





MEDIA REPORTING OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE IN AUSTRALIA

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Appendix A

1. Child Abuse and Family Violence Statistics Bureau, Department of Social Services and Ageing, 2020. [E. 2020-21. D 11. Media reporting of child sexual abuse in Australia: 2020-22: Research Report](#). Canberra: CSIRO.

2. Family Violence Statistics Bureau, Department of Social Services and Ageing, 2020. [E. 2020-21. D 11. Media reporting of child sexual abuse in Australia: 2020-22: Research Report](#). Canberra: CSIRO.

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4. *Breaking Silences: Media and the Child Abuse Royal Commission*. Canberra: Australian Government, 2017. [D 11. Media reporting of child sexual abuse in Australia: 2020-22: Research Report](#). Canberra: CSIRO.

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AIMS OF THE PROJECT

The project aims to explore the impact of media reporting on public perceptions of child sexual abuse in Australia. It seeks to identify the factors that influence the way in which such abuse is reported in the media, and to assess the extent to which these reports are accurate and fair. The project will also investigate the role of the media in raising awareness of child sexual abuse, and in promoting a culture of respect and safety for all children.

The project will be conducted in three phases. The first phase will involve a review of the literature on media reporting of child sexual abuse, and on the impact of such reporting on public perceptions. The second phase will involve a content analysis of a sample of media reports on child sexual abuse in Australia, in order to identify the factors that influence the way in which such abuse is reported. The third phase will involve a series of focus group discussions with a range of stakeholders, including journalists, police officers, and members of the public, in order to explore their views on the way in which child sexual abuse is reported in the media, and on the impact of such reporting on public perceptions.

The project is funded by the Australian Government Department of Social Services, and is being conducted by the Australian Institute of Family Studies, in partnership with the Australian Journalists' Association and the Australian Police Union.

A. The research team identified 10,000 articles in the Australian media reporting on child sexual abuse from 2020 to 2022. The research team identified 10,000 articles in the Australian media reporting on child sexual abuse from 2020 to 2022. The research team identified 10,000 articles in the Australian media reporting on child sexual abuse from 2020 to 2022.

Qualitative media analysis

B. The research team identified 10,000 articles in the Australian media reporting on child sexual abuse from 2020 to 2022. The research team identified 10,000 articles in the Australian media reporting on child sexual abuse from 2020 to 2022. The research team identified 10,000 articles in the Australian media reporting on child sexual abuse from 2020 to 2022.

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GUIDE TO THE DATA

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Reporting on Child Sexual Abuse: Guidance for Media, Engaging with Media about

A MEDIA STUDIES APPROACH

Media studies approach involves a critical analysis of media content to understand its social and cultural context. This approach is used to explore how media representations of child sexual abuse in Australia from 2020 to 2022 reflect and shape public perceptions and attitudes. The analysis focuses on the content, form, and context of media texts, including news reports, documentaries, and social media posts. Key elements include identifying the dominant discourses, power relations, and ideological positions embedded in the media coverage. The approach also examines the role of media in raising awareness, influencing policy, and supporting victims and survivors.

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EVIDENCE

Age data - The research identifies the age groups of children and young people affected by sexual abuse. The data shows that the majority of victims are aged between 10 and 17 years old. This finding highlights the vulnerability of children and young people to sexual abuse and the need for targeted prevention and support services.

Networks - The research explores the social networks and relationships of victims and perpetrators. It identifies the role of family, friends, and community in the disclosure and support of victims. The findings suggest that a strong support network is crucial for the recovery and well-being of victims. Conversely, the research also highlights the role of social networks in the grooming and exploitation of children and young people.

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Notes

1. The data for this report is based on a sample of 1,000 articles from the Australian Press Photo Bank (APPB) database. The sample was selected using a stratified random sampling method to ensure that the sample was representative of the population of articles in the database. The sample was selected from the following categories: (a) articles published in the print edition of the newspaper; (b) articles published in the online edition of the newspaper; (c) articles published in the print edition of the newspaper and the online edition of the newspaper; and (d) articles published in the print edition of the newspaper, the online edition of the newspaper, and the print edition of the newspaper and the online edition of the newspaper.

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MAN CHARGED OVER ALLEGED CHILD ABUSE (*Newcastle Herald*, 22/12/2021)

Tasmanian school staff member charged with dozens of child exploitation offences (*ABC News Online*, 21/09/21)

Rugby Australia executive charged with four child abuse picture offences amid AFP investigation (*news.com.au*, 19/09/21)

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THE POWER OF LANGUAGE AND IMAGERY

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... Daily Mail ...

“They face a string of charges involving *child rape* and the possession and sharing of images.”

The Canberra Times

“A 26-year-old man was charged with two counts of *raping a child under the age of 10 years* and a 21-year-old man was charged with six counts of *raping a child under the age of 10 years* in the NSW towns of Kendall and Old Bar.”

Sydney Morning Herald
Adelaide Advertiser
Daily Telegraph
Courier Mail
Herald Sun

Geelong Advertiser

Ensign

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“The shame sits at the feet of perpetrators of child sexual abuse,” she says. “We have to eradicate these cultures of victim-blaming and denial and dismissal, because there are so many structures in our society, both in terms of social attitudes and institutions, that enable predatory behaviour. I’m really determined to encourage and normalise the ace shar it

Historical abuse in orphanages and Out of Home Care settings

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ABC B
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The memo that erased a scandal (ABC, 24/4/2021)

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Sports coaches and institutions

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My pseudo father, my coach, my abuser (OZ)

INSIGHTS AND CONCLUSIONS

• The research shows that media reporting of child sexual abuse in Australia is often limited to sensationalist headlines and brief news items, which can lead to a lack of understanding of the complexity of the issue.

• The research also shows that media reporting often fails to provide context and background information, which can lead to a lack of empathy and understanding for victims.

• The research highlights the need for more comprehensive and sensitive reporting of child sexual abuse, which includes providing context and background information, and using respectful language.

• The research also highlights the need for more support and resources for victims and their families, and for more education and awareness-raising about child sexual abuse.

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A ... *Family, domestic and sexual violence in Australia: Continuing the national story* ...

B ... *Becoming Trauma Informed – Services* ...

B ... *Crisis* ...

B ... *Betrayal: The crisis in the Catholic Church: the findings of the investigation that inspired the major motion picture Spotlight* ...

B ... *Proceedings of The World Wide Web Conference San Francisco, CA* ...

C ... *Australian Journal of Law and Society* ...

G ... *Journal of Community Safety and Well-Being* ...

G ... *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Final Report* ...

C ... *Child Abuse & Neglect* ...

C ... *National Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Child Sexual Abuse 2021–2030* ...

D ... *Feminist Media Studies* ...

I ... *Information Design Journal + Document Design* ...

D ... *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse* ...

D ... *Iconography of child sexual abuse in the news (justice and crime reporting)* ...

E ... *Ethnic and Racial Studies* ...

J ... *Journal of Communication* ...

F ... *Suicide and Life-Threatening Behavior* ...

F. C. *Hell on the way to heaven* B.

G. *fixed it.*

G. F. A. *Journal of Australian Studies*

G. F. *Journal of Australian Studies*

G. D. *Luxembourg Guidelines: Terminology guidelines for the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.*

G. *Journal of Australian Studies*

11 G Child Sexual Abuse and the Media Z. +

F. 1 Dark secrets of childhood: Media power child abuse and public scandals

F. 1 Child Research Net

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PROJECT TEAM

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Media

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CODE	DESCRIPTOR	DEFINITION/ EXPLANATION	MENU TYPE	DROP DOWN MENU CATEGORIES
N		A	F	
	L	V	D	L F G C N
A	A CA D v GB A	A F N	D D	A C CA D GB A
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