



INFORMATION SHEET

Victim Impact and Needs Assessment

SAIFF – Support, Assessment & Intervention For Families - provides assessment and intervention to help children and their families to:

- (1) stop problematic and abusive sexual behaviour and create relationships and homes that are supportive, safe and abuse free, and
- (2) minimise the harm to children and families that results from abuse.

When the sexual behaviour has involved another child (or children) within the home, assessment of victim impact, adjustment and needs is essential to safety and case planning, and decisions regarding contact, reunification and placement should not be made without such information being available.

Victim assessment can be completed as a component of overall assessment of families where there has been sexual abuse (where SAIFF assesses both the child who has engaged in the sexual harm and the sibling victim), or it can be undertaken as a separate assessment to compliment risk and need assessment being completed by another service.

In situations where children have been referred to, and are engaged with a victim service, information about their adjustment and needs is best obtained directly from the treatment provider.

Assessment of victim impact and needs may include consideration of the following areas:

- Extent of disclosure of the abuse
- Capacity to disclose discomfort or further abuse and identification of any barriers to this
- Awareness of and capacity to implement protective behaviours strategies
- Presence of acute trauma symptoms
- Attributions of responsibility for the abuse
- Impact/experience of contact or no contact with the sibling who engaged in the harmful sexual behaviour (positive and negative)
- Perception and experience of parental/carer support and safety
- Parental/carer awareness of impact and safety issues for the child
- Engagement (or potential for engagement) in therapeutic intervention
- Identified areas of ongoing need and supports/interventions required to meet these
- Readiness for involvement in therapeutic work with their sibling/family

In circumstances of sibling sexual abuse, if assessment of victim impact and needs is undertaken by a service already involved with the child it is recommended that the assessment of the treatment provider be available at the time of the Post Assessment Consultation Meeting. This ensures that case plan and treatment decisions take into account not information regarding the child who has engaged in the harmful sexual behaviour, but also the victim's needs.

**For further information on services or to seek a quote/discuss a referral, please contact
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