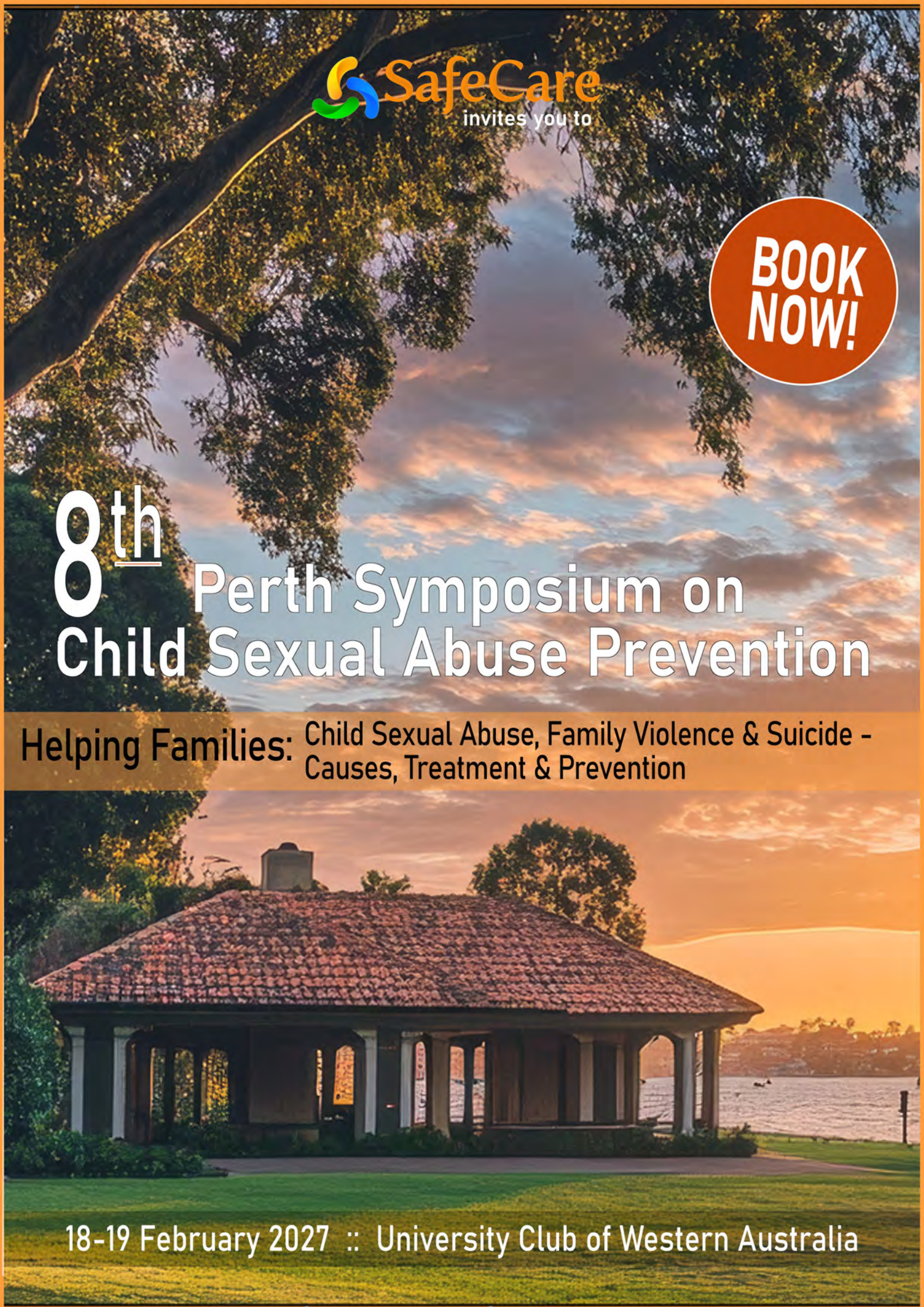

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8th Perth Symposium on Child Sexual Abuse Prevention
Helping Families: Child Sexual Abuse, Family Violence & Suicide - Causes, Treatment & Prevention
18-19 February 2027 :: University Club of Western Australia

8th Perth Symposium on Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

YOU ARE INVITED to the *8th Perth Symposium on Child Sexual Abuse Prevention*. The Symposium focusses on prevention of child sexual abuse (CSA) as the key to preventing many problems in later life.

The theme is set as we welcome back **Distinguished Professor James Ogloff AM** from Swinburne University who will present Beyond Survival: What Longitudinal Research Reveals about the Lifelong Effects of Child Sexual Abuse. He will share the results of his team's latest research into how child sexual abuse is an underlying factor in later adult outcomes, including child sexual offending, family violence, suicide, and other mental health issues and addiction problems. It will explore how addressing the underlying causes of abuse, alongside providing timely and effective treatment for child sexual abuse, can help break the intergenerational cycles of abuse, family violence, and suicide.

Joining us again from Germany, **Professor Klaus Beier MD PhD**, Professor of Sexology and Sexual Medicine and Director of the Institute of Sexology and Sexual Medicine at Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin and Director of the Dunkelfeld Project and **Hannes Ulrich, M.Sc. Psych**. also from the Institute. They will be presenting *"Kein Täter werden" (Prevention Project Dunkelfeld): Origins and Future of Causer-Related Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and the Use of Child Sexual Abuse Material*, and discussing the Project's ground-breaking interventions.

Isabel Schilg, MCCJ, LLB who is Professor Beier's colleague, will discuss the international research outcomes that have led to the Guidelines for Implementation of Child Sexual Abuse Perpetration Prevention Programs designed to inform both implementation practitioners and policymakers about key challenges and solutions in current prevention models, ultimately strengthening global capacity to prevent sexual violence against children.

Drawing together lived experience, research and public discourse, author and survivor advocate, **Dr Sonia Orchard** will propose that child sexual abuse is not inevitable and that prevention must be prioritised on the national agenda.

Other speakers who will talk about the prevention of child sexual abuse include **Riana Taylor, MA Criminology**, the CEO of Circles UK, joining us from England and presenting *Circles of Support and Accountability: Thirty Years of Volunteer-Led Innovation in Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation*. For over thirty years, Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) has operated internationally with a clear mission: no more victims. CoSA mobilises trained volunteers to form supportive yet accountable groups around individuals who have committed sexual offences. Riana will be speaking about working and supporting re-entry of CSA serving prisoners into the community to prevent reoffending.

We also welcome the return of **Dr Jane Anderson**, Adjunct Research Fellow at the University of Western Australia, who will be presenting *Beyond Containment: Relational Repair and the Prevention of Sexual Harm*, drawing on restorative justice theory, emerging evidence, and relational frameworks of human development to argue that the prevention of future harm by child sexual offenders depends not only on accountability, but on the rebuilding of respectful relationships within families, communities, and social networks.

Dr Aimee Wrightson-Hester, Principal Research Analyst at the Perth based Australian Institute of Criminology will talk about results from two rapid evidence reviews of research focused on the onset of contact child sexual abuse (CSA) and child sexual abuse material (CSAM) offending.

Parent-child education will also be a focus.

- **Natalie Moon, MS,** Research Specialist & Partnerships Coordinator, at The Mamma Bear Effect will be joining us via live-streaming from Nevada, USA to argue that engaging parents in prevention requires a movement of people and the wider community to educate parents about CSA and connect them with resources to make prevention a priority.
- **Holly-ann Martin OAM**, is the founder and Managing Director of Safe4Kids, providing child protection education which is underpinned by a whole-of-community approach and emphasises developing a language and culture of safety for children and adults alike and strengthening networks to increase safety.
- **Connie Borg and Fiona Rudkin** from Child Australia, will discuss their organisation's child safety initiative, 'See it. Stop it. Say it.' which offers a practical model for moving child safety from compliance to vigilance, and from individual responsibility to collective system-wide prevention.

We will also hear updates on several national initiatives. **Georgia Naldrett** from Stop It Now! Australia will give us an insight into the first year of operation of the National Offender Helpline. She will also brief us on What's ok? Australia, a new initiative which involves a national, anonymous online early intervention service for young people (aged 13-21 years old). Details of further initiatives will be outlined by **Lindsay Armanasco**, Director - Offender Prevention and Response Section at the National Office of Child Safety.

As convenor of this Symposium, I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and sincerely thank Jonathan Kester for his vision, determination, commitment and unwavering dedication in serving as Convenor and Symposium Planning Committee Chair for the past seven symposiums. His leadership and tireless efforts were instrumental in bringing the inaugural symposium to fruition and in ensuring that each subsequent symposium has been planned and delivered with exceptional precision and professionalism. Thank you, Jonathan, for your outstanding contribution and continued commitment.

I trust the *8th Perth Symposium on Child Sexual Abuse Prevention* will be insightful and just as informative and engaging as previous years, so I urge you to book now to secure your place at this important event!

Diana Locke - Convenor - 8th Perth Symposium on Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

8th Perth Symposium on Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

SYMPOSIUM PROGRAM (may be subject to change)

DAY 1 - THURSDAY 18 FEBRUARY 2027

8.00am	REGISTRATION DESK OPEN	Tea & Coffee Available
8.30am	Introduction & Welcome to Country	
8.45am	Opening Address	Speaker to be advised
9.30am	Beyond Survival: What Longitudinal Research Reveals About the Lifelong Effects of Child Sexual Abuse	Distinguished Professor James Ogloff AM
10.30am	MORNING TEA	
11.00am	Suicide and its Relationship to CSA and Offending	Christabel Chamarette OAM M.Psych.
12.00pm	Before the Harm: From Survivor Story to Prevention Advocacy	Dr Sonya Orchard
12.30pm	LUNCH	
1.30pm	ACT-PILOT: Guidelines for Implementation of Child Sexual Abuse Perpetration Prevention Programs	Isabel Schilg LLB MCCJ
2.30pm	Circles of Support and Accountability: Thirty Years of Volunteer-Led Innovation in Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation	Riana Taylor
3.30pm	AFTERNOON TEA	
4.00pm	Update on Federal Government CSA Prevention Initiatives	Georgia Neldrett & Lindsay Armanasco
5.00pm	Day 1 Close	

SYMPOSIUM DINNER

5.30pm - Drinks & 6.00pm - Dinner : Join us for the Symposium Dinner at the University Club of WA and hear after dinner speeches from both Distinguished Professor James Ogloff AM and Professor Klaus M. Beier about their personal journeys.

DAY 2 - FRIDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2027

8.00am	REGISTRATION DESK OPEN	Tea & Coffee Available
8.30am	Day 2 Opening Address	Speaker to be advised
9.00am	"Kein Täter werden" (Prevention Project Dunkelfeld): Origins and Future of Causer-Related Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and the Use of Child Sexual Abuse Material	Professor Klaus M. Beier, MD, PhD & Hannes Ulrich, M.Sc. Psych.
10.00am	MORNING TEA	
10.30am	Panel – CSA Prevention at the Coalface: • The Missing Piece in More Effective CSA Prevention • See It. Stop It. Say It. Translating Child Sexual Abuse Prevention into Everyday Practice in Early Childhood Settings • New Initiatives from the Safe4Kids Program	 Natalie Moon Connie Borg and Fiona Rudkin Holly-ann Martin OAM
11.30am	Beyond Containment: Relational Repair and the Prevention of Sexual Harm	Dr Jane Anderson
12.00pm	Onset of Contact CSA and CSAM offending: findings from two rapid evidence reviews	Dr Aimee Wrightson-Hester
12.30pm	LUNCH	
1.30pm	New Harm Prevention and Healing Approaches	Hidden Water USA
2.30pm	Panel Discussion	TBA
3.30pm	Afternoon Tea – Check Out / Feedback	All Participants
4.00pm	Day 2 Close	

PRESENTERS

Distinguished Professor James R. P. Ogloff AM



Professor Ogloff is Executive Dean of the School of Health Sciences and University Distinguished Professor of Forensic Behavioural Science at Swinburne University of Technology. He also serves as Strategic Advisor to the Board and CEO of the Victorian Institute of Forensic Mental Health (Forensicare), where he previously led psychological services and research for more than two decades. He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2015 for significant service to education and to the law as a forensic psychologist, academic, researcher and practitioner. A lawyer and registered clinical and forensic psychologist, Professor Ogloff has worked in forensic mental health, corrections and the justice system for more than 40 years. His clinical and research expertise includes child sexual abuse, online child sexual exploitation offending, sexual and violent offending, family violence, risk assessment, forensic mental health, and the relationship between mental illness and offending. He has published 18 books and more than 450 scholarly articles and book chapters, supervised over 80 doctoral students, and has received numerous national and international awards recognising his contributions to forensic psychology, criminology and law.

Professor Klaus M. Beier, MD, PhD



Professor Klaus M. Beier is Professor of Sexology and Sexual Medicine and Director of the Institute of Sexology and Sexual Medicine at Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin (since 1996). He received his MD (Dr. med., 1986) and PhD (Dr. phil. in Philosophy, 1988) from the Free University of Berlin, and holds licences as a specialized psychotherapist (1994), psychoanalyst (1996), and physician for psychosomatic medicine (1999). He began his academic career as a Research Assistant at the Department of Sexual Medicine, University of Kiel (from 1988). His research centres on the primary prevention of child sexual abuse, including the Prevention Project Dunkelfeld (since 2005), the Prevention Project for Juveniles (since 2014), the international online tool Troubled Desire (since 2017), and three EU-funded projects (2PS, STOP-CSAM, PROTECH). In the year 2017 he received the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Hannes Ulrich, M.Sc. Psych.



Hannes Ulrich is a systemic and sex therapist, has worked for more than 15 years as a research and clinical staff member at the Institute for Sexology and Sexual Medicine at Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin. In his therapeutic practice, he works across the full spectrum of sexual medicine indications, offering both couples and individual therapy. His areas of specialisation include trans identities, chemsex and sexual preferences, as well as associated disorders. A key focus of his work is the 'Don't offend' prevention project, which is aimed at people who are sexually attracted to children, offering support anonymously and under strict confidentiality. He has extensive clinical experience in this field, covering diagnosis, individual and group therapy, and the aftercare of those affected.

Isabel Schilg LLB MCCJ



Isabel Schilg is a PhD student and project manager with specific expertise in the prevention of the perpetration of child sexual abuse. After working at Australia's largest charity dedicated to preventing child sexual abuse and completing a Masters of Criminology & Criminal Justice at Griffith University, she relocated to Germany and has been working with the Institute of Sexology & Sexual Medicine at Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin and the Wilhelm von Humboldt Foundation since 2020. Within these organisations, she manages multinational consortia to deliver child sexual abuse prevention projects, leading strategic direction, partnerships and stakeholder consultation. In particular, since late 2025 she has been leading the Safe Online funded 'ACT-PILOT' project, which is synthesising experiences from successful programs globally to develop guidelines for the implementation of CSA/CSAM perpetration prevention.

Riana Taylor



Riana Taylor held senior leadership roles in South Africa, the UK, China and Vietnam with experience in criminal justice policy as well as working in operational roles with both victims/survivors and people with criminal convictions in treatment and rehabilitative settings. She joined Circles UK as CEO in 2016. Circles UK is the national organisation that oversees the delivery and development of Circles of Support and Accountability in England and Wales (www.circles-uk.org.uk). She finds tremendous fulfilment in this role and has a deep commitment to social inclusion and restorative work. She fully relates to the ethos of Circles which assist people who sexually harm others to take responsibility for their actions, desist from sexually abusive behaviour and reintegrate safely and positively back into the community. Riana also chairs the Circles Europe Board. In her personal life, Riana enjoys gardening, the theatre, traveling, walking, socialising and playing tennis.

Dr Sonya Orchard



Dr Orchard is an award-winning author, survivor advocate, speaker and festival founder and director. She has authored four books including her most recent memoir Groomed (Simon & Schuster, 2025), which follows her journey through the justice system as a complainant in a historical sexual abuse case, and Before the Harm: Preventing Abuse, Protecting Children (Monash University Publishing, September 2026). (Photo: Jessica Tremp)

8th Perth Symposium on Child Sexual Abuse Prevention

Dr Jane Anderson



Dr Anderson is a social anthropologist and Adjunct Research Fellow at the University of Western Australia. She has undertaken and published research on the relationship between religion and the state, religious movements, sexuality and gender, child sexual abuse, restorative justice and peer support work. Jane has worked voluntarily with Anglo-Australian and Noongar groups to design and deliver restorative and peer responses to pressing local needs. Her work is influenced strongly by a lived experience of the margins, and a determination to bring about a more just, kinder and fairer world.

Lindsay Armanasco



Lindsay Armanasco is Director of the Offender Prevention and Response Section within the National Office for Child Safety, Attorney-General's Department. Lindsay has built her career in offender management, rehabilitation and community safety. In her current role, Lindsay leads national efforts to prevent CSA and reduce reoffending, overseeing key initiatives arising from recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. She works on strengthening prevention, intervention and reintegration responses; collaborating with government, service providers and community partners.

Georgia Naldrett



Georgia Naldrett is the General Manager – Child Sexual Abuse Prevention at Jesuit Social Services, leading the organisation's child sexual abuse prevention portfolio, including Stop It Now! Australia, What's OK? Australia, and the CSAM Deterrence Centre. Georgia brings experience from sexual offending prevention and holds an MSc in Forensic Psychology from the University of Kent, UK. Georgia is passionate about research, advocacy, and cross-sector collaboration to enhance child sexual abuse prevention and improve child safety outcomes.

Dr Aimee Wrightson-Hester



Dr Wrightson-Hester is a Principal Research Analyst in the Online Sexual Exploitation of Children Research Program at the Australian Institute of Criminology. She leads and contributes to research focused on the prevention and disruption of online and offline child sexual exploitation and abuse. Aimee holds qualifications in psychology and addiction studies and a PhD from Edith Cowan University. Her research focuses on understanding pathways into harmful sexual behaviour and the risk factors associated with child sexual abuse offending. She has a particular interest in emerging forms of online offending, including livestreamed child sexual abuse, and technology-facilitated and AI-facilitated child sexual abuse.

Natalie Moon



Natalie Moon is the Researcher and Partnerships Coordinator for The Mama Bear Effect, a non-profit organization dedicated to preventing child sexual abuse through education and awareness. She holds a Master's degree in Criminal Justice where she focused her studies on female sex offenders. She is passionate about advancing research, strengthening community partnerships, and equipping adults with the knowledge needed to protect children.

Connie Borg and Fiona Rudkin



Connie has over 30 years' experience across a range of community and education and care services, holding leadership and practice-based roles that have provided her with experience in service operations, family and community support, training, assessment, mentoring, and coaching. She has worked extensively with Aboriginal communities in Australia's Central Desert region.

Fiona also brings over 30 years' experience in corporate management, highlighted by her tenure as co-owner of a childcare centre. She has extensive experience supporting consultancy roles in early childhood education and care settings. She is committed to creating high-quality early learning environments while also fostering supportive spaces that promote the holistic growth and wellbeing of educators.

Holly-ann Martin OAM



Holly-ann is founder and Managing Director of Safe4Kids, with over 35 years' experience in teaching child abuse prevention education. Holly has presented her thought- provoking Safe4Kids program in every State and territory of Australia, in the UK, USA, Cambodia, Indonesia, Mexico and Qatar and at over 30 conferences. Holly-ann has also taught her Protective Education Program in over 86 remote communities around Australia, which has given her a unique insight into the dangers facing Aboriginal Communities.

Christabel Chamarette OAM M.Psych.



Christabel is a registered Clinical Psychologist with over 50 years' experience in the treatment of violence and child sexual abuse. She is Clinical Director of SafeCare Incorporated which helps people and families where CSA is an issue. She is a founding member of the APS Interest Group on CSA and coordinates training programs for professionals in the area of Child Sexual Offender treatment. She continues to work extensively with Aboriginal people in the Kimberley; assisting to heal from childhood adversity and problems of drug addiction, domestic violence and suicide.

ABSTRACTS

Beyond Survival: What Longitudinal Research Reveals About the Lifelong Effects of Child Sexual Abuse **- Distinguished Professor James R. P. Ogloff AM**

Child sexual abuse is associated with profound and enduring consequences, yet its effects are neither uniform nor inevitable. This keynote provides an overview of an Australian program of longitudinal research that has followed a large cohort of individuals with documented experiences of child sexual abuse, together with matched comparison participants, across several decades using linked mental health, health service, criminal justice, victimisation and mortality data. The research has examined a broad range of outcomes, including psychiatric illness, psychotic disorders, suicide, drug-related and premature mortality, health service utilisation, revictimisation and criminal offending. The findings demonstrate substantially elevated risks across multiple domains while challenging deterministic assumptions: most people who experience child sexual abuse do not subsequently engage in serious offending, and considerable variation exists in survivors' life trajectories. The presentation will explore how developmental timing of abuse, gender, psychiatric illness and the accumulation of later adversities influence long-term outcomes.

Particular attention will be given to the complex relationships among trauma, mental illness, repeated victimisation and offending, highlighting the importance of avoiding simplistic interpretations of a "victim-to-offender" pathway. The keynote will conclude by considering the implications for prevention and intervention. Preventing child sexual abuse remains paramount, but reducing its lifelong impact also requires early identification, trauma-informed and developmentally responsive care, sustained access to effective mental health services, prevention of revictimisation and targeted support for individuals experiencing cumulative clinical and social risks. A life-course perspective offers important opportunities to improve outcomes for survivors while informing evidence-based prevention, policy and practice.

"Kein Täter werden" (Prevention Project Dunkelfeld): Origins and Future of Causer-Related Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse and the Use of Child Sexual Abuse Materia**l - Professor Klaus M. Beier, MD, PhD & Hannes Ulrich, M.Sc. Psych.**

Since 2005, the "Kein Täter werden" (Don't Offend / Prevention Project Dunkelfeld) network at the Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin has pioneered causer-related primary prevention of child sexual abuse (CSA), offering confidential, anonymous and cost-free treatment to help-seeking people with a sexual interest in children in the "Dunkelfeld" — those undetected by the justice system. This keynote traces the network's origins and its future.

Three principles explain its success. First, paedophilia is a stable sexual preference and a diagnosable condition, not a choice or a crime. Second, the risk of offending and of using child sexual abuse material (CSAM) can be reduced - and mental health improved - through behavioural control, empathy work and, where indicated, pharmacotherapy. Third, anonymity and medical confidentiality are indispensable for reaching an otherwise hidden population. Over twenty years the model has grown from a single Berlin site into a nationwide, health-insurance-funded network with more than 20,000 requests for help.

The talk then turns to what is now at stake. Technological change has triggered an explosive, AI-driven wave of CSAM — including "nudified" and self-generated images — demanding a pandemic perspective that links offenders, transmission pathways and victims to lifelong health consequences. Future directions include AI-based on-device detection and blocking of CSAM, AI-assisted forensic screening to identify treatment needs, legal reform, tele-therapeutic delivery and international networking. The core message: causer-related, health-based prevention protects children - and belongs at the heart of a global child-protection strategy.

ACT-PILOT: Guidelines for Implementation of Child Sexual Abuse Perpetration Prevention Programs
- Isabel Schilg LLB MCCJ

Organisations worldwide are increasingly interested in establishing programs to work therapeutically with individuals at risk of committing child sexual abuse. However, there is no consolidated guidance on how to set up and run such programs, making it difficult for new services to get started and learn from existing expertise. In the past, organisations seeking to establish prevention programs relied on informal consultations or resorted to designing programs without access to structured collective knowledge about implementation approaches.

This project, conducted collaboratively between ACT Against Child Abuse (a project of the Wilhelm von Humboldt Foundation), Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, and the Berlin School of Sexual Health, aims to address this critical gap by developing comprehensive, practical guidelines for establishing child sexual abuse perpetration prevention programs. The guidelines have been developed through a rigorous multi-phase approach that integrates research evidence with real-world implementation expertise. The methodology includes a comprehensive literature review of peer-reviewed research, grey literature, and program reports specifically focused on child sexual abuse prevention programs. This evidence base is complemented by extensive stakeholder consultation involving in-depth interviews and workshops with experts and organisations with direct implementation experience. Over 25 organisations from the European Union, United States, Asia, Australia, and the Pacific region contributed their insights and practical knowledge. These research findings, stakeholder insights, and implementation experiences were triangulated to identify common themes, effective approaches, barriers and facilitators, and context-specific adaptations. The guidelines then underwent validation through structured feedback processes with stakeholders to ensure relevance and usability.

The final product provides a practical roadmap for organisations wanting to establish perpetration prevention programs, including real examples, common challenges to anticipate, and concrete strategies to overcome them. The guidelines are designed to inform both implementation practitioners and policymakers about key challenges and solutions in current prevention models, ultimately strengthening global capacity to prevent sexual violence against children.

Circles of Support and Accountability: Thirty Years of Volunteer-Led Innovation in Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation **- Riana Taylor**

For over thirty years, Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA) has operated internationally with a clear mission: no more victims. CoSA mobilises trained volunteers to form supportive yet accountable groups around individuals who have committed sexual offences, known as Core Members. This model balances encouragement with oversight, enabling Core Members to pursue meaningful change while ensuring proactive responses to any increase in risk. Participation fosters progress in aspects such as employment, housing, social skills, self-esteem, and reduced isolation. Core Members consistently emphasise the value of long-term volunteer involvement - people who choose to engage, believe in the possibility of change, and provide both encouragement and accountability. While recognising that change is gradual, the model's transparency in risk management offers participants safety, clarity, and boundaries.

This presentation will explore the evolution of CoSA, highlight lessons learned from diverse models, consider the evidence for its effectiveness and consider future directions for sustaining impact. With decades of experience, CoSA continues to adapt, ensuring its relevance in reducing recidivism and supporting safer communities.

Beyond Containment: Relational Repair and the Prevention of Sexual Harm **- Dr Jane Anderson**

Contemporary responses to child sexual abuse and sexual violence have been shaped by an understandable prioritisation of victim protection, legal accountability, and risk management. Legislative reform across Australia has strengthened definitions of consent and expanded criminal offences. However, this paper argues that current approaches remain structurally incomplete: they focus overwhelmingly on individuals, that is, victims and perpetrators, while neglecting the relational environments in which harm occurs and must ultimately be repaired.

At the same time, policy settings continue to privilege incarceration and post-release surveillance, despite growing evidence that many individuals who engage in harmful sexual behaviour, particularly young people, can achieve very low rates of reoffending when provided with appropriate therapeutic and relational interventions. Restorative justice conferencing, for example, has demonstrated reductions in re-contact with the court system and high levels of participant satisfaction. This paper proposes a shift from a model of containment and control to one of relational repair and social recovery. Drawing on restorative justice theory, emerging evidence, and relational frameworks of human development, it argues that prevention of future harm depends not only on accountability, but on the rebuilding of respectful relationships within families, communities, and social networks. The paper outlining a practice and policy framework for integrating relational repair into prevention strategies, positioning restorative processes not as alternatives to justice, but as essential to its completion.

Update on Federal Government CSA Prevention Initiatives **- Lindsay Armanasco**

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse highlighted the importance of strengthening prevention and intervention efforts to better protect children and reduce future offending. In response, the National Office for Child Safety is progressing three nationally significant initiatives designed to address gaps in prevention, perpetrator intervention and reintegration: Stop It Now! Australia, a national offending prevention service; a Recidivism Reduction Pilot for people convicted of child sexual abuse offences following release from prison; and a new support service for non-offending family members of child sexual abuse perpetrators. It will provide an update on the development and implementation of these initiatives and the policy rationale underpinning them. This presentation will explore how the three initiatives seek to strengthen Australia's response to child sexual abuse through earlier intervention, improved reintegration support and greater assistance for families affected by offending. It will also highlight the importance of collaboration across government, justice and community sectors, recognising that supporting victims and survivors and preventing offending are complementary goals and both are crucial in responding to one of the nation's most complex social challenges.

Update on the Stop It Now! Pilot Project **- Georgia Naldrett**

Stop It Now! Australia is a national early intervention service that provides evidence-informed support and action-oriented advice through an anonymous helpline and online resources for individuals concerned about their own, or someone else's sexual thoughts or behaviours towards children. The service aims to prevent Child Sexual Abuse by increasing motivation to manage thoughts and behaviours, increasing awareness of the harms of abuse, identifying actions to address risk factors and increase protective factors, and support individuals to build safe, positive and offence-free lives. Georgia' will also brief the Symposium on *What's ok? Australia*, a new initiative which involves a national, anonymous online early intervention service for young people (aged 13-21 years old) who are concerned about their own or someone else's sexual thoughts and behaviours, and in the future, parents, carers, and professionals who are concerned about a young person's problematic and harmful sexual behaviour.

Suicide and Its Relationship to CSA and Offending **- Christabel Chamarette**

Christabel will explore the relationship between suicide and child sexual abuse and offending. Looking at SafeCare statistics over the past 30 years and a series of case studies, she will explore the importance of recognising the fragility and risk of suicide in those with childhood victimisation, those struggling with secret problems and fearing exposure and the full force of societal condemnation and ruin. The role of Police will also be discussed in triaging for suicide risk and helping families find help for their family members where child sexual abuse has been disclosed and to prevent suicide by offering hope of effective support, counselling and treatment.

Before the Harm: From Survivor Story to Prevention Advocacy - **Dr Sonya Orchard**

In this conversational presentation, author, educator and advocate Sonia Orchard reflects on the trajectory from surviving grooming and child sexual abuse, to navigating the criminal justice system decades later, then writing publicly about abuse, and ultimately contributing to national conversations about prevention.

Orchard's memoir, *Groomed (Simon & Schuster, 2025)*, documented not only her own abuse, but the long aftermath: shame, memory, institutional response, legal process, and the complex realities survivors carry into adulthood. The book prompted significant responses from victim-survivors, many of whom described finally feeling "seen", and understanding what had happened to them for the very first time. Following the memoir's publication, Orchard was commissioned by Monash University Publishing to write Before the Harm: Preventing Abuse, Protecting Children (September 2026), an extended essay examining child sexual abuse prevention in Australia. Through interviews with survivors, researchers, clinicians, policy experts and offenders, the work explores a confronting question: we know why child sexual abuse happens, so what would it take to adequately invest in preventing it? Drawing together lived experience, research and public discourse, this session argues that child sexual abuse is not inevitable: if we are serious about reducing harm to children, awareness and prevention must be prioritised on the national agenda.

Onset of Contact CSA and CSAM offending: findings from two rapid evidence reviews - **Dr Aimee Wrightson-Hester**

This presentation discusses results from two rapid evidence reviews of research focused on the onset of contact child sexual abuse (CSA) and child sexual abuse material (CSAM) offending. The searches identified 23 studies that examined pathways to the onset of contact CSA and 17 that examined pathways to the onset of CSAM offending. Studies found high levels of CSA victimisation and other adverse childhood experiences for both contact CSA and CSAM offenders. These developmental experiences potentially played a role in the onset of later offending through development of maladaptive coping strategies and an inability to maintain adult relationships. Harmful sexual behaviours in childhood were also common for both types of offenders, and these often started in early adolescence. Situational factors played a role in pathways to contact CSA and CSAM offending, but in different ways. Contact CSA offenders often had access to children through familial or other (including professional) relationships, which made it easier for them to offend with no effective guardians present. First-time offenders often spent time building relationships with their victims, and leveraged power imbalances in these relationships. Conversely, most CSAM offenders viewed CSAM for the first time accidentally, often while searching for pornography online. This presentation explores the findings of both reviews, their implications for preventing and disrupting CSA and CSAM offending, and key gaps and opportunities for future research.

The Missing Piece in More Effective CSA Prevention - **Natalie Moon**

The missing piece to more effectively preventing child sexual abuse (CSA) is society's prioritization of educating parents on CSA prevention. Given that most CSA takes place in a home and that approximately 90% of the time the offender is a known individual, it only makes sense that a child's primary caregiver be the one to put safeguards in place and use key messaging with their children about body safety, privacy, healthy sexuality, and appropriate versus inappropriate behavior. In 2023, The Mama Bear Effect published findings from a national parent survey on CSA. Overall, participants demonstrated an understanding of the issue and an eagerness to learn more. 77% indicated that CSA prevention is very important. While most reported the internet as their primary source of information, 91% agreed that pediatricians should be a primary source of education about CSA prevention. These findings, in addition to others, demonstrated that parents are eager to learn about CSA and take steps to prevent it. However, they need greater support from community stakeholders who can provide education. Engaging parents in prevention requires a movement - people and entities working together to educate parents about CSA and connect them with resources and support that help make prevention a priority.

See It. Stop It. Say It. Translating Child Sexual Abuse Prevention into Everyday Practice in Early Childhood Settings - Connie Borg and Fiona Rudkin

Child Australia's See It. Stop It. Say It is a practical model for strengthening child sexual abuse prevention in early childhood settings. It explores how simple, shared safeguarding language can build workforce confidence, support early intervention and shift child safety from compliance to everyday vigilance.

The presentation will explore how the initiative has been embedded through staff training, an Adult Behaviour Traffic Light Framework, Child Safe Champions, reflective supervision, visual practice prompts, leader briefings and regional capability-building work across Western Australia and the Northern Territory. It will also examine the broader system conditions needed for prevention including psychological safety, workforce confidence, governance oversight, regulatory alignment and a shared language for identifying and responding to risk. Drawing on Child Australia's implementation experience, this session will offer a practical model for moving child safety from compliance to vigilance, and from individual responsibility to collective, system-wide prevention.

New Initiatives from the Safe4Kids Program - **Holly-ann Martin OAM**

Teaching protective education from the earliest years gives children the language, confidence, and skills to communicate when they feel unsafe, while helping adults create environments where children's bodily autonomy, feelings, and safety are respected. In response to recent abuse incidents in childcare, Safe4Kids has updated its early years curriculum to intentionally include children aged 0–3, embedding age-appropriate protective education into everyday care through consent, safe and unsafe language, emotional literacy, body autonomy, and educators responding to children's verbal and non-verbal communication.

BOOK NOW!

You can attend the the Symposium in-person or via Zoom.

The $550.00 Early Bird price for the Symposium is available until 15 November 2026. After that date the full price will be $770.00.

Book Online via the SafeCare website:

www.safecare.org.au

The 8th Perth Symposium on Child Sexual Abuse Prevention is proudly organised by

SafeCare

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