Preventing Abuse, Promoting Personal Safety for Young People with Disability

This research addresses a knowledge gap about personal safety and abuse prevention by exploring the perspectives of young people with disability, their supporters and families about feeling safe and developing strategies to stay safe. As the National Disability Insurance Scheme rolls out nationally and the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse releases its recommendations, action is required to improve safety for these young people, who experience high rates of interpersonal harm.

Research Design

To develop new knowledge about safety and harm of young people with disability and address existing gaps in research and policy, the project addressed 4 related research questions:

1. What does 'being safe' mean to young people with disability?

2. What helps and hinders young people with disability in feeling and being safe?

3. How do people who provide support to young people with disability perceive and respond to young people's concerns about their own safety?

4. What are the implications of this knowledge for policy and practice, particularly in newly emerging models of support?

The report develops a framework for personal safety which reflects young people's safety priorities. The many strategies young people and supporters identified for improving personal safety and preventing abuse are shared. Finally, implications of these for improving young people's lives, for practice, for policy, and for future action are discussed.

Research Team

Investigators: A/Prof Sally Robinson, Prof Anne Graham (CCYP, SCU); Prof Karen Fisher, Prof Kelley Johnson, Dr Ariella Meltzer, Dr Megan Blaxland (SPRC, UNSW).

Research Partners: Matthew Bowden (People with Disability Australia), Dr Jess Cadwallader (People with Disability Australia), Stephanie Gotlib (Children with Disability Australia).

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Outputs to Date

Project Reports & Summaries

[Executive Summary](#)

[Plain English Summary](#)

[Full Project Report](#)

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