
From:
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To: Advocacy and Support
Cc:
Subject: Issue Paper 10

Issue Paper 10 -

Advocacy and Support and Therapeutic Treatment Services

Topic A – Victim and survivor needs and unmet needs

Q.2 What I need in a micro perspective is

- Groups focused on Belonging and abandonment as these have been my on going triggers/ issues for the last five odd years and still yet to be resolved as so many disappointments trigger the issue before it can be addressed
- What I need in a macro perspective is a Public/ societal response that says no to sexual crimes against children – this is most reflected in the legal/justice system.

Provide compulsory minimum sentences that reflect the outrage of crimes. Such as minimum sentence of 3 years (mental facility/ incarceration) regardless of excuses to hurt a child - under 18.

Additional three years for depravity (locked in a room/ bound), extra three years for under 13 year old content, additional three years for under 10 year, additional three years for recording of abuse etc. ie jail/ mental health incarcerations could total 12 years - parole supervised option only after completing 80% of their sentence.

- Receipt of (participants under 16 years old) porn on a personal computer/ device is auto fine (minimum \$2k) and you pay to have 'M' rated restrictions added to all internet capable devices. Your access to online and public material is limited to the rating of 'M' – you are responsible for meeting the terms of your order including visiting or accessing a cinema or games room or friends etc.

If they contravening their order then an additional fine of (minimum) \$4k plus additional \$2k for under 13 and an additional \$2k if content includes under 8 (could total \$8k). All internet capable equipment will be seized and cleared of all material and donated to crisis service providers. Five year ban on all internet capable devices – ie no gps etc. Plus six months incarceration or educational/ counselling/ community cleaning (mowing, weeding and rubbish removal) service – minimum 300 hours with in 2 years.

- . Sharing (participants under 16 years old) porn auto fine of \$10k to the owner/ leased tenant of computer/ device address. An auto additional fine for content including under 13 is an auto additional \$5,000 fine and additional \$5,000 auto fine for content including under 8 years participants. Five year total ban to all internet devices ie no gps or face book.

If they contravene their order then an additional fine of (minimum) \$15k plus additional \$5k for under 13 and an additional \$5k if content includes under 8 (could total \$25k). Passports will be suspended and if dual citizen, they will have their Australian citizenship revoked and loose any/ all Government benefits (including govt housing) with option for deportation and a no return to Australia for minimum of 15 years.

If Australian only identified 200 hr community counselling, education and clean (mow, rubbish removal, weeding) per year for five years or 2 year minimum sentence and no parole option. No access to internet for additional five years. Possible relocation of residence if residing in community/ govt housing.

If it is an Internet cafe business is the location of device being used to distribute porn (participants under 16) then an auto fine of \$50k is payable.

Overseas visitor's hosts will be responsible for the fine if the perp leaves the country. No fines are not covered by insurance or absorbed threw bankruptcy, only discharged by payment or death of fine recipient.

This will ensure communal compliance and acceptance by our community. That doing nothing to protect children or dismissing the exploitation of our youth will NOT BE TOLERATED.

* Provide an amnesty period ie 2 months to remove all under 16 included porn. Such as provide a repaid address for all posted material (video, disks, photos etc) to be destroyed (after investigation). No second chance on date, if you were in holiday out of the country your porn buddies/ network should have warned you.

Multi lingual adverts on all social media regarding the content of sexual content including children under 18 to refer caller to 20 different languages phone number machine service - where the new Australia (fed) laws and punishments will be explained in plain language – you will get a fine and go to jail not exceptions, possible relocation or deportation also possible.

- Australian citizens caught (investigative proof) of committing child based crimes overseas, the offender will face the same sentence when they return home (flagged with Interpol/ customs). Any assets will be seized to pay fines once prosecutable evidence has been confirmed by two Australian Judges. Only immediate family or support service only has access to evidence – that blurs out indecent acts to children, their will be no wasting time (or traumatising the victims family or public) in court. The only exception is if evidence can prove it is a matter of false identification – where you can be compensated upto (max) \$20k.

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Q.4 Support groups for survivors require funding specific to provide a support/ social group for friends and families of survivors/ trauma. This could provide a voice and support persons indirectly affected and break down isolation for them as well.

Every survivor I know, has one or multiple family members resentful of the victim speaking out – ie blaming the victim for the change to the family unit.

I was lucky to have been removed by DOCS (so I don't suffer the pain and guilt imposed by others as well) but other families separate/ dysfunction in a different ways remaining siblings, extended family concerns etc has not been addressed due to the urgency/ priority at the time, being the victim.

My vision of a support group for family and friends of survivors/ trauma victims would include information about survivors as well as services to support family and friends. It would be a safe place to express their anger in what has been taken from them who are innocent victims of circumstance ie loosing a parent, loosing their innocence to grow up too fast, intimacy issues, trust/ over dependency issues, emotional/ mood disorders etc.

Some people may also be angry or confused as they can't understand why someone they loved hurt someone they cared about. Address and recognise they are not alone with their feelings ie hopelessness, guilt, resentment etc

My vision would also include a guest survivor in session 3 of 8 to answer questions they may not yet be able to ask their partners/ friends ie provide explanations to situations or suggestions for help to understand. All survivors needs are individual but expanding one persons understanding with someone they have no ties to can break down some barriers/ fear. Trust, boundaries triggers and intimacy are all common issues and it's important for support people to understand that this is just as important for the support person to share their concern and express their needs as it is for the survivor/ victim.

There is no space for judgment is a big issue for both the victim and the remaining siblings/ parents etc as the 'blame' is focused on EVERYONE but the abuser. Each person will won their feelings and thought ie I feel, I am etc.

My abuser, whilst in jail, blamed my mum for his actions because she should have taught me better about sexual matters. **THIS SHOULD BE THE FIRST ISSUE TO BE ADDRESSED.** The abuser is **ALWAYS** soley responsible for their actions!!

Topic B – Diverse victims and survivors

(diverse references are myself as an ex Ward of the State)

Q2. There are some serious systematic problems. I attended a DOCS foster care program about five years ago and I commented that the case scenario of a sexually abused Aboriginal girl should **not** have to remain in the area of her abuser. That she has the right to feel safe like other non-aboriginal people and be relocated so she walk to the shop without encountering (distressed) the person who hurt her.

In response to my different view I was considered unsuitable as a foster carer as I was considered racially insensitive. I appealed their decision, as it was offensive to me to be labelled in such a way. I advised them that I was a ward of the state for 6 years and I have an understanding of things that they will never learn in books.

If the child or family remaining in the town/ community was considered as what is in the best interest of the child/ family. Why can't an AVO be applied to restrict the accused from coming 10-20 km from the school, home and parents of the victim etc until the Police and or courts have finish their investigations. The Aboriginal Elder/s can also be involved to support the child or accused to keep the child safe.

I was also advised I didn't have sufficient sustaining relationships to support a foster child. I have extensive friendships (at the time lasting five years), who are my family. I replied if it's a concern that I don't have generational relationships it would be your departments fault and not something I should be disadvantaged for.

Q3. (correctional). Stability and safety of own place/room – accommodation. People being released from Jail not knowing where they will live in a week or month is a receipe for disaster – they will return to what they know?? live in the moment, crime...

Realistically everyone can't have their own home but services can be altered to provide shared accommodations ie day serviced group home (in a house) to share/ supervise cooking meals, identifying services and advocating for residents to assist them to progress to more independent living with Case Worker follow up and continue to encourage self care, healing and making better decisions.

Topic C – Geographic considerations

Q2. Introduce survivors to other survivors, in a group type of system utilising face time technology. Provide training on how to use the devices with options of subsidised purchasing. This will improve peoples ability to interpret peoples genuiness/ trust other

people to feel safe, relate and share experiences, knowledge and what they learnt from difficulties faced.

Most survivors think, it is only them who have experienced shame, guilt, isolation, exclusion from family/ community. People have different needs at different stages of their lives and having a friends to support each other could be the best value support as friendship isn't dependant on funding...

Topic D – Service and System issues

Q1. Who are victims and survivors – ‘Contemporary abuse’ definitely not adequate, it is dismissive and insulting, I personally associate the word contemporary with art so the words contemporary and abuse is offensive. Also prior research has shown that there is a considerable percentage of abusers who were also victims and survivors this also needs to be acknowledged –.

Q2. Holistic case management is the best form. Skilled and trained Case Managers can build a repour with the victim, identify and clarify what areas of concern are raised and can expand on the service options available and what it involves so the victim/ survivor can decide what is best for them. Limited repetition of sharing their abuse should be a priority, if the person wants to share repeatedly that is up to them and not a requirement prior to every healing phrase.

In addition some survivors work, are single parents, are stay at home parents, some have funds to contribute towards services and some clients may be in high school others eligible for an aged pension. These factors also alter the process and how a service can be provided.

In additional to my ceasing assets and fining perpetrators – all the funds collected will go into ‘victims fund’. The fund can allocate/ subsidise directly to service providers ie self defence classes, additional security to homes (ie window locks n security screens) counselling - group, individual (gestalt behavioural, clinical other specialty approach), meditation or yoga. This list of services to be as varied as the victims to catter to them. Each counselling/ funding pack to cover minimum 2 years fortnightly service.

Victims fund is also required to employ a minimum (30%) percent of victim/ survivors across all levels of the Victims fund service. Also provide a subsidised education Fund (diploma/ degree to interested survivors) as education is commonly disrupted leading to further disadvantage and lost opportunity.

Q3. On going practitioner training to remain effective in their chosen field, including active membership in the community (addiction, refuge, mental health, men's services, client feed back as they are the experts of their life – they live with the consequences not the practitioner.

Use of service is through self-referral or agency referral. After the initial 8 session the user of service completes an initial report describing service to include the service as an approved subsidised list. The provider also completes a guided report direct to the fund.

After completion of initial service. The client and service provider complete a guided quarterly report direct to the Fund. The client reports are used to secure a service provider remains on the list as an approved subsidised provider- to weed out the crap ones.

Biannual reports from victims fund publish statistics (age/ race/ known perp(s) or stranger/ violence / mis trust/ repetition/ told family member (not or supportive), just to name a few and identify stages or triggers etc. This research can be used to encourage govt funding, influence training of service providers and provide feedback to clients.

Topic E – Evidence and promising practices

Q1. Each person's need is different so statistical evidence needs to be just as varied. Statistical response should consider societal norms; determine emotional health, increased employment, less medical issues, healthier relationships – less arguments, less substance use/ abuse, participate in the community ie job or volunteer.

Self worth, achievement, promotion, study – celebrating birthdays, reunions friendships, caring for family, future opportunity – plan and pay for a holiday/move to a bigger home/ smaller home etc

I do not require my observations, opinions and experience to remain anonymous and I'm happy to participate again should the opportunity arise.

Kindest regards,