

**Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse
Therapeutic Services for Victims and Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse
Department of Corrective Services**

What therapeutic responses are available/funded for victims and survivors of child sexual abuse?

Young People

The Department's Youth Psychological Services (YPS) provides support and counselling to young people who have disclosed experiences of child sexual abuse and if necessary, refers young people to organisations which specialise in this area such as the Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC), operated by the Department of Health (DOH).

Adults – Public Prisons

The Prison Counselling Service (PCS) provides general counselling to prisoners and referrals to the Specialist Psychological Service (SPS), which was established in July 2016. The SPS is primarily a rehabilitative service which aims to reduce the risk of re-offending and enhance community safety through psychological assessment and intervention. The SPS accepts referrals for metropolitan and regional prisoners who require specialised psychological intervention where there are criminogenic treatment needs, or where treatment needs are impacting on a prisoner's daily functioning or psychological health, including those caused by experiences of child sexual abuse.

The SARC provided specialised counselling to prisoners who have disclosed child sexual abuse in the metropolitan area only until March 2016, when the service agreement between the Department and the DOH concluded.

The Support and Monitoring System (SAMS) and the At-Risk Management System (ARMS) provide support to and monitoring of prisoners who are at risk of self-harm or suicide, including those with histories of child sexual abuse.

Prisoners with histories of child sexual abuse who are vulnerable as a result of psychological issues caused by the abuse are managed under SAMS and provided with brief clinical interventions in relation to their assessed clinical needs by the PCS. Prisoners who are at risk of self-harm or suicide are managed under ARMS and provided clinical interventions in relation to their risk by the PCS.

Adults – Private Prisons

The Melaleuca Remand and Reintegration Facility for women, which commenced operations on 15 December 2016, is required to provide psychological and therapeutic services to offenders in their care, including those who disclose child sexual abuse.

The contract with Sodexo, the operator of Melaleuca, requires that one senior psychologist and two psychologists are employed at the facility at all times. The psychologists oversee all psychological and therapeutic activities and are integrated into the services of the facility.

Currently there are no specialist services available at Acacia Prison or the Wandoo Reintegration Facility for prisoners who are victims or survivors of child sexual abuse. SAMS and ARMS are available to prisoners in private prisons and prisoners have access to counsellors employed in the prison. Referrals are also made to external service providers when prisoners are released.

How is eligibility determined for these services and what number of inmates have taken up/been provided with these services in the period from 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2016. Are there people who need services who aren't receiving them?

Young People

All young people engaged with the Department who have disclosed child sexual abuse are eligible for support and counselling from a psychologist.

The Department does not maintain statistics on the number of young people who have disclosed child sexual abuse and been provided with therapeutic services.

Adults – Public Prisons

Between July and 18 November 2016, the SPS received 16 referrals where outstanding treatment needs in relation to child sexual abuse have been identified as the reason for referral. Of these 16 referrals; seven prisoners are receiving targeted interventions, three are being assessed for suitability of intervention, one was released from prison prior to assessment, one was not recommended for clinical intervention and four are yet to be assessed.

In certain circumstances, it may be inappropriate to engage in interventions addressing the treatment needs of prisoners with child sexual abuse experiences. This includes prisoners on remand, those with insufficient sentence time to address treatment needs, or where the prisoner or treating psychologist does not feel that the prison environment is conducive and safe for engaging in such an intervention.

Prior to the conclusion of the service agreement between the Department and the DoH in March 2016, the following referrals were made to SARC between 2011 and March 2016:

2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
23	85	89	86	31

Adults – Private Prisons

Melaleuca commenced operations on 15 December 2016 and therefore no data on prisoners receiving therapeutic services is available at this stage.

Specialised services are not provided at Acacia or Wandoo private prisons.

What activities have prisons and juvenile detention centres implemented to ensure that they are trauma informed?**Young People**

The Department intends to introduce trauma-informed practice in Youth Justice Services (YJS) as part of the Through Care and Case Coordination (TCCC) Model, scheduled for roll out in 2017.

The TCCC Model, developed by YJS, will be evidence-based, support a shared understanding and creates a consistency in practice that will work effectively across community and custody. The Model will provide a case management framework for YJS staff to work more effectively with young people in contact with youth justice.

Developed on the basis of a literature review and risk and needs responsiveness, the TCCC Model will provide an appropriate level of service and support to each young person based on their needs and risk of re-offending. Intervention levels will correspond to a young person's vulnerability and services will be tailored to a young person's needs.

It is anticipated that this approach will lead to the better identification and case management of young people with complex needs, such as trauma associated with sexual abuse.

In addition, Psychologists in YJS have a responsibility to maintain and update their knowledge and practices in relation to their current work role and identified professional development needs.

Adults – Public Prisons

The Department provides internal professional development activities for counsellors in trauma, trauma informed counselling, clinical supervision and peer supervision, and is supportive of staff who wish to attend external training conferences and workshops.

Adult – Private Prisons

All staff employed within private prisons undergo trauma awareness training, delivered by the prison psychologist as part of their mandatory induction program.