

SAFEGUARDING CAPABILITIES SURVEY

2018 - 2020 RESULTS

Who participated in the survey?

633 Staff/volunteers

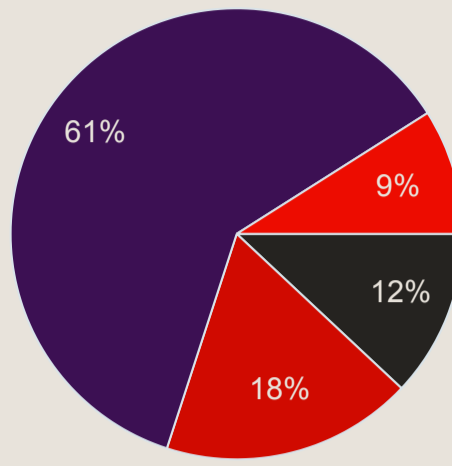


77% Female
22% Male
1% Gender diverse

Who were the participants?



61% Practitioners/Volunteers (teacher, social worker or therapist)



9% Administrators (not a frontline staff member)

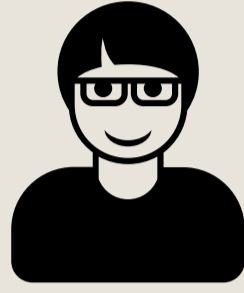


12% Leaders (CEO, director, principal)



18% Middle Managers (team leader, coordinator)

What sector were the participants from?



Youth development 43%



Education 27%



Sport 12%



Community services 10%



Faith-based 6%



After school care 2%



What were the findings of the study?

Organisational culture

Participants were asked about their level of awareness of policies and procedures and their perception of the culture of child safety within the organisation.

85% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that they were aware of policies and procedures and that the organisation had a culture of child safety.

Participants had greater awareness in relation to:

- existing codes of conduct that define how adults should interact with children and young people.
- leaders in their organisation who understand the importance of safeguarding.

Participants had less awareness of:

- how they could be building the sexual safety skills of young people by staff and volunteers.
- whether their organisation was providing staff training about sexual abuse.

Confidence to act

Participants were asked about their level of confidence to take action to prevent abuse or respond to young people's concerns.

78% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that they were confident to take action to prevent abuse or respond to young people's concerns.

- Participants were most confident in:
- being able to fulfil their mandatory reporting obligations
 - helping young people to have respectful relationships with each other.

- Participants were least confident in:
- providing appropriate support to young people who have experienced sexual abuse.
 - including the perspectives of young people when addressing sexual abuse risks.

Attitudes to prevention

Participants were asked about their attitudes that relate to the prevention of abuse and the agency of children and young people.

95% of participants agreed or strongly agreed to having attitudes that support the prevention and appropriate response to child sexual abuse.

- Participants' attitudes most supportive in preventing abuse:
- not believing young people who get sexually abused have usually acted promiscuously or somehow 'asked' for it
 - believing a young person's wellbeing is more important than protecting the organisation's reputation if abuse were to occur.

- Participants' attitude that may get in the way of good sexual abuse prevention:
- believing that screening staff and volunteers with working with children checks is the only real way to prevent abuse.

Prevention knowledge

Participants were asked about their knowledge related to situational prevention and the role of educating staff and children about abuse.

87% of participants agreed or strongly agreed that they possess knowledge of situational prevention and the role of educating staff and children and young people.

- Participants' knowledge was highest regarding the fact that:
- many people, not just the child or young person who was abused themselves, can be affected by sexual abuse.

- Participants' knowledge was poorest in relation to areas such as:
- the negative impact that high staff turnover can have in making children and young people less comfortable to speak up about their sexual safety concerns
 - child sexual abuse is more likely to occur when there are opportunities for adults to spend time interacting with children out of sight of other adults.