



Welcome!

Advancing organisational child-safe practices using contextual prevention strategies.

The symposium will be recorded and sent to all registrants.

Please adjust your name/video if you wish to remain anonymous.



SAFER CHILDREN, SAFER COMMUNITIES

Advancing organisational child-safe practices using contextual prevention strategies

Funded by Westpac Safer Children, Safer Communities grants scheme

Institute of Child Protection Studies, ACU

Douglas Russell

Prof. Daryl Higgins

Sexual Violence Research and Prevention Unit, UniSC

A/Prof. Nadine McKillop

Dr Susan Rayment-McHugh

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the many lands from which we gather for this event.

We pay our respects to the ancestors, Elders and descendants of these lands, and acknowledge that these have always been places of learning.

Funding

SAFER CHILDREN, SAFER COMMUNITIES

Partners

54 reasons

LIFE WITHOUT BARRIERS

Researchers



Presentations



Child Safeguarding at Westpac

Natasha Menezes

Executive Manager
Social Programs and Human Rights
Safer Children, Safer Communities
Westpac



Preventing Child Sexual Abuse

Prof Daryl Higgins

Director
Institute of Child Protection Studies
Australian Catholic University



Opportunities and Challenges to Implementing Contextual Prevention

A/Prof Nadine McKillop

Co-Leader
Sexual Violence Research and Prevention Unit
University of the Sunshine Coast



Contextual Prevention 'in practice'

Dr Susan Rayment-McHugh

Co-Leader
Sexual Violence Research and Prevention Unit
University of the Sunshine Coast



Future Directions in Advancing Contextual Prevention

Douglas Russell

Senior Researcher
Institute of Child Protection Studies
Australian Catholic University

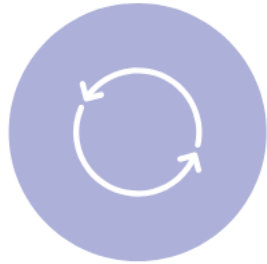
A close-up photograph of several children's hands, each with different colors of paint (red, purple, yellow, green, pink) applied to the fingers and palms. The hands are positioned as if they are about to be pressed together to form a heart shape.

WESTPAC BANKING CORPORATION
ABN 33 007 457 141

Child safeguarding at Westpac

National Symposium
May 2024

Safer Children, Safer Communities program



Catalyse Change

Catalyse change in Westpac Group to create deeper awareness and accountability and be an advocate in Australia for safeguarding children.



Raises Awareness

Raise awareness, particularly on the issue of online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC) and the role of business and the community in acknowledging and taking responsibility for safeguarding and protecting children.



Accelerate unity of action

Accelerate unity of action on OSEC, through the development and adoption of collaborative technologies and capabilities to better detect, monitor, report and prevent harm to children associated with financial crime.



Help protect children

Help protect children in Australia, and in those APAC countries where children are at highest risk, by supporting and scaling the efforts of organisations to empower, protect and support children, survivors, their families and carers, and improve their access to restorative justice.

A collective approach

TACKLING CHILD EXPLOITATION AND ABUSE REQUIRES **A COLLECTIVE EFFORT**, AND WE CONTINUE TO ENGAGE WITH A RANGE OF STAKEHOLDERS TO LEARN AND SHARE OUR EXPERIENCES



SAFER CHILDREN, SAFER COMMUNITIES ROUNDTABLE.

Consists of experts in human rights, child safety, online safety and law enforcement that help to inform and guide our approach. In 2022, the Roundtable endorsed our 2022 grant recipients and strategic partnerships, reviewed our performance against our Child Safeguarding Position Statement, and provided feedback on priorities for the coming year.

In 2020, the Roundtable helped co-design our work program,



SAFER CHILDREN, SAFER COMMUNITIES ADVISORY GROUP.

Consists of representatives from civil society, national child protection organisations and experts in modern slavery, trafficking, and human rights. In 2022, the advisory group provided insights into emerging trends and issues in child protection, which helped to inform and guide our strategic priority areas for the year.

In 2020, the Advisory Group also helped us co-design our work program.



STRATEGIC PARTNERS.

The Benevolent Society, IJM, Save the Children Australia, ICMEC Australia, DNX Media and the Australian Childhood Foundation are our strategic partners, focused on addressing system-level issues related to child safety and protection and working with a range of government, regulatory, business and community groups to deliver against their programs across Australia and APAC.



GRANT RECIPIENTS.

Includes Australian not-for-profit organisations who help children and young people through technology, education, research, and collaborative child protection programs. This year, we welcomed UNICEF and Child Fund, who will deliver programs tackling OSEC in Thailand and Cambodia.



WESTPAC EMPLOYEES.

The SCSC team works closely with our financial crime, product, customer vulnerability, procurement, and broader sustainability teams on driving action against our Child Safeguarding Position Statement. We also provide advice and input on complex cases as required and act as an intermediary between external stakeholders with the aim of bringing their insights and expertise into the bank.

Westpac's approach to child safeguarding

STRENGTHENING A FOCUS ON CHILD SAFEGUARDING				
	Safety by design in products and services related to children and young people	Child labour risks in our supply chain	Child exploitation risks across financial transactions	Strengthening grievance mechanisms and approach to remedy for children and young people
OBJECTIVES	Design our products and services for children and young people so they are fit for purpose and promote safe and responsible financial behaviours	Identify, mitigate, and manage risks related to child labour across our supply chain	Put measures in place to mitigate risks associated with customers potentially exploiting our products for criminal purposes, including for example, child exploitation or abuse	Strengthen our grievance mechanisms for children and young people, where appropriate, so they are effective and fit-for-purpose and inform the role we play in remedy
ACTIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Take steps to better integrate safety by design principles into our product and lifecycle process. 2. Design product and service features for children and young people and their parents and carers that promote safe and responsible financial behaviours and prevent misuse. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Manage and monitor modern slavery risks including child labour risks in our supply chain. 2. Undertake due diligence in areas of our supply chain which are at higher risk of modern slavery (including the worst forms of child labour). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Integrate and enhance consideration for child sexual exploitation and abuse across our financial crime processes. 2. Prioritise the reporting of all suspected cases of child sexual exploitation to AUSTRAC within one business day of a suspicion being formed³. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review and seek to strengthen the effectiveness⁴ of our grievance mechanisms and our approach to remedy with an initial focus on children (minors) and young people.

Safety by Design principle in action

SPOTLIGHT ON SAFETY BY DESIGN.





Safety controls for children to bank responsibly.

We are working to help parents as they teach their children about independently managing their finances at a young age and doing so safely and responsibly.

In June 2022, following a review of potential risks and considerations for children and their parents/guardians, we determined that all under the age of 14 must have a parent/guardian signatory for all our products.



CHANGES TO ACCOUNTS HELD BY CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 14

What has changed?	How does it mitigate risks for children?
 A signatory is required to open an account for children under the age of 14.	It recognises that children can be vulnerable and should have adult oversight over their banking. This age is consistent with ASIC findings that children under 14 may be unable to understand the information about their banking products in sufficient detail and aligns to global benchmarks.
 Grandparents can become signatories for children under the age of 14.	It recognises the increasing role of grandparents when parents may not be looking after the needs of a child.
 Children under the age of 14 cannot make a branch withdrawal or request a debit card without the approval of a signatory.	This seeks to prevent children from intentionally or accidentally withdrawing the full balance of their account as they may not understand the consequences.
 No joint accounts for a child under the age of 14.	Children under 14 may not understand the terms of agreeing to a joint account whereby a co-owner has full legal access to account funds. This prevents an adult who is co-owner of a joint account from conducting transactions that the child may not understand, be aware of, or be able to prevent.
These safety features complement our existing controls to prevent age-inappropriate spending such as the default gambling block for all our new and existing debit cardholders under 18.	

FY23 progress

COLLECTIVE PROGRESS OF WESTPAC AND OUR PARTNERS

CATALYSE CHANGE

\$18.9 million committed in funding to child safeguarding organisations. This takes the total funding committed by Westpac since 2020 to \$61 million, supporting 50+ organisations across Australia and Asia.

Integrated our child safeguarding approach into our [Human Rights Position Statement and Action Plan](#)

960+ Westpac employees completed a Safety by Design training module.

HELP PROTECT CHILDREN

257,000+ children, young people and adults reached through programs delivered by partners, supported by our funding in Australia and Asia.² This includes:

17,700+ children, young people and adults reached in Asia alone.

142 victim rescues supported by International Justice Mission (IJM) in the Philippines.

4,800+ children and adults in the Philippines and Thailand participated in education programs as a result of Westpac funding to Save the Children Australia.

7 local organisations funded across regional SA, NSW and QLD to improve safety outcomes for children and young people as part of place-based funding from Westpac to The Benevolent Society.

40 organisations delivered their programs, research or activities, including in collaboration with another organisation, as a result of Westpac funding.

RAISE AWARENESS

With **5** founding corporate members, launched 'On Us: Australian Business Coalition for Safeguarding Children'.

37 businesses, **23** business leaders³ and **5** industry associations engaged through the 'On Us' Coalition.⁴

Westpac funds supported research institutes to produce **6** unique studies for use at conferences, workshops and published in journals.⁵

ACCELERATE UNITY OF ACTION

Approximately **\$1.2 million**⁶ in funding committed cumulatively through ICMEC Australia's Child Protection Fund (CPF) as a result of Westpac funding to ICMEC Australia.

21 industry organisations collaborated with ICMEC Australia, including Australian financial services organisations, law enforcement and regulators to share insights to fight OSEC.

7 data collaboration projects facilitated by ICMEC Australia to help prevent OSEC using Westpac funding.

¹ All data relates to the FY23 financial year 1 October 2022 - 30 September 2023, unless stated otherwise. Information derived from grant recipients has been received by Westpac. They have not been independently verified, and Westpac makes no representation or warranty as to the accuracy, completeness, or reliability of the information.

² This includes children, young people and adults who were directly and indirectly reached through the programs. The reach data also includes training, education and capacity building programs delivered by partners through a mix of face-to-face and online forums. Some data from FY22 (April - September 2022) has also been included, due to delayed reporting by some grant recipients.

³ General Manager level and above.

⁴ This includes the number of additional Australian businesses, additional business leaders and additional industry associations reached by direct face-to-face conversations, direct online meetings, direct training activities, and direct advocacy efforts.

⁵ Research data is for October 2022 - March 2023 (first half of FY23), remaining data (second half of FY23) available in April 2024.

⁶ This is cumulative funding awarded from 2020 onwards.

What else have we funded?

WE ARE

 GROUP

Bringing business together to safeguard children

The image shows a website header with a yellow navigation bar. The navigation bar contains the following links: "The issue", "Who we are", "Take action", "Resources", and "News & media". The main content area features a large blue and white graphic with the text "Safeguarding children. It's on us not them." and a yellow button labeled "Join the Coalition". To the right, there is a red logo for the Australian Business Coalition for Safeguarding Children, which is an initiative of the Australian Childhood Foundation.

The issue Who we are Take action Resources News & media

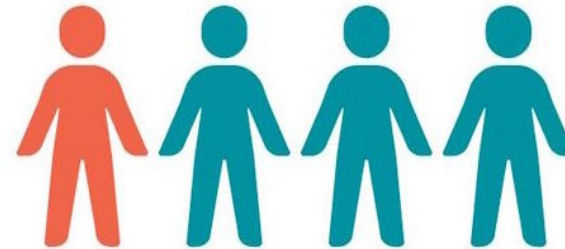
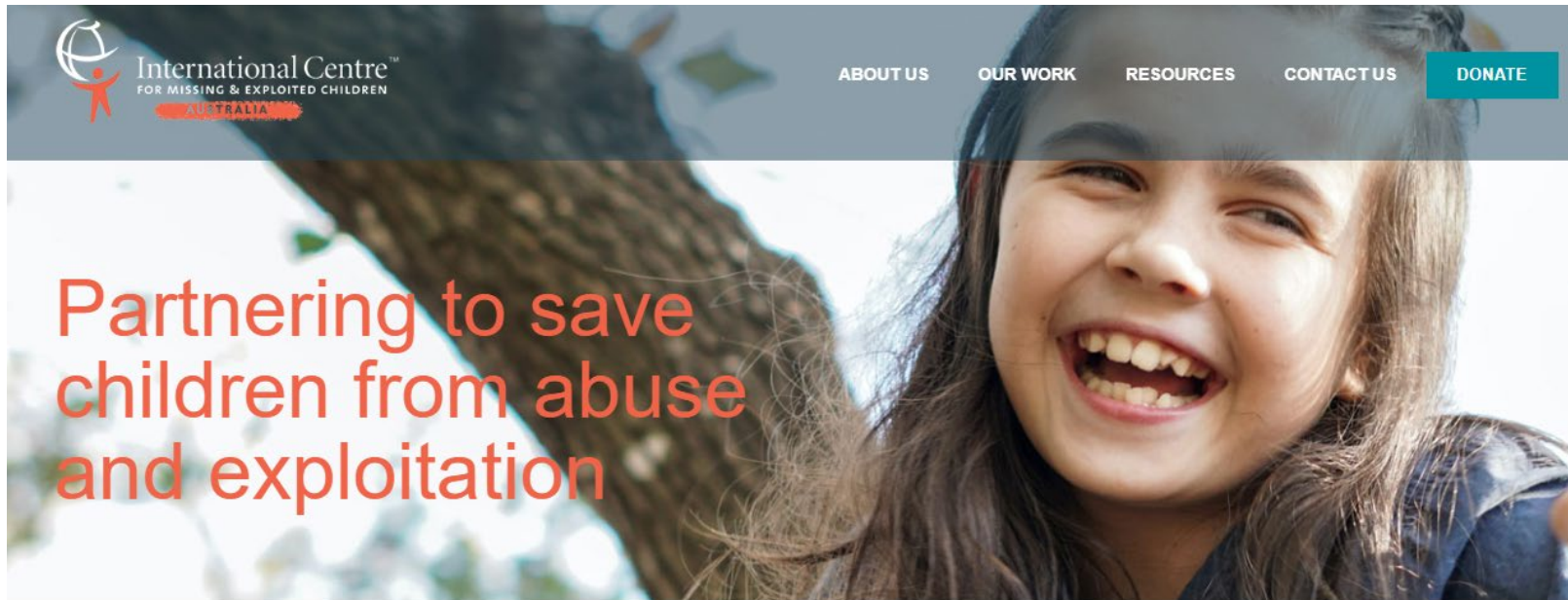
Safeguarding children. It's on us not them.

Join the Coalition ↘

Australian Business Coalition for Safeguarding Children

AN INITIATIVE OF
Australian Childhood Foundation

Cross-industry data and knowledge sharing to prevent CSE



More than 1 in 4 Australians have been sexually abused as a child



Preventing child sexual abuse

Prof Daryl Higgins

Prevalence of child sexual abuse

Recent data from the Australian Child Maltreatment Study (ACMS) presents a chilling picture of the extent of child sexual abuse – experienced in a variety of settings, at the hands of adults and other adolescents.



Nationwide cross-sectional survey

- Informed by systematic review and analysis
- Computer-assisted telephone interviews
- Random sample of the population

8500 Participants aged 16 and over



3500 Adolescents/young adults aged 16-24

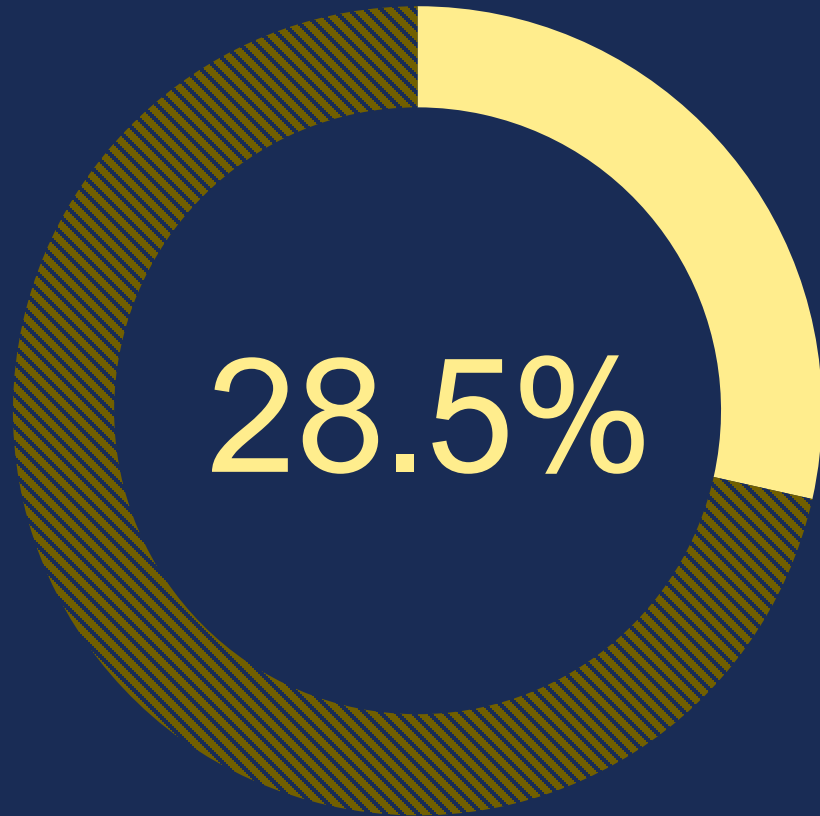
Enables future Wave Studies, Cohort Study

5000 Adults aged 25+

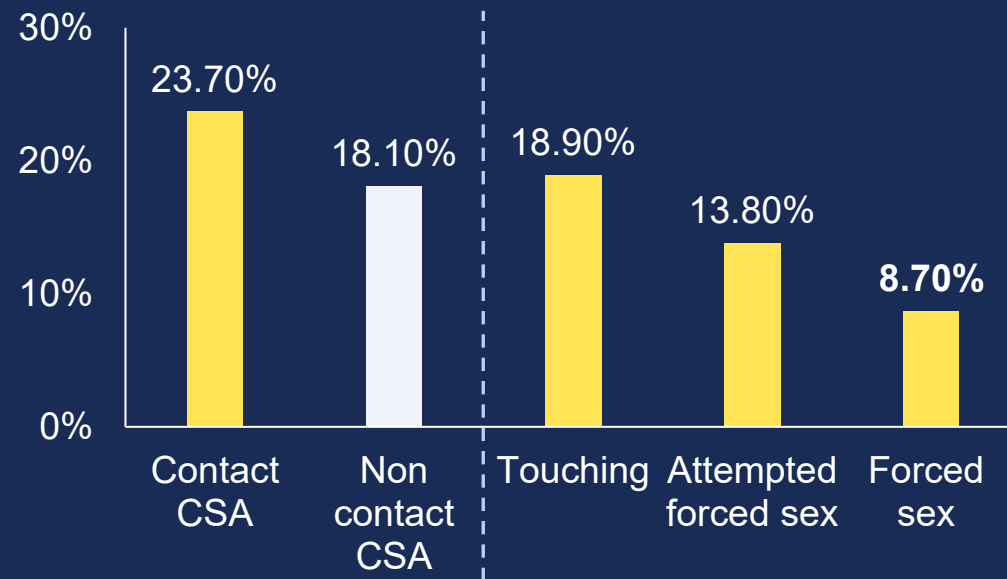
1000 adults in 5 strata (25-34, 35-44, 45-54, 55-64, 65+)
Enables measurement of health through life



Child sexual abuse - Whole sample



1 in 4 More than 1 in 4 Australians have experienced child sexual abuse



Girls experience substantially more child sexual abuse in almost all settings

Compared with boys, girls experience:

2x

Double the rate of contact sexual abuse by any offender

3x

Triple the rate of any sexual abuse by familial offenders

4x

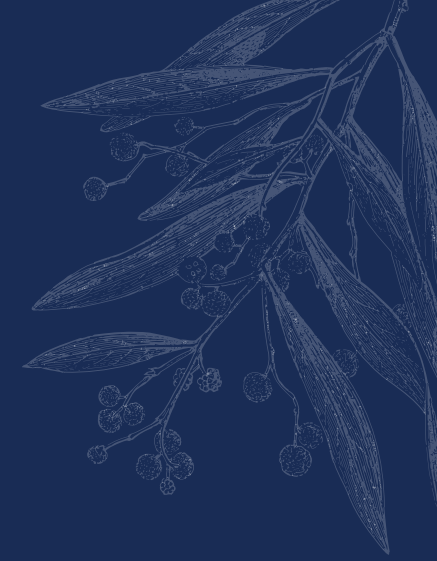
Quadruple the rate of contact sexual abuse by familial offenders

5x

Five times the rate of sexual abuse by current/former romantic partners



Institutions were the **only setting** where girls experience less CSA than boys.



This disparity is a massive, enduring and intolerable injustice.

It is within our power to change this.

It is imperative that we do so.

Child sexual abuse – classes of offender (whole sample: 28.5%)

7.8%

Parents/adult caregivers in the home

7.5%

Other known adults

12.9%*

Known adolescents (aged <18)

2.0%

Institutional adult caregivers

4.9%

Unknown adults

1.4%

Unknown adolescents (aged <18)

Education as a means of prevention

Cohn, A. H. (1990). In Oates, K. M (Ed.). *Understanding and managing child sexual abuse*. Ch. 20. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich.

Don't just think about **secondary and tertiary prevention** (intervening with high-risk populations, or after harm has occurred)

Include **primary prevention** – interventions directed at a whole population (like fluoride in the water) **to stop sexual abuse before it occurs**. This involves:

- Intervening with **potential perpetrators** early in their lives (those with concerning thoughts or desires, or who are engaging with harmful sexual behaviours)
- Addressing the **vulnerability of potential victims** (may have low self-esteem; hungry for affection etc.)
- The approaches to prevention are based on various **assumptions**, including:
 - complexity of the problem requiring multiple strategies;
 - limited empirical findings about causes;
 - abusers don't have a single 'profile';
 - abusive behaviour can start early (before adulthood);
 - its an abuse of power but also involves societal values, and beliefs;
 - we don't have robust taboos about molestation conveyed in the media;
 - children don't know about how to resist;
 - prevention needs public understanding and support;
 - children can be in 'non-protected' environments.

Comprehensive Approach to Prevention (Cohn, 1990)

1. Educate adolescents and older children about health sexuality
2. Train adults who work with children to identify abuse and to screen out those who are unsuitable.
3. Provide prevention education for children – how to protect themselves, and to reach out for help if they find themselves in a situation that is not OK.
4. Educate parents – including appropriate and inappropriate touch and how to react when they see signs of abuse or inappropriate behaviour.
5. Implement child-safe processes in organisations.
6. Educate the public – including messages for adults and adolescents (e.g., it's a crime, a chronic problem, children cannot consent, children get hurt), and for children (e.g., you can say no, it's not your fault, help is available).
7. Treat perpetrators.

Early approaches to prevention of CSA

Victim-focused programs

1. “Protective Behaviours Programs” – recognising risks and teaching resistance:
 - Feeling and being safe; ‘body safety’ rules; who to reach out to when feeling unsafe
2. Moving to “Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Education”
 - Child-focused programs, teaching body safety, respect, consent
 - Engaging parents in child-focused programs, to support program delivery, reinforce program messages at home, discuss CSA and its prevention with their children, and respond appropriately to any disclosures: <https://doi.org/10.1177/15248380241235895>

Perpetrator-focused strategies (detection, exclusion, and punishment of offenders or would-be offenders)

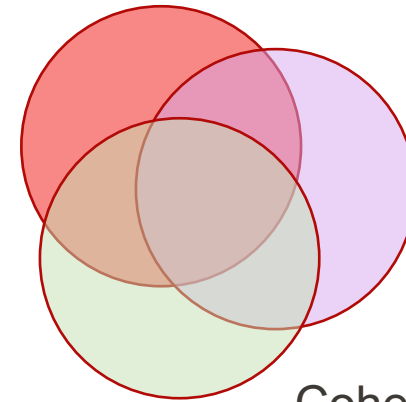
1. Pre-employment Screening i.e., Working With Children Checks (WWCC); Criminal history checks, etc.
2. Suitability Assessments
3. Reportable Conduct

Prevention

Prevention – based on knowledge of causes and contributing factors

Child sexual abuse occurs at the intersection of:

- Motivation (of a potential offender)
- Vulnerability (of a potential victim)
- Opportunity



Cohen & Felson (1979).

Prevention means addressing the **preconditions** that facilitate abuse at each of these levels.

Shifting the paradigm

Preventing ‘bad’ people from organisations isn’t enough

Sexual abuse prevention strategies in organisations have focused on **screening** to identify those with a history of child sexual abuse.

However:

- First-time abusers have no offence history
- Much abuse goes undetected or reported, so won’t be detected in screening
- Young people also engage in sexually abusive behaviours
- Focusing on the individual ignores the “power of the situation” to influence individual behaviour, and the capacity of systemic approaches to prevention that focus on context

Boyd 2008; Pratt & Miller, 2012

<https://aifs.gov.au/cfca/2016/06/22/public-health-approach-preventing-child-maltreatment>

Newer approaches

- Comprehensive prevention education – requires a coalition with sex educators, as proponents not only of children’s health, but of their safety
- Parent-led or parent-focused interventions to foster protective parenting in CSA prevention, using behavioural strategies such as: *monitoring, supervision, caution around care delegation, checking in with children, and the use of warmth and open communication*
- Sexual socialisation – particularly tackling *masculinity and male sexualisation*
- Perpetrator interventions – e.g., Stop It Now, for adults or young people concerned about their (or someone else’s) thoughts or behaviours towards children: <https://www.stopitnow.org.au>
- Child-safe principles or standards for organisations – from Royal Commission recommendations: <https://chilsafe.humanrights.gov.au/national-principles>
- Situational Crime Prevention: <https://safeguardingchildren.acu.edu.au/practice-tools/situational-crime-prevention>
- Contextual Prevention – a new addition to the prevention landscape



A comprehensive approach to the prevention of child sexual abuse needs strategies that are focused on both individuals and contexts.

Contextual prevention targets societal contexts (macro) and immediate situations (micro) in which abuse might occur.



What is contextual prevention?

“Contextual prevention of child sexual abuse comprises prevention efforts that target factors external to the individual, addressing macro-level and micro-level structures, to create safer environments for children and young people.”



Opportunities & Challenges to implementing contextual prevention

A/Prof Nadine McKillop

Opportunities & Challenges

Innovation takes time, patience, and perseverance

Opportunities

- ✓ Significant commitment by YSOs to assess current child-safe policies and practices against best-practice and standards
- ✓ Widespread interest by YSOs in contextual prevention to complement current practices
- ✓ Some in-principle support by YSOs to outsource experts to assess existing approaches and contemplate introduction of new strategies
- ✓ Uptake in consultations for staff training across the sector
- ✓ Ad hoc experimentation of innovative contextual prevention strategies

Opportunities & Challenges

Innovation takes time, patience, and perseverance

Challenges

- ❑ Remain ‘embryonic’ in implementation – e.g., training to upskill as main strategy
- ❑ Still a heavy reliance on stamping out “bad apples”, less so on the “bad barrel”
- ❑ Implementation has – to date - lacked a systematic approach
 - Time and resource constraints – to adequately plan, pilot, and evaluate at whole-of-organisation
 - Competing priorities and agendas to sufficiently focus on, and embed, into practice
 - Uptake and engagement sporadic
- ❑ Did we run before we could walk?
 - YSOs interested but not quite sure what ‘contextual prevention’ is or what it looks like ‘in practice’
 - Need to step back, regroup, & create a foundational structure – to move forward

“Situational prevention has featured in the Royal Commission’s work and seems to have strong intuitive appeal among organizational leaders, albeit that its rationale and methodology are often not well understood.” (Smallbone, 2017)



Contextual prevention 'in practice'

Dr Susan Rayment-McHugh

Contextual prevention of CSA comprises prevention efforts that target factors external to the individual, addressing macro- and micro-level structures, to create safer environments for children.

Implementation?

- **What** - Scope of contextual prevention strategies
- **How** - Implementation steps
- **Examples**



What: Contextual prevention strategies



- *Context matters*

- Empirically supported
- Span macro to micro lens

Contextual prevention strategies

- Challenge concerning social norms
 - e.g., gender inequality, male entitlement
- Strengthen protective norms
 - e.g., respect, healthy relationships
- Improve access to prevention resources
- Reduce exposure to concerning sexual behaviour
- Address disadvantage / poverty
- Develop housing programs to reduce overcrowding

macro

**Address social
determinants**

**Enhance formal
regulatory
controls**

**Crime prevention
through
environmental
design**

**Situational crime
prevention**

micro

Contextual prevention strategies

- Law reform
- Policy reform
- Enhancing protective systems

macro

Address social
determinants

Enhance formal
regulatory
controls

Crime prevention
through
environmental
design

Situational crime
prevention

micro

Contextual prevention strategies

- Increasing effort
 - Internet filters
 - Reducing opportunities for abuse
- Increasing risk of detection
 - Active guardianship
 - Home computers in shared spaces
 - Address barriers to disclosure
- Reducing provocations
 - Limiting availability of alcohol or other disinhibiting substances
 - Safety planning with high-risk 'offenders'
- Removing excuses
 - Clear organisational policies – expected standards of behaviour
 - Pop up warning messages

macro

**Address social
determinants**

**Enhance formal
regulatory
controls**

**Crime prevention
through
environmental
design**

**Situational crime
prevention**

micro

Contextual prevention strategies

- Natural surveillance
 - Pruning trees, adding lighting or CCTV in public spaces
 - Windows and doors with viewing panels in organisations
 - Moving home computers to the living room
 - Intensive guardianship at specific hot spots
- Controlling access
 - Safer recruitment strategies
 - Monitoring visitors to institutional settings

Opportunity reduction through environmental design

macro

Address social determinants

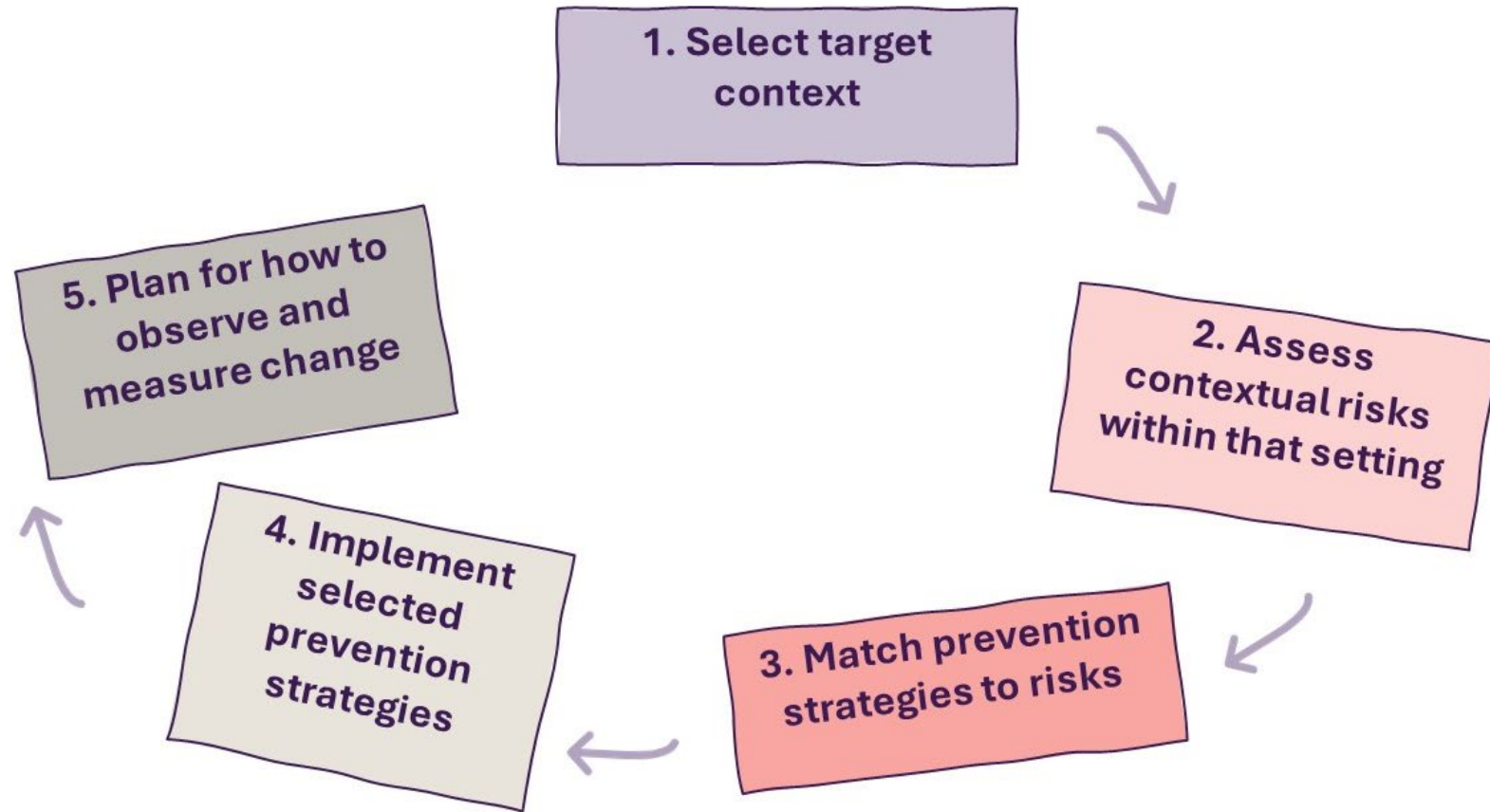
Enhance formal regulatory controls

Crime prevention through environmental design

Situational crime prevention

micro

How: Implementing contextual prevention

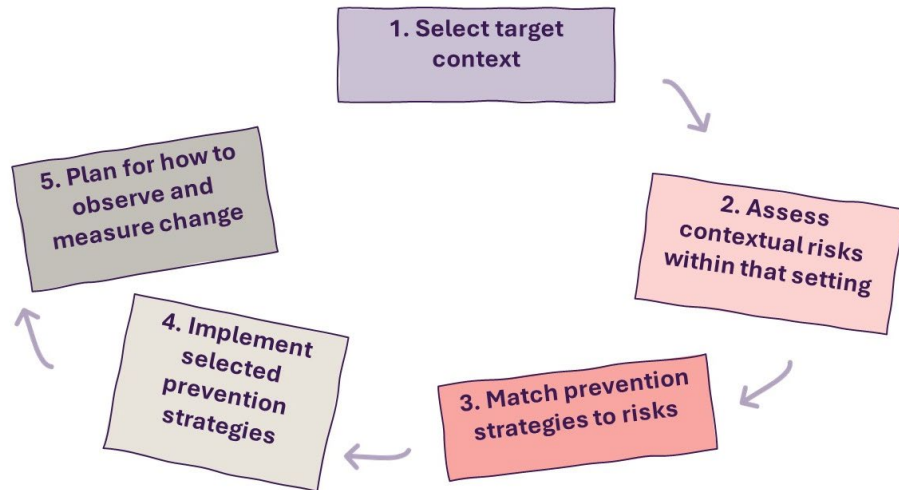


Context matters!

Contextual Prevention in Organisational Settings



Case Study: School concerns re HSB



Assess Contextual Risks

Environmental audit
Spoke with teachers

- Underconfident teachers
- Unclear how to identify & respond to HSB
- Playground difficult to guard
- Limited visibility into classrooms

Match Prevention Strategies

- Training to enhance guardianship capacity
- Increased playground supervision to cover blind spots
- Access restricted to 'hard to guard' areas in school grounds
- Windows into classrooms cleared to increase visibility

Whole of community example – the Neighbourhoods Project

- Central goal to create safer environments
- Assessment of contextual risk factors
 - Community engagement & interviews
 - Observations
 - Environmental audits
- Multiple discrete prevention activities implemented
 - Increase effort & risk of detection through enhanced guardianship
 - Reduce opportunities through environmental design
 - Address social determinants

Teachers Protect
Professionals Protect
Parents Protect
Friends Protect
Communities Protect
Protect Me
Targeted Police Patrols
Designing Safe Spaces
Puggles



Contextual prevention in the current project

1. Situational crime prevention

- **Staff training** to enhance guardianship capacity & reduce opportunities for abuse
 - *Online & in-person training events, practice conversations, case studies*
- *Increasing effort + Increasing risk of detection*

2. CPTED

- **Environmental audit** to identify potential risks
 - *Movement mapping etc.*
- *Opportunity reduction - natural surveillance + controlling access*



These are important strategies for enhancing contextual prevention of CSA

Preliminary evaluation shows promise

BUT

Opportunities exist to extend the scope of contextual prevention strategies being implemented in youth – serving organisations in Australia

International Examples

Sport Situational Prevention Model – USA

Prof. Keith Kaufman

- Harm to athletes including CSA
- Broad range of sports
- 4 step process
 - Risk brainstorming
 - Prioritising
 - Developing solutions
 - Creating implementation plans

<https://uscenterforsafesport.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/SSPAImplementationGuide.pdf>

Contextual Safeguarding – UK

Prof. Carlene Firmin

- Extends the reach of child protection beyond individual children and domestic settings
- Targets extra-familial settings in which young people increasingly spend their time and where they may be harmed
- Widely implemented

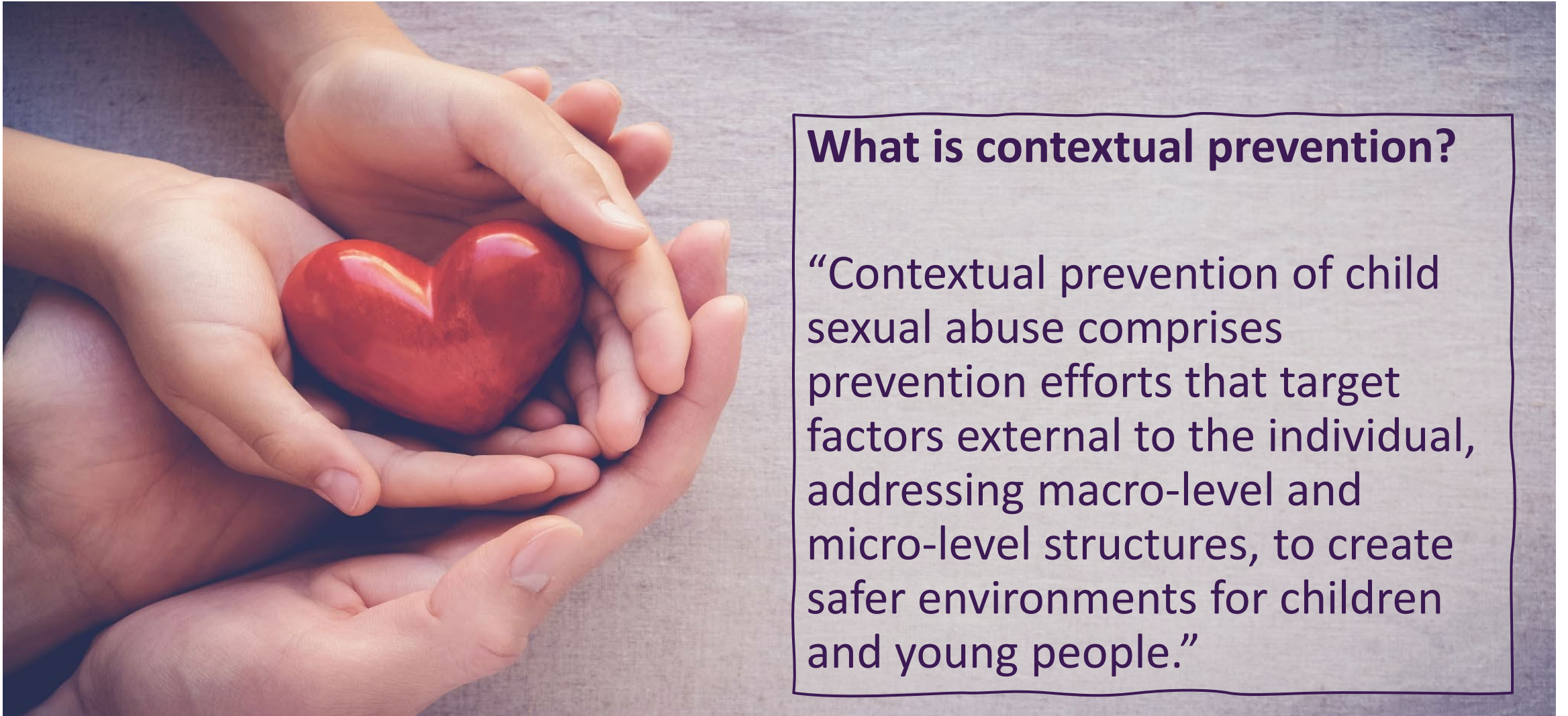
<https://www.contextualsafeguarding.org.uk/>



Future directions in advancing contextual prevention

Douglas Russell

What is contextual prevention?

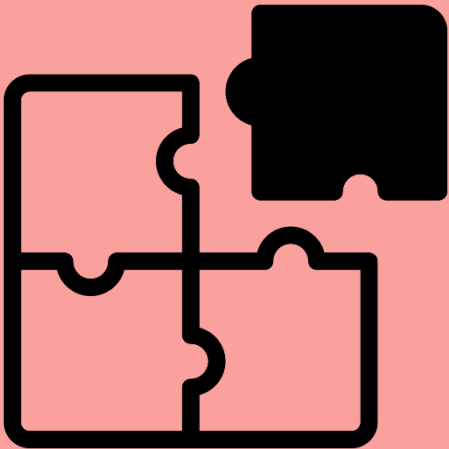


What is contextual prevention?

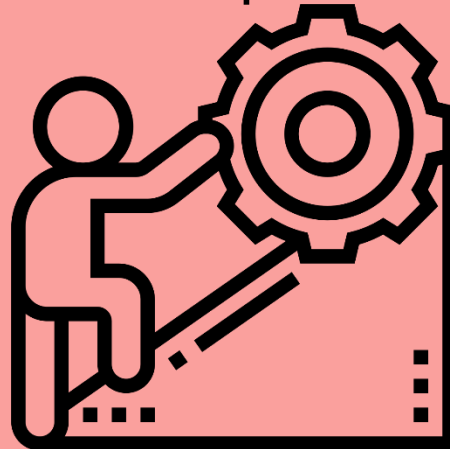
“Contextual prevention of child sexual abuse comprises prevention efforts that target factors external to the individual, addressing macro-level and micro-level structures, to create safer environments for children and young people.”

A recap

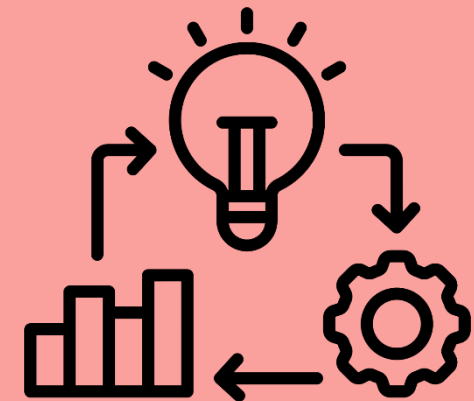
Fitting contextual prevention into a holistic approach to CSA prevention



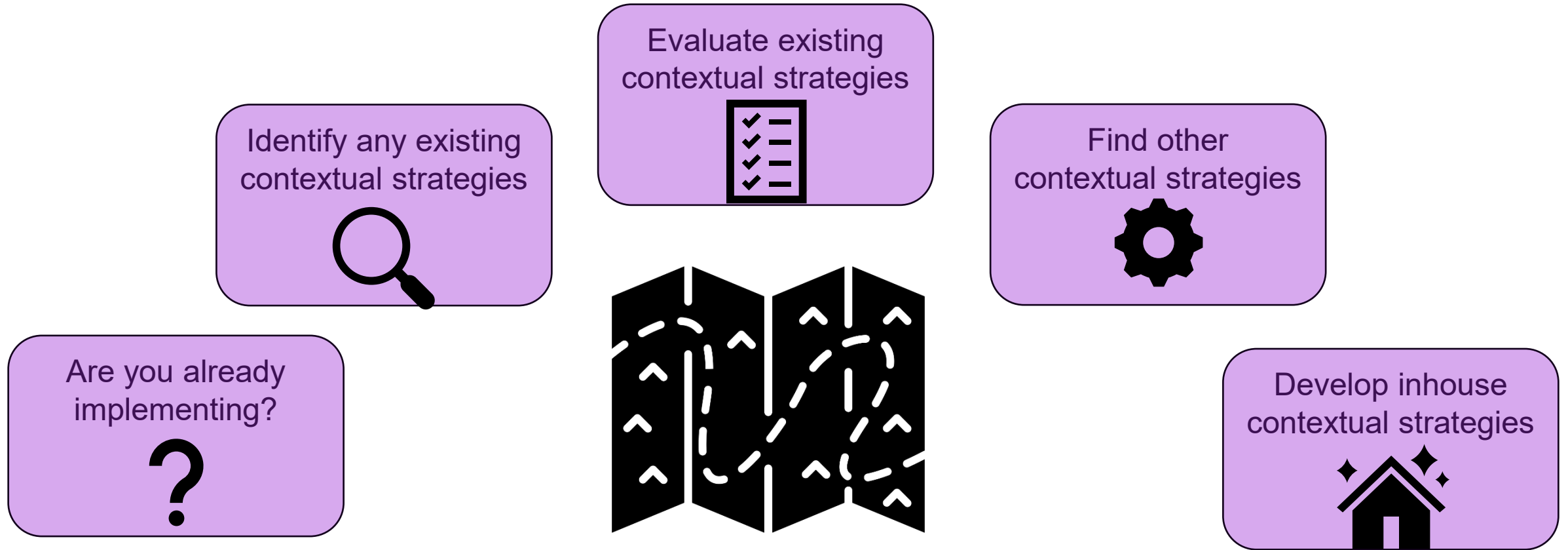
Opportunities & Challenges in implementing contextual prevention



Implementation of contextual prevention strategies



Mapping and benchmarking exercise



Are you already using contextual prevention strategies?

Identify if you are already utilising contextual prevention strategies in your setting.

- Is the strategy focused on the places or processes (as opposed to people)?



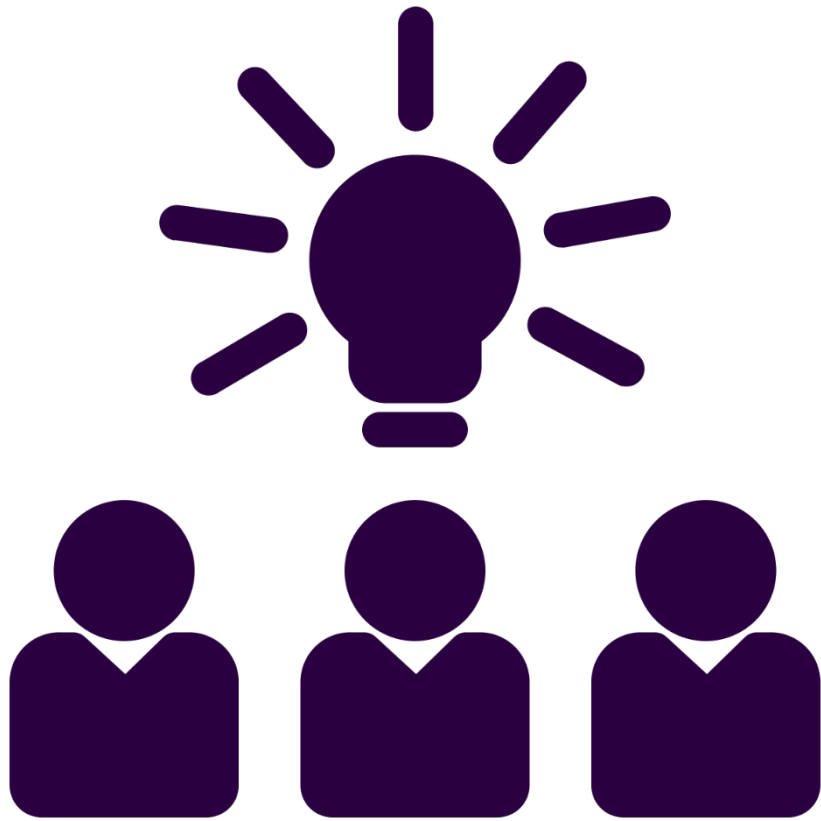
Evaluating existing contextual prevention strategies



Evaluate the contextual prevention strategies you are already implementing.

- What indicators would tell you this strategy is working?
- How long do you need to evaluate the strategy's success?

Developing your own contextual prevention strategies



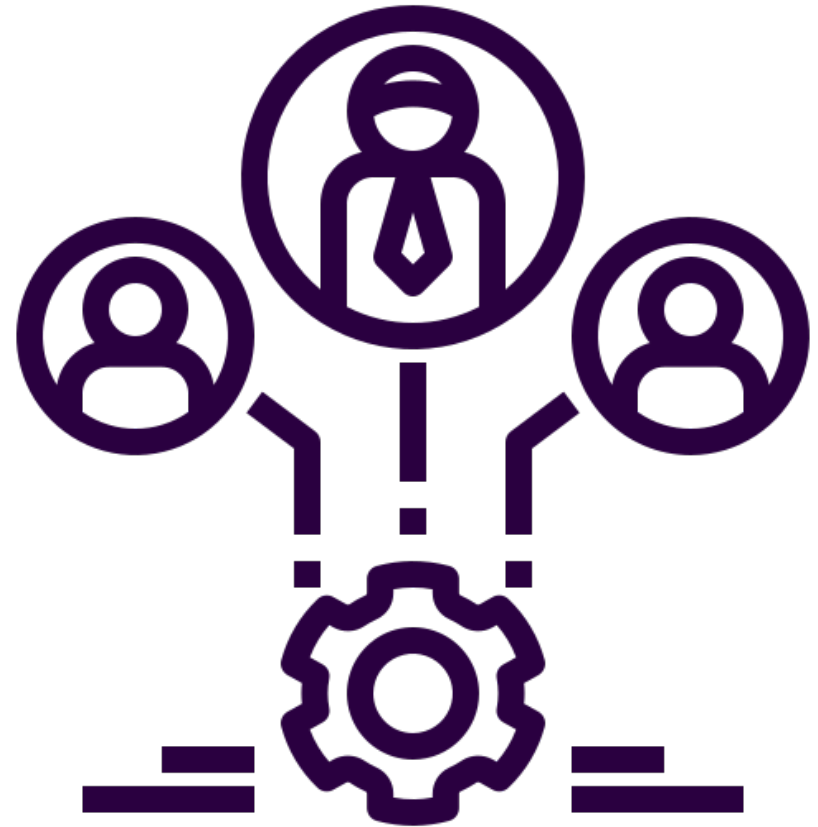
If there isn't anything currently existing, think about developing strategies and evaluating these as an organisation.

- Make sure it is evidence-based!
- Will it focus on a place, a process, or multiple dimensions?
- How will you evaluate the strategy?

Finding others' contextual prevention strategies

Utilise your network, communities of practice, and high-quality resources online to ensure you are not reinventing the wheel.

- Lots of people are interested so let's work together to create a bank of strategies.



A contextual prevention tool

Child Abuse Review
Supporting professionals in safeguarding children



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Context matters: Conceptualising and operationalising the contextual prevention of child sexual abuse

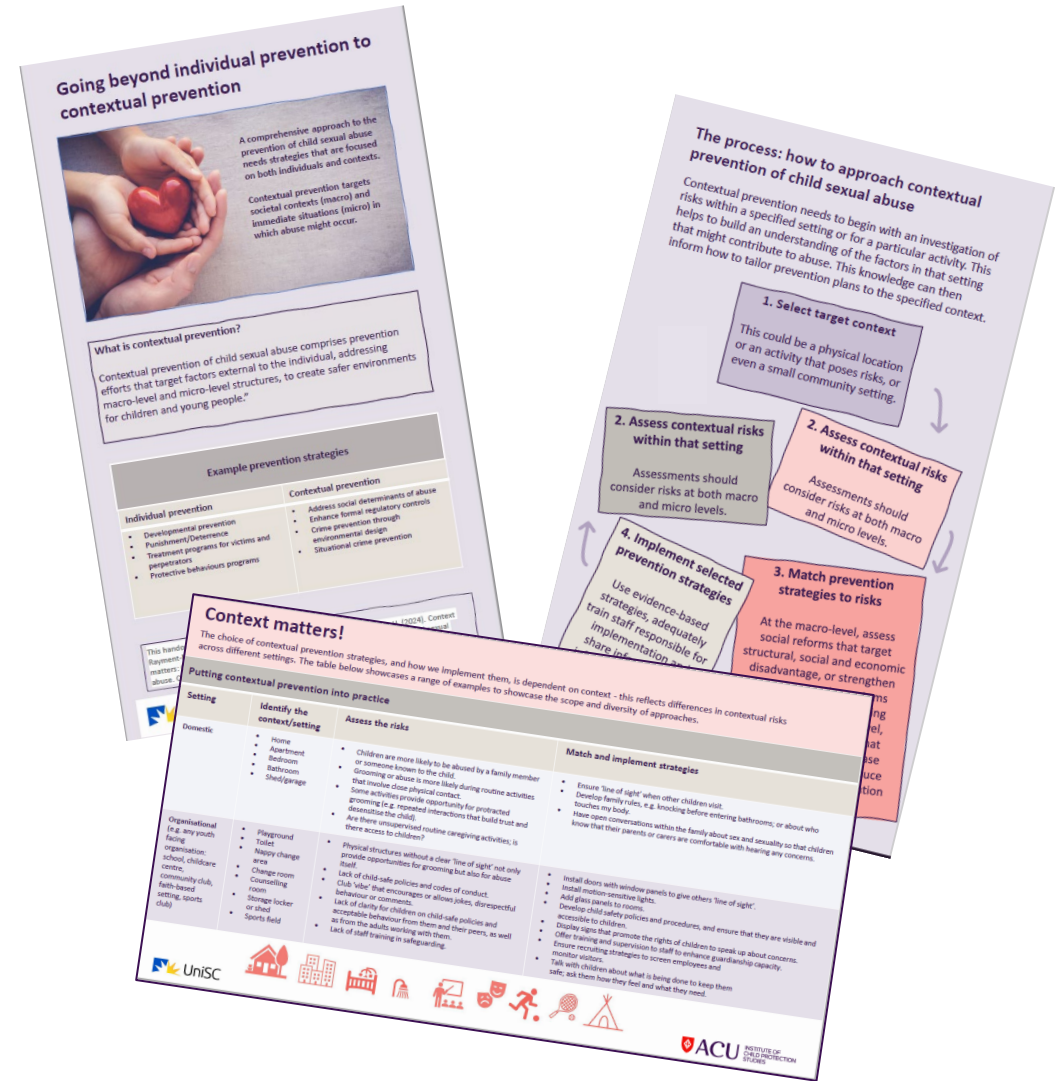
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Going beyond individual prevention to contextual prevention

A comprehensive approach to the prevention of child sexual abuse needs strategies that are focused on both individuals and contexts. Contextual prevention targets societal contexts (macro) and immediate situations (micro) in which abuse might occur.

What is contextual prevention?

Contextual prevention of child sexual abuse comprises prevention efforts that target factors external to the individual, addressing macro-level and micro-level structures, to create safer environments for children and young people."

Example prevention strategies

Individual prevention	Contextual prevention
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developmental prevention Punishment/Deterrence Treatment programs for victims and perpetrators Protective behaviours programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address social determinants of abuse Enhance formal regulatory controls Create prevention through environmental design Situational crime prevention

Context matters!
The choice of contextual prevention strategies, and how we implement them, is dependent on context - this reflects differences in contextual risks across different settings. The table below showcases a range of examples to showcase the scope and diversity of approaches.

Putting contextual prevention into practice

Setting	Identify the context/setting	Assess the risks	Match and implement strategies
Domestic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Home Apartment Bedroom Bathroom Shed/garage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children are more likely to be abused by a family member or someone known to the child. Grooming or abuse is more likely during routine activities that involve close physical contact. Some activities provide opportunity for protracted grooming (e.g. repeated interactions that build trust and desensitise the child). Are there unsupervised routine caregiving activities, is there access to children? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure 'line of sight' when other children visit. Develop family rules, e.g. knocking before entering bathrooms; or about who touches my body. Have open conversations within the family about sex and sexuality so that children know that their parents or carers are comfortable with hearing any concerns.
Organisational (e.g. Any youth facing organisation, school, childcare centre, community club, faith-based setting, sports club)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playground Toilet Nappy change area Change room Changing room Storage locker or shed Sports field 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical structures without a clear 'line of sight' not only provide opportunities for grooming but also for abuse itself. Lack of child-safe policies and codes of conduct. Club 'safe' that encourages or allows jokes, disrespectful behaviour or comments. Lack of clarity for children on child-safe policies and as from the adults working with them. Lack of staff training in safeguarding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install doors with window panels to give others 'line of sight'. Install motion-sensitive lights. Add glass panels to rooms. Develop child safety policies and procedures, and ensure that they are visible and accessible to children. Display signs that promote the rights of children to speak up about concerns. Offer training and supervision to staff to enhance guardianship capacity. Ensure recruiting strategies to screen employees and monitor visitors. Talk with children about what is being done to keep them safe, ask them how they feel and what they need.

The process: how to approach contextual prevention of child sexual abuse

Contextual prevention needs to begin with an investigation of risks within a specified setting or for a particular activity. This helps to build an understanding of the factors in that setting that might contribute to abuse. This knowledge can then inform how to tailor prevention plans to the specified context.

- 1. Select target context**
This could be a physical location or an activity that poses risks, or even a small community setting.
- 2. Assess contextual risks within that setting**
Assessments should consider risks at both macro and micro levels.
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Assessments should consider risks at both macro and micro levels.
- 3. Match prevention strategies to risks**
At the macro-level, assess social reforms that target structural, social and economic disadvantage, or strengthen...
- 4. Implement selected prevention strategies**
Use evidence-based strategies, adequately train staff responsible for implementation, and share...

Where are you at?

