

# Child Safe Newsletter

Wyndham Community & Education Centre

Volume 2

January 2020



**Wyndham**  
Community &  
Education Centre Inc.  
*Improving lives - Strengthening communities*

Dear Staff & volunteers,

I hope you enjoyed the first instalment of the Child Safe Newsletter. If you would like me to focus on any particular aspect of child safety in future volumes please email me and I will do my best to include it.

**Lesley Nallawalla**  
**Child Safety Officer**

## Child Abuse Myths and Truths:

**Myth:** People lie about child abuse for attention and sympathy

**Truth:** Research (e.g. police and court statistics) shows that it is very rare for a person of any age to say they were abused if they weren't. However, "false negative reports" of abuse are common e.g. many adults state they weren't abused as children when they were.

**Myth:** Children usually tell someone about their abuse.

**Truth:** Most children don't tell anyone. They are often silenced through threats or fear of not being believed. Some children don't have the words to explain what is happening to them.

### Wyndham CEC 's Commitment to Child Safety

Wyndham CEC is committed to the cultural safety of Aboriginal children, the cultural safety of children from CALD backgrounds, and to providing a safe environment for children with a disability

### Did you know?

Key findings from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Abuse included

### Where abuse occurred

- ◇ Average age of survivors when abused— 10year old boys, 9 year old girls
- ◇ 63% of survivors who came forward were males
- ◇ 95% of perpetrators male
- ◇ Average of 24 years to disclose
- ◇ In many cases it is the first time that victims have had a voice

