



Deaf Children Australia

Child Aware Approaches Conference
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Melbourne Exhibition Centre

Deaf Children in Australia

- 1 in 6 people in Australia has a hearing loss.
- It is estimated that there are 16,000 school aged deaf or hard of hearing children in Australia.
- References to 'deafness'.

(Access Economics Report, 2006)

Disability, Abuse and Neglect

- Children and young people with a disability experience abuse and neglect at considerably higher rates than children who do not have a disability (31% compared to 9%).
- Children with communication impairments, behavioural difficulties, intellectual and/or sensory disabilities experience higher rates of abuse.
- They are often abused on multiple occasions.

(Robinson, 2012)

Deaf Children, Abuse and Neglect

- 20 per cent of deaf children were abused compared to a prevalence rate of 9 per cent among the non-disabled child population.

(Sullivan and Knutson,2000)

Deaf Children, Abuse and Neglect

- 45.8 per cent of deaf girls and 42.4 per cent of deaf boys had been exposed to unwanted sexual experiences during childhood.
- Higher rates in deaf males (three times more than hearing peers) than deaf females (two times more than hearing peers).

(Kvam, 2004)

Deaf Children, Abuse and Neglect

- Nearly half the deaf victims reported that the abuser was deaf and half of the abusive events took place in special schools for deaf children.
- 49 per cent didn't tell anyone about the abuse and 11 per cent told someone but were not believed.

(Kvam, 2004)

Deafness and Bullying

- Children with disabilities are frequently targeted by bullies.
- Those with observable disabilities (deafness) are twice as likely to be bullied than those whose disabilities are not readily apparent.
- About a third of children with obvious disabilities are victimized.
- More boys than girls are targeted.

(Sullivan,2006)

Deafness and Bullying

- In a sample of 93 students with special needs, deaf and hard of hearing students had the highest rates of victimization of bullying (100%) and of bullying others (50%).

(Whitney, Smith & Thompson, 1994)

Vulnerability

- Isolation and exclusion
- Communication and cultural barriers
- Lack of awareness
- Absence of incidental learning
- Low social and emotional wellbeing

Safe Programme

- Web-based safety and awareness program for children aged seven and above.
- Designed for professionals working with deaf children - teachers, school staff, social workers, health workers, psychologists and counsellors.
- Covers a wide range of topics including feelings, bullying, sex and relationship, sexuality, violence, cyber-bullying and discrimination

Materials

- Presentation videos
- Feeling cards
- Animations
- Games
- Quizzes
- Glossary
- Role plays
- Story boards
- Links to additional resources.



Embarrassed



Puberty



Bullying

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