

Your say

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Child abuse ignored is child abuse

I AM writing about the articles and letters on the North Coast Children's Home, and specifically Richard Campion's disclosures of horrific abuse.

There have been comments published that warrant response. I am appalled by the claims of one former resident that by speaking out about the physical, sexual and mental torture so many children suffered at the home, Richard and the other brave people who have

come forward have "unfairly tarnished" the reputation of the home. It is horrendous that someone would be more concerned about the reputation of an institution than about the abuse of children.

If I set up a day care centre and the person I put in charge tortured the children physically and sexually, I would also be responsible. I would be the one responsible for hiring that person and I would be the person

responsible for overseeing and ensuring that that person was doing their job — in short I would have a duty of care to those children.

Children who are abused are often too scared to tell.

Children blame themselves; they are told no one will believe; that it is their fault; that no one will love them; that any number of bad things will happen if they speak out.

Adults still do not speak out;

see how the justice system lets survivors down; try to suppress the pain of their childhood; think no one will believe them; and are told 'that happened a long time ago — get over it'.

Child abuse ignored is child abuse. Don't silence them as adults to 'save the reputation of an institution'.

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 development officer,
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