

Diverse Needs: Adult survivors of institutional child sexual abuse

For generations, tragically, some children in Australia suffered sexual abuse while in institutions such as schools, religious organisations, health services and juvenile systems by trusted members of these organisations. Most were abused from a young age and many came from vulnerable backgrounds - separated from families, lived with disabilities, were part of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Stolen Generations or from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

Living with long-term impacts

Childhood trauma can impact every aspect of a survivor's life. Some live with institutional distrust, strained relationships, cultural disconnection, mental health challenges, education and employment difficulties, social isolation and poor physical health. Some survivors also face homelessness and substance use issues. Many were removed due to poverty or disability but were harmed by Institutions. Without recognition of their trauma, they distrust services or avoid help.

The impact on end-of-life care

Ageing survivors carry physical and emotional pain. Past experiences can make them feel vulnerable, fearful or powerless especially in unfamiliar care settings. Understanding their past and responding with kindness and sensitivity, aged care staff can make a meaningful difference in the lives of survivors - especially during the end of life.

Visit [Phoenix Australia](#) to find out about the simple things you can do to help older people with trauma.

Find out more through the [Healing Foundation](#) website.

