

What is Child Abuse?

Child abuse is a crime. It can take many forms:

Sexual Abuse occurs when someone involves a child in a sexual activity by using their power over them or taking advantage of their trust.

Physical Abuse is any non-accidental injury to a child, including shaking and excessive discipline.

Emotional Abuse is behaviour that destroys the confidence of a child resulting in emotional deprivation and trauma, including exposure to domestic violence, intimidation and withholding affection.

Neglect is the failure to provide a child with the basic necessities for their proper growth and development (for example – food, clothing, shelter, medical care and appropriate supervision).

Everyone suffers when a child is abused

The people who abuse children often live with the terrible burden of knowing that what they are doing is wrong. They miss out on living a full and productive life and face many risks, such as:

- Getting caught
- Having the abuse exposed
- Being ostracised by family, friends and society
- Having their children removed from them
- Being jailed for their abuse

Abused children face significant and ongoing trauma which may include:

- Developmental problems
- Substance abuse
- Poor performance at school
- Depression
- Irrational fears
- Physical injury
- Suicide
- As adults, they may develop mental illnesses, find it impossible to hold down a job, turn to crime, and sometimes even abuse their own children

Whole families suffer as the impacts of child abuse affect:

- Parenting abilities and confidence
- Relationships
- Communication
- Stability
- Happiness
- The ability to lead a normal life

Entire societies are faced with the problems of:

- Managing the high cost of treating child injuries (psychological and physical)
- Jailing abusers
- Providing rehabilitation programs
- Underlying social fears
- Addressing the social issues that accompany child abuse such as substance abuse, unemployment and domestic violence

It doesn't have to be this way...



**child abuse
prevention service**

**For free, non-judgemental
support call
02 9716 8000**

www.childabuseprevention.com.au