

WHO SHOULD YOU CONTACT TO REPORT A CHILD WHO MIGHT NEED HELP?

If you think or know that a child is being mistreated, neglected or sexually abused, you can ring the number below to report your concern. If you do not want to call them yourself, contact an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander welfare agency or health service who can assist you with this matter. It is everybody's responsibility to protect children.

For advice, or to report your concern, call the following 24 hour, free child safety reporting lines:

Police or Ambulance: Dial 000 in an emergency

ACT	1300 556 729	SA	131 478
NSW	132 111	TAS	1800 688 009
NT	1800 700 250	VIC	131 278
QLD	1800 177 135	WA	1800 622 258

This organisation in your region can also assist you:



KEEP YOUR FAMILY SAFE

Information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and children about family violence and child abuse

Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC)

The national peak body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

PO Box 1445 Fitzroy North VIC, 3068
Ph: (03) 9489 8099 Fax: (03) 9489 8044
www.snaicc.asn.au

Copyright © SNAICC 2007

Disclaimer: The children in the photographs in this guide are for illustrative purposes only and are not intended to imply the children depicted are in care or of concern to a state child welfare authority.

Produced by the SNAICC Resource Service (SRS) which is funded as an *Early Childhood – Invest to Grow* initiative by the Australian Government under the Stronger Families and Communities Strategy.

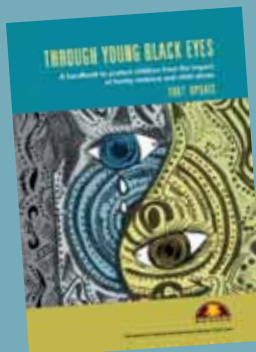


WHAT TO TELL THE CHILDREN

For children affected by family violence and abuse

- Remain calm, listen very carefully to what they are saying
- Always tell them you believe them
- Tell the child it is not their fault
- Tell them that it is right for them to talk about it
- Acknowledge that it is very hard talking about these things
- Let them know that you will try to keep them safe
- Do not make promises you cannot keep
- Do not confront parents or offenders
- Seek advice from your nearest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child welfare agency, health service or state/territory child protection service
- Help the child to make an emergency safety plan which includes people they feel safe to talk to and a place for them to go to

THROUGH YOUNG BLACK EYES



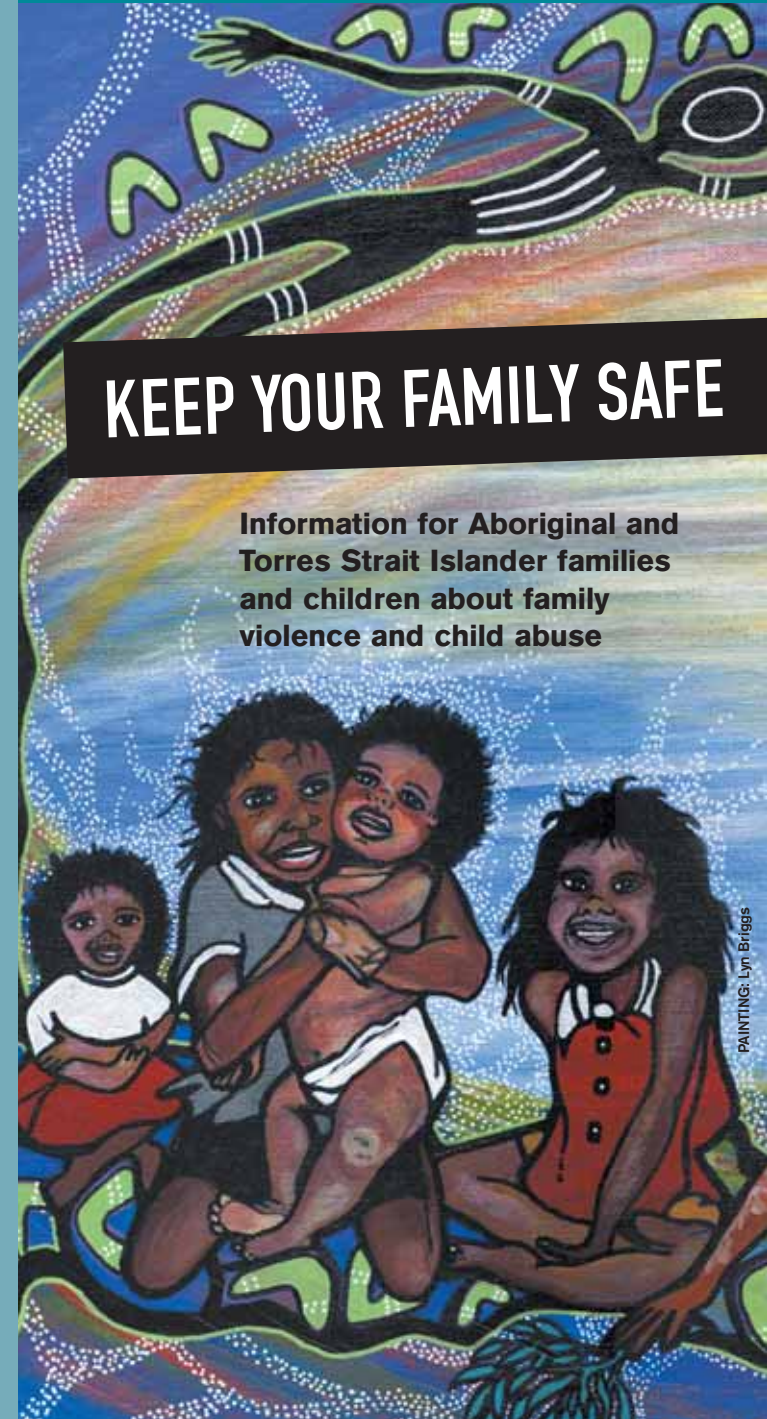
This *Keep Your Family Safe* leaflet is part of a package to help your community make safety plans to prevent child abuse and neglect. This package includes the *Through Young Black Eyes* handbook, community leader's guide, a community workshop facilitator's guide, workshop presentation overheads, information sheets, and workbooks.

You can ring SNAICC or order all these online at www.snaicc.asn.au

THROUGH YOUNG BLACK EYES

KEEP YOUR FAMILY SAFE

Information for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and children about family violence and child abuse



PAINTING: Lyn Briggs

FAMILY VIOLENCE, CHILD ABUSE AND CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE HAPPENS EVERYWHERE

People who abuse children come from the city, the bush or the desert. They are young, old and in the middle. They are usually well known to the child, and are sometimes members of the child's own family.

This is why it is so important to:

- Know how to protect your children
- Listen carefully to your children. It is hard for kids to talk about these things
- Be aware of the signs that tell us that kids are experiencing violence or abuse so we can do something about it; and
- Teach children to talk about their worries and concerns with you.
- Don't let kids see pornographic and extremely violent films or pictures



FAMILY VIOLENCE HURTS KIDS TOO

Kids and babies are badly affected by family violence. Children and babies in the middle of family violence may be physically hurt themselves, or they may have emotional problems.

They may be scared, show anger, cheat and steal. They may have nightmares, sleep badly, wet their bed, become isolated, start using alcohol and drugs, be aggressive to other people or nasty to animals, be depressed, have low self esteem, be sicker than usual, have eating problems, fail to grow well, be unable to concentrate at school or to think well. They may attempt suicide.

Spend time with your children, help them understand their feelings. Listen to your children carefully and ask for help from family or from services.

DO YOU KNOW?

You may be the only chance for the child/family to stop the cycle

Children of all ages are abused, from babies to teenagers

1 in 4 girls and 1 in 9 boys are sexually abused before they turn 18

Abusers can be male or female

Children who are believed and supported can recover from the abuse

Child abuse is never the child's fault

Family violence is very damaging whether it is done to them or they watch it

SOMEWHERE THERE IS A SAFE PLACE

It is often very hard for children to get up and leave a family situation when there is trouble. We have to show them a safe place they can go to when they feel in danger, no matter what other family members say.



CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

You teach your children about fire, water, how to cross the road, about good and bad foods. So you also need to teach young children about good touching and bad touching.

Kids talk to adults they trust about things that worry them. Tell them it is OK for them to talk. Listen very well to them and notice changes in their behaviour.

Our children are taught to share. But they are also taught that some things are private. So teach them to trust that feeling in their tummy or their heart that something is wrong and teach them to seek help when they get that feeling.

Teach your children that they sometimes need to protect themselves from people who say they love them. Teach them to say no to having things done to their private parts of their body. Teach them to say no to bad touching. Teach the children to keep telling people they trust about these things until someone really listens and helps to keep them safe.

Remember, it is good to teach children to protect themselves, but only adults can really make the abuse stop.

Many child abusers trick or threaten children to stop them speaking out, so you need to listen very carefully and notice all the signs such as those listed on the previous page, plus signs such as acting out adult type sexual behaviour, injury or pain in their private parts, fear of being left with some family members, bathing a lot, going to bed with their clothes on, spending time with known child abusers, pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, getting money from an unknown source.

PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES FROM FAMILY VIOLENCE, CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT