

Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Package

Alan Hayes

In August 1997, the New South Wales Child Protection Council officially launched its latest resource package *Tell a Friend . . . It's Never Too Late*. The package aims to raise awareness and understanding of child sexual abuse, promote recognition of what constitutes sexual abuse, encourage early disclosure, and facilitate a positive response to the needs of children who have been abused. It is designed to interest children in the age range 8–13 years, as well as adults.

The package is based around a video comprising two 30-minute presentations of stories of school-aged children who have been sexually abused by someone they know. To add to the interest for a young audience, the video adopts a television program format, using catchy rap and rock songs and 'commercials' which provide extra information.

The stories present the major themes from a child's perspective and cover topics including the experiences of abuse, the tactics offenders use to entrap children, the difficulties of disclosing to a friend or a trusted adult, the responses of those who help, and the events that follow disclosure.

Version 1 of the video is designed to be shown as a whole and then again in parts if required. The rationale for this version is that presentation of the whole of the story enables viewers to see the outcomes, preventing distress that may arise if the viewing is interrupted for discussion. The video can be re-presented, section by section, with discussion of issues such as identifying abuse, power in relationships, and protective strategies.



TELL A FRIEND . . . IT'S NEVER TOO LATE

This sexual abuse prevention resource package, incorporating the video (including 2 x 30 minute presentations) and the handbook (83 pages), is available from the NSW Child Protection Council for \$70 plus \$10 postage and handling. For further information: phone (02) 9286 7276; fax (02) 9286 7267.

Version 2 enables the stories of the two main characters to be shown separately with the commercial breaks to provide information. A rap clip, 'Body Parts are Cool', acts as the divider between the stories.

The video is supported by an excellent handbook, including sections on child sexual abuse prevention education, key considerations to be taken into account when using the video, guidelines for conducting sessions, background information for presenters and appendices which include song lyrics, service contact information, and information sheets for adults.

This package provides an educational resource in an area where appropriate and accessible material has, to date, not been readily available in this country. The developers of the package have succeeded in providing a resource that is engaging for children and adults alike. While the information on contacts and support networks focuses on New South Wales, the package should be broadly useful across the states. This is an excellent resource for child sexual abuse education.

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← For details see overleaf

APPLICATION FORM

NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION CLEARING HOUSE

Please send questionnaire concerning my research.
 Please send questionnaire concerning my program activities.

Please add my name to your mailing list

Title Full name

Organisation

Address (Postcode)

Phone Fax



Send your application to:

National Child Protection Clearing House,
Australian Institute of Family Studies, 300 Queen Street, Melbourne, Victoria 3000 Australia.
Phone: (03) 9214 7888. Fax: (03) 9214 7839. Internet: <http://www.aifs.org.au/>