

## Feeling Safe, Being Safe: What is Important about Safety in Institutional Settings?

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse clearly identified children's safety in institutions as an area requiring urgent attention. This study contributed to the Royal Commission's work by focusing on the experiences and perspectives of children and young people with disability and high support needs. Specifically, this study explored what helps children and young people with disability and high support needs to feel and be safe in institutional settings. The study addressed what 'being safe' means to children and young people with disability and high support needs; what helps and hinders them in feeling and being safe in institutional settings; and how people who provide support perceive and respond to children's and young people's concerns about their own safety.

This study was linked to a larger research project about children's and young people's views on safety, *Having a Say: Exploring issues of safety with children and young people*, undertaken by Australian Catholic University (ACU). This ancillary study aimed to ensure the voices of

children and young people with disability were included within the wider research project. It allowed scope and time for specifically designed methods and additional research support to facilitate the participation of the children and young people. All of the children and young people who participated had cognitive impairments, and many had multiple impairments.

### Research Team

*Investigators:* A/Prof Sally Robinson (CCYP, SCU), Prof Anne Graham (CCYP, SCU), Lei D'aegher (CCYP, SCU).

*Research Partners:* People with Disability Australia – Matthew Bowden, Dr Jess Cadwallader.

### Outputs to Date



### [Full Project Report](#)



### [Video Summary of the Project](#)

### [Results](#)



### [Plain English Webpage](#)