Sharing Responsibility: A Framework for Service Collaboration for the Care, Protection and Wellbeing of Children and Young People in the ACT*.

External oversight of child protection authorities exist across the country, mainly in form of an Ombudsman and in many jurisdictions, the Children's Commissioner or Guardian also undertake this role (for example, the Commissioner for Children and Young People and Child Guardian in Queensland).

In most States and Territories there is evidence of clear coordination between government and non-government, specifically in relation to funded agencies. Gaps in service delivery, funding and resourcing and service awareness in some

States and Territories are demonstrative of the need for a more coordinated response.

- Child/victim focussed criminal justice processes

While specialised investigatory units are evident across all jurisdictions, other criminal justice processes need more work. 'Strong' legislative protection for child and vulnerable witnesses exists in some States and Territories, where legislations explicitly protect child witnesses.

There are no specialist courts dealing with child sexual assault, although it is acknowledged that the Family Law Court does have specialised processes where matters of child sexual harm are reported in family law matters and specialised processes are in place where the child sexual assault matter is being investigated by statutory child protection authorities.

Only two States currently have an Abducted Child Notification System (Amber Alerts) in place to assist with locating missing children and young people. Other jurisdictions do however report a system of strong communication between the policing body and the media.

- Alternative police reporting options

Reporting options need to be in place that assist in overcoming the very real barriers to disclosures of child sexual assault and encourage adult victims to break the silence. Alternatives to traditional reporting processes, where victims contact police, are needed, examples of which are in place in Queensland, Tasmania and New South Wales.

Bravehearts Sexual Assault Disclosure Scheme (SADS) is adopted as policy by Police services in Queensland, Tasmania and New South Wales. The program is also unofficially available in other States and Territories, with continued efforts to formalise this process. In addition, in Queensland and New South Wales, police operated alternative reporting schemes based on the SADS are also available (ARO and SARO).

A vital component of all of these disclosure schemes is the option for victims to remain anonymous while still providing an official disclosure and then be provided the opportunity to come forward to police when they are ready.

- Child/victim focussed sentencing policies

Versions of sentencing and legal advisory councils operate in all States and Territories, with many having held specific review activities in relation to child sexual assault matters.

Conviction and subsequent imprisonment rates are low (not exceeding 75%) across all jurisdictions, with only a small number of offence types resulting in custodial sentences. While we recognise the issues that are taken into consideration when sentencing offenders, we believe that in relation to adult

offenders, a custodial component is an important aspect to the sentencing principles in relation to child sex offences to ensure justice for victims and to ensure that the offence is treated with due seriousness.

Minimum standard non-parole periods are in place, in differing formats in a number of States and Territories, with Queensland set to introduce standard non-parole periods. We recognise the debate around the introduction of this type of legislation and acknowledge that some jurisdictions do not support this approach.

A similar debate is ongoing in a number of jurisdictions in relation to continued detention legislation. Five jurisdictions currently have enacted legislation to allow for an application to continually detain sex offenders, who are deemed an unacceptable risk of reoffending, if released.

In 2012, the Queensland Government introduced a Two Strikes approach to sentencing of child sex offenders. In this case repeat child sex offenders convicted for a second and subsequent time of one of a selected groups of serious child sex offences (each of which carry a max life sentence), would attract a mandatory life sentence with a minimum term of 20 years. Bravehearts believes a similar approach in all jurisdictions is needed to provide protection for children and young people against known, repeat, dangerous offenders.

- Offender management

All jurisdictions have sex offender treatment programs for incarcerated offenders. There is some consistency across these programs. Acknowledging the debate on the benefit of compulsory programs, we note that participation in treatment is not mandatory in any jurisdiction.

Limited community-based sex offender treatment for sex offenders, is available in all jurisdictions, but is generally provided by private practitioners. The need for concerted, specialised programs is vital for all jurisdictions and is a gap that has been widely recognised by governments across the country but is yet to be addressed.

Electronic monitoring of child sex offenders occurs across jurisdictions at various levels either as a sentencing option (for example as part of home detention) or as part of parole. We note that South Australia is currently debating its introduction.

While minimum forms of community notification schemes for released child sex offenders exist in all jurisdictions (at the discretion of the authorities), Western Australia has recently introduced a more formal and substantial restricted community notification scheme. While we recognise the unintended consequences of going down the similar path of broad community notification laws in the United States, we do support, in the event dangerous prisoners are released back into the community, restricted community notification of dangerous, repeat sex offenders, similar to the legislation passed in Western Australia.

While there are mental health units for incarcerated offenders across jurisdictions, Australia is yet to introduce separate, specialised mental health facilities, based on the Californian 'Coalinga' model, for convicted child sex offenders.

- Working with children checks

Working with children checks or criminal history checks, are mandatory in all States and Territories at various levels and for different occupations. However identified gaps still exist, for example in seasonal jobs (such as store Santa Clause, workers in theme parks, and parents who volunteer). In their provided feedback, Tasmania noted that there is a commitment within the Department of Education for mandatory checks for all people who work in schools and child care facilities, with the State government working towards the introduction of a working with children check.

Queensland and Northern Territory checks appear to be the most thorough.

- Commissioner/Guardian for children

All States and Territories have a Children's Commissioner or Guardian. The core functions across the jurisdictions vary slightly, with various levels of responsibilities for child protection issues.

- Cyber-safety

All jurisdictions have information and awareness programs targeted to cyber-safety; however these are heavily focussed on cyber-bullying. Much more effort, both in programs and legislative provisions, needs to be made in relation to risks around sexual behaviours, grooming and exposure on-line.

- Family law

Scores for this section of the 'Protect' Pier have been calculated separately as Family Law is a Commonwealth responsibility.

Family Court processes for making determinations where allegations of child sexual assault have been made are crucially inadequate.

There are many gaps in relation to family law and responding to child sexual assault concerns and disclosures. Although legislation is informed by the 'best interests of the child' principle, there is little evidence of this being enforced. Matters are continually being brought to our attention where the right for children and young people to be heard in matters relating to them (as defined under Article 9 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) is being undermined by the court processes.

More coordination between State child protection authorities and the Family Law Court is essential for the improvement of the process.

Consistently we are advised of matters where the State child protection body will not intervene as the matter is in the Family Court and the Family Court struggles to make a determination in relation to allegations raised as the child protection authority has not acted.

Additionally, concerns about the need for report writers to have specialist training in child sexual assault matters is evident. Numerous matters have been brought to our attention where report writers have either not met with the child or where their submitted reports clearly indicate a lack of understanding of the dynamics of child sex offending, in particular grooming, silence and secrecy.

While processes have been implemented with the intention of 'fast tracking' matters where there are allegations of sexual harm and risk, matters are still typically drawn out. Understanding that it is essential that these allegations are dealt with thoroughly, it is concerning when in many cases a child is left in risk of harm while the matter is being resolved.

Where matters have involved allegations of sexual harm, it is our position that as a routine matter of course, all relevant child protection or police files should be automatically subpoenaed by the Court to assist in the determination.

- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

Scores for this section of the 'Protect' Pier have been calculated separately as responsibilities under United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child are a Commonwealth responsibility. It was noted by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, that some gaps exist in Australia adhering to its obligations under the UNCROC (Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2012, *Consideration of reports submitted by States parties under Article 44 of the Convention: Concluding observations: Australia*).

Specifically in relation to this current paper, is that Australia does not yet have a National Commissioner for Children. We note and have reflected in our scoring, that this position has been established. It is anticipated that the National Commissioner for Children will hold the responsibility for the coordination of the implementation of our obligations under UNCROC. We have tentatively scored this measure with a 1, but anticipate an increase in this score when the responsibilities of the National Commissioner are clarified.

In addition, it is noted that Australia still has not established a national child right's act, although the Committee on the Rights of the Child have recognised that two States have passed such legislation (Committee on the Rights of the Child, 2012).

- Handling of Allegations in Religious Organisations

Scores for this section of the 'Protect' Pier have been calculated separately as responsibilities for the issues covered do not occur at a State level.

We firstly acknowledge the difficulty in placing all religious organisations into the same measure however we also note similar issues exist across many religious (and other) organisations in relation to how they handle(d) allegations of child sexual assault.

We believe there needs to be a greater concerted effort across all religious organisations to ensure that:

- (a) the process is victim-focussed;
- (b) matters are not dealt with internally, but that allegations are immediately passed on for investigation by the authorities either directly or via an alternative reporting option (ie Bravehearts SADS); and
- (c) any alleged offender is removed from contact with any children or young people while an external investigation takes place.



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# Appendix A: Measurables

<b>1. Educate (All children receive effective personal safety education)</b>	
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Measure</b>
<b>Personal safety curriculum in schools</b>	Is personal safety taught at all year levels (prep-12) in all schools including non-govt?
	Is it mandatory?
	Does it include a holistic approach?
	Are personal safety messages reinforced/integrated throughout curriculum?
	Does the material include resources for Indigenous, NESB and special education students?
<b>Personal safety resources in childcare</b>	Are there personal resources available for childcare centres?
	Is it mandatory?
<b>Whole of community approach</b>	Are parents engaged with teaching personal safety messages?
	Do teachers/child carers/parents/carers have access to external advice/support?

<b>2. Empower (All adults are trained, aware and motivated)</b>	
<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Measure</b>
<b>Specialised Professional Training – for those who work therapeutically with child sexual assault</b>	Is there professional development training on child sexual assault for therapists?
	Is the training available in flexible delivery modes?
	Is the program Accredited by Professional Bodies?
<b>Specialised Professional Training – for those who work with children</b>	Is there professional development training on child sexual assault for people working with children?
	Is the training available in flexible delivery modes?
	Is the program Accredited by Professional Bodies?
<b>Tailored Training – Child Protection and Foster Carers</b>	Is there training on child sexual assault for child protection workers and foster carers?
	Is the training available in flexible delivery modes?
	Is the program Accredited by Professional Bodies?
<b>Tailored Training – Medical Professionals and pharmacists</b>	Is there training on child sexual assault for medical professionals and pharmacists?
	Is the training available in flexible delivery modes?
	Is the program Accredited by Professional Bodies?
<b>Tailored Training – Legal Professionals</b>	Is there training on child sexual assault for legal professionals?
	Is the training available in flexible delivery modes?
	Is the program Accredited by Professional Bodies?
<b>Tailored Training – Teachers</b>	Is there professional development training on child sexual assault included in tertiary education?

	Is the training available in flexible delivery modes?
	Is the program Accredited by Professional Bodies?
	Are there ongoing professional development opportunities?
<b>General awareness campaigns</b>	Are there ongoing, broad-level awareness campaigns targeted at the general population, highlighting realities of issue and everyone's role in child protection?
<b>Social media campaigns</b>	Are there concerted social media campaigns highlighting realities of issue and everyone's role in child protection?

**3. Protect (All systems of community and government engage effectively)**

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Measure</b>
<b>Specialist Counselling For Children</b>	Is there specialist counselling available?
	Is the counselling available in flexible delivery modes?
	Is the counselling affordable?
	Are there trained professionals in the geographical area?
<b>Specialist Counselling for non offending family members</b>	Is there specialist counselling available?
	Is the counselling available in flexible delivery modes?
	Is the counselling affordable?
	Are there trained professionals in the geographical area?
<b>Specialist Counselling for adult survivors</b>	Is there specialist counselling available?
	Is the counselling available in flexible delivery modes?
	Is the counselling affordable?
	Are there trained professionals in the geographical area?
<b>24/7 free, specialist crisis/support line</b>	Is there a 24/7, free, specialist crisis support line?
<b>Specialist Crisis Support, Advocacy and Information for Children</b>	Is there specialist support, advocacy and information available?
	Is the support, advocacy and information available in flexible delivery modes?
	Is the support, advocacy and information affordable?
	Are there trained professionals in the geographical area?
<b>Specialist Crisis Support, Advocacy and Information for family members</b>	Is there specialist support, advocacy and information available?
	Is the support, advocacy and information available in flexible delivery modes?
	Is the support, advocacy and information affordable?
	Are there trained professionals in the geographical area?
<b>Specialist Crisis Support, Advocacy and Information for</b>	Is there specialist support, advocacy and information available?

<b>adult survivors</b>	Is the support, advocacy and information available in flexible delivery modes?
	Is the support, advocacy and information affordable?
	Are there trained professionals in the geographical area?
<b>Specialist Counselling For Children exhibiting problematic sexualised behaviours (up to age 12)</b>	Is there specialist counselling available?
	Is the counselling affordable?
	Are there trained professionals in the geographical area?
<b>Specialist Counselling for young offenders (13-17)</b>	Is there specialist counselling available?
	Is the counselling affordable?
	Are there trained professionals in the geographical area?
<b>Support and Advice for Professionals – Practitioners working therapeutically with children</b>	Is support and advice available?
	Is support and advice available flexible delivery modes?
	Is support and advice affordable?
<b>Support and Advice for Professionals – those working with children (e.g. Teachers)</b>	Is support and advice available?
	Is support and advice available flexible delivery modes?
	Is support and advice affordable?
<b>Mandatory reporting requirements</b>	Are all teachers’ legislated mandatory reporters?
	Does reporting include all forms of harm/alleged offenders?
	Are all child care workers mandatory reporters?
	Does reporting include all forms of harm/alleged offenders?
<b>Child protection policies</b>	Are all schools required to have child protection policies?
	Are all child care centres required to have child protection policies?
<b>‘Best interests of the child’</b>	Is all relevant legislation is informed by the ‘best interests of the child’?
	Is the State a signatory to the ‘National Framework for Protecting Australia’s Children’?
	Is there evidence that the State is actively implementing recommendations of the National Framework?
<b>Inquiries and reviews</b>	Have there been external inquiries or reviews into the issue of child protection within the last 10 years?
	Have the recommendations been implemented?
<b>Specialised research agency</b>	Is there an active agency conducting research on issues of child sexual assault?
	Is there an active agency lobbying on issues of child sexual assault?
<b>Child/victim-focussed child protection processes</b>	Is there a clearly identified department charged with child protection?
	Is there a whole-of-government approach to child protection?

	Is there an external, independent oversight body providing for transparency and dealing with concerns?
	Is there evidence of a clear coordination/partnership between the state child protection authority and non-government organisations?
<b>Child/victim-focussed criminal justice process</b>	Is there a dedicated, specialised policing unit investigating child sexual offences?
	Is there specialised court process in place minimising further trauma on child witnesses?
	Is there a special court dealing specifically with sexual assault matters?
	Is there an Amber Alert system for locating children and young people who have gone missing?
<b>Alternative police reporting options</b>	Are there alternative options for reporting historical assault to police?
<b>Child/victim-focussed sentencing policies</b>	Is there a sentencing advisory council and legal advisory council providing advice to and reviewing sentencing practices?
	Has this body actively focused on sentencing practices relating to child sexual assault?
	Is the rate of convictions of individuals charged with child sexual assault above 75%?
	Is the rate of imprisonment of individuals convicted with child sexual assault above 75%?
	Are there minimum standard non-parole periods in place?
	Is there provision for continued detention of dangerous sex offenders?
	Is there a 'two strikes' legislation in place?
<b>Offender management</b>	Are there specialised sex offender treatment programs for offenders in prison?
	Are these programs compulsory?
	Are there specialised community-based sex offender treatment programs for offenders?
	Are there provisions allowing for the electronic/gps monitoring of sex offenders?
	Are there provisions allowing for the electronic/gps monitoring of released sex offenders?
	Are sex offenders placed on a register?
	Is there restricted notification of sex offenders released to the community?
	Are polygraphs utilised as part of the monitoring of sex offenders?

	Are there separate mental health units/centres (Coalinga model) for sex offenders?
<b>Working with children checks</b>	Are there mandatory working with children checks for <u>all</u> people who work with or volunteer with children?
	Does the working with children check include consideration of convictions, charges, internal reviews (e.g. teacher registration boards etc)?
	Does the working with children check include checks with external jurisdictions?
<b>Commissioner/Guardian for children</b>	Is there a Commissioner/Guardian for Children?
	Do the Commissioner/Guardian's core functions include: broad responsibilities for child protection issues, including independent oversight of all matters relating to children?
<b>Cyber-safety</b>	Is there a concerted State-wide effort on cyber-safety?
	Are there adequate provisions in law addressing cyber-safety concerns?
<b>Family law</b>	Is the family law legislation informed by the 'best interests of the child'?
	Is there evidence that in the majority (over 90%) of matters, the principle of 'best interest of the child' is enforced?
	Are there clear process for the intersection of state-based child protection authorities and the federal family law system?
	Is there a requirement that in matters involving allegations of child sexual assault, all expert witnesses/report writers must have specialist and experience working in the area of child sexual assault?
	Are matters involving allegations of child sexual assault expedited through the family law court system?
	Are there provisions for the routine/mandated subpoena of any relevant child protection or police files?
<b>United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child</b>	Is Australia a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child?
	Has Australia complied with measures under the UNCROC?
	Does Australia have a National Commissioner for Children?
	Is there a national body coordinating implementation of UNCROC?
	Is there a national child's rights Act
<b>Handling of allegations in religious organisations</b>	Is there a concerted effort by religious organisations to respond appropriately to allegations of child sexual assault?
	Do religious organisations place the best interests of children/victims above all else?



# Appendix B: Raw Scores



**Ratings:**  
**0 = Not true (there is no evidence of this indicator/action)**  
**1 = True to some degree (there is some evidence of this indicator/action)**  
**2 = Mostly true (there is reasonable and consistent evidence of this indicator/action)**  
**3 = Definitely true (there is extensive and consistent evidence of this indicator/action)**

1. Educate (All children receive effective personal safety education)									
Indicator	Measure	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA
Personal safety curriculum in schools	Is personal safety taught at all year levels (prep-12) in all schools including non-govt?	2	3	3	2	3	2	2	2
	Is it mandatory?	3	3	2	2	3	2	2	2
	Does it include a holistic approach?	1	3	3	2	3	2	2	2
	Are personal safety messages reinforced/integrated throughout curriculum?	2	2	2	2	3	2	2	2
	Does the material include resources for Indigenous, NESB and special education students?	2	3	3	2	2	2	2	3
Personal safety resources in childcare	Are there personal resources available for childcare centres?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Is it mandatory?	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Whole of community approach	Are parents engaged with teaching personal safety messages?	1	2	2	1	2	1	2	2
	Do teachers/child carers/parents/carers have access to external advice/support?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
<b>Total scores for 'Educate' Pier</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>



<b>2. Empower (All adults are trained, aware and motivated)</b>									
Indicator	Measure	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA
Specialised Professional Training – for those who work therapeutically with child sexual assault	Is there professional development training on child sexual assault for therapists?	3	2	2	3	3	2	3	2
	Is the training available in flexible delivery modes?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Is the program Accredited by Professional Bodies?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Specialised Professional Training – for those who work with children	Is there professional development training on child sexual assault for people working with children?	2	3	2	3	2	2	3	3
	Is the training available in flexible delivery modes?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Is the program Accredited by Professional Bodies?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Tailored Training – Child Protection and Foster Carers	Is there training on child sexual assault for child protection workers and foster carers?	3	2	2	2	2	2	3	3
	Is the training available in flexible delivery modes?	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	3
	Is the program Accredited by Professional Bodies?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Tailored Training – Medical Professionals and Pharmacists	Is there training on child sexual assault for medical professionals and pharmacists?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
	Is the training available in flexible delivery modes?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Is the program Accredited by Professional Bodies?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Tailored Training – Legal Professionals	Is there training on child sexual assault for legal professionals?	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Is the training available in flexible delivery modes?	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Is the program Accredited by Professional Bodies?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Tailored Training – Teachers	Is there professional development training on child sexual assault included in tertiary education?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Is the training available in flexible delivery modes?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Is the program Accredited by Professional Bodies?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Are there ongoing professional development opportunities?	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
General awareness campaigns	Are there ongoing, broad-level awareness campaigns targeted at the general population, highlighting realities of issue and everyone’s role in child protection?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Social media campaigns	Are there concerted social media campaigns highlighting realities of issue and everyone’s role in child protection?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
<b>Total scores for ‘Empower’ Pier</b>		<b>43</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>

<b>3. Protect (All systems of community and government engage effectively)</b>									
Indicator	Measure	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA
Specialist Counselling For Children	Is there specialist counselling available?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Is the counselling available in flexible delivery modes?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Is the counselling affordable?	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Are there trained professionals in the geographical area?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Specialist Counselling for non offending family members	Is there specialist counselling available?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Is the counselling available in flexible delivery modes?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Is the counselling affordable?	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Are there trained professionals in the geographical area?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Specialist Counselling for adult survivors	Is there specialist counselling available?	2	2	2	2	2	2	3	2
	Is the counselling available in flexible delivery modes?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Is the counselling affordable?	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Are there trained professionals in the geographical area?	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
24/7 free, specialist crisis/support line	Is there a 24/7, free, specialist crisis support line?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Specialist Crisis Support, Advocacy and Information For Children	Is there specialist support, advocacy and information available?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Is the support, advocacy and information available in flexible delivery modes?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Is the support, advocacy and information affordable?	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Are there trained professionals in the geographical area?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Specialist Crisis Support, Advocacy and Information for family members	Is there specialist support, advocacy and information available?	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	2
	Is the support, advocacy and information available in flexible delivery modes?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Is the support, advocacy and information affordable?	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Are there trained professionals in the geographical area?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Specialist Crisis Support, Advocacy and Information for adult survivors	Is there specialist support, advocacy and information available?	2	2	2	3	2	2	3	2
	Is the support, advocacy and information available in flexible delivery modes?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Is the support, advocacy and information affordable?	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Are there trained professionals in the geographical area?	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Specialist Counselling For	Is there specialist counselling available?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

Children exhibiting problem sexual behaviour (up to age 12)	Is the counselling affordable?	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Are there trained professionals in the geographical area?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Specialist Counselling for young offenders (13-17)	Is there specialist counselling available?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Is the counselling affordable?	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Are there trained professionals in the geographical area?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Support and Advice for Professionals – Practitioners working therapeutically	Is support and advice available?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Is support and advice available flexible delivery modes?	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Is support and advice affordable?	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Support and Advice for Professionals – those working with children (e.g. Teachers)	Is support and advice available?	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	2
	Is support and advice available flexible delivery modes?	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Is support and advice affordable?	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Mandatory reporting requirements	Are all teachers legislated mandatory reporters?	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Does reporting include all forms of harm/alleged offenders?	2	2	2	3	2	3	3	3
	Are all child care workers mandatory reporters?	2	2	3	2	3	3	2	3
	Does reporting include all forms of harm/alleged offenders?	2	2	2	3	2	3	3	2
Child protection policies	Are all schools required to have child protection policies?	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Are all child care centres required to have child protection policies?	2	2	2	3	2	3	3	2
'Best interest of the child'	Is all relevant legislation informed by the 'best interests of the child'?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Is the State a signatory to the "National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children"?	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Is there evidence that the State is actively implementing recommendations under Outcome 6 of the National Framework?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Inquiries and reviews	Have there been external inquiries or reviews into the issue of child protection within the last 10 years?	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Have the recommendations been implemented?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Specialised research agency	Is there an active agency conducting research on issues of child sexual assault?	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Is there an active agency lobbying on issues of child sexual assault?	2	3	2	3	3	2	3	3

Child/victim-focussed child protection processes	Is there a clearly identified department charged with child protection?	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Is there an whole of government approach to child protection?	3	3	2	3	2	2	2	2
	Is there an external, independent oversight body providing for transparency and dealing with concerns?	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Is there evidence of a clear coordination/partnership between the state child protection authority and non-government organisations?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Child/victim-focussed criminal justice process	Is there a dedicated, specialised policing unit investigating child sexual offences?	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Is there specialised court process in place minimising further trauma on child witnesses?	3	3	3	3	3	3	2	2
	Is there a special court dealing specifically with sexual assault matters?	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Is there an amber alert system for locating children and young people who have gone missing?	1	3	1	3	1	1	1	1
Alternative police reporting options	Are there alternative options for reporting historical abuse to police?	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	2
Child/victim-focussed sentencing policies	Is there a sentencing advisory council and legal advisory council providing advice to and reviewing sentencing practices?	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Has this body actively focused on sentencing practices relating to child sexual assault?	1	3	1	2	1	2	3	1
	Is the rate of convictions of individuals charged with child sexual assault above 75%?	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Is the rate of imprisonment of individuals convicted with child sexual assault above 75%?	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
	Are there minimum standard non-parole periods in place?	0	3	2	1	2	0	0	0
	Is there provision for continued detention of dangerous sex offenders?	0	3	0	3	3	0	3	3
	Is there a two strikes legislation in place?	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0
Offender management	Are there specialised sex offender treatment programs for offenders in prison?	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Are these programs compulsory?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Are there specialised community-based sex offender treatment programs for offenders?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Are there provisions allowing for the electronic/gps monitoring of sex offenders?	3	3	3	3	3	1	3	3
	Are there provisions allowing for the electronic/gps monitoring of released sex offenders?	0	3	2	3	2	0	3	3
	Are sex offenders placed on a register?	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Is there restricted notification of sex offenders released to the community?	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
	Are polygraphs utilised as part of the monitoring of sex offenders?	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Are there separate mental health units/centres (Coalinga model) for sex offenders?	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Working with children checks	Are there mandatory working with children checks for <u>all</u> people who work with or volunteer with children?	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
	Does the working with children check include consideration of convictions, charges, internal reviews (e.g. teacher registration boards etc)?	2	2	3	3	2	1	2	2
	Does the working with children check include checks with external jurisdictions?	2	2	2	2	2	1	2	2
Commissioner/Guardian for children	Is there a Commissioner/Guardian for Children?	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Does the Commissioner/Guardian's core functions include broad responsibilities for child protection issues, including independent oversight of all matters relating to children?	3	2	3	3	2	2	3	3
Cyber-safety	Is there a concerted State-wide effort on cyber-safety?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
	Are there adequate provisions in law addressing cyber-safety concerns?	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
<b>Total scores for 'Protect' Pier</b>		<b>173</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>189</b>	<b>184</b>
		Fed							
Family law	Is the family law legislation informed by the 'best interests of the child'?	2							
	Is there evidence that in the majority (over 90%) of matters the principle of 'best interest of the child' is enforced?	1							

	Are there clear process for the intersection of state-based child protection authorities and the federal family law system?	1
	Is there a requirement that in matters involving allegations of child sexual assault, all expert witnesses/report writers must have specialist and experience working in the area of child sexual assault?	2
	Are matters involving allegations of child sexual assault expedited through the family law court system?	2
	Are there provisions for the routine/mandated subpoena of any relevant child protection or police files?	1
United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child	Is Australia a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child?	3
	Has Australia complied with measures under the UNCROC?	2
	Does Australia have a National Commissioner for Children?	3
	Is there a national body coordinating implementation of UNCROC?	1
	Is there a national child's rights Act	1
Handling of allegations in religious organisations	Is there a concerted effort by religious organisations to respond appropriately to allegations of child sexual assault?	1
	Do religious organisations place the best interests of children/victims above all else?	1
<b>Total additional scores for 'Protect' Pier</b>		<b>21</b>

**Total Raw scores for each pier by State and Territory**

	ACT	NSW	NT	Qld	SA	Tas	Vic	WA	Comm. (FLC/ UNCROC)	<i>Aust</i>
'Educate'	16	21	20	16	21	16	17	18		145
'Empower'	43	42	41	43	42	41	45	45		342
'Protect'	173	189	180	196	183	174	189	184	21	1489
Total	232	252	241	255	246	231	251	247		1976