



Final information update

During our five-year inquiry:

- **16,953** people contacted us who were within our Terms of Reference
- we heard from **7,981** survivors of child sexual abuse in **8,013** private sessions
- we also received **1,344** written accounts
- we have referred **2,562** matters to police.

Private sessions

The Final Report produced by the Royal Commission draws on information from 6,961 private sessions that were held between 7 May 2013 and 31 May 2017. We held an additional 1,052 private sessions by the time the Royal Commission concluded its work in December 2017, which gave us further insight into the experiences of survivors and institutional responses to child sexual abuse. This fact sheet provides an update of the information we have learned from the 8,013 private sessions during the course of the Royal Commission.

The institutions where abuse occurred

By the end of the Royal Commission, we had heard about 3,489 institutions where we were

told that child sexual abuse had occurred. These institutions were categorised according to their management and type.

Institution management

58.1 per cent of survivors said that the abuse took place in an institution managed by a religious organisation, 32.5 per cent in a government-run institution and 10.5 per cent in a non-government, non-religious institution.

Institutions administered by religious organisations

Of those who told us they were abused in a religious institution, the majority (61.4 per cent) said they experienced abuse in a Catholic Church institution, followed by an Anglican Church institution (14.8 per cent).

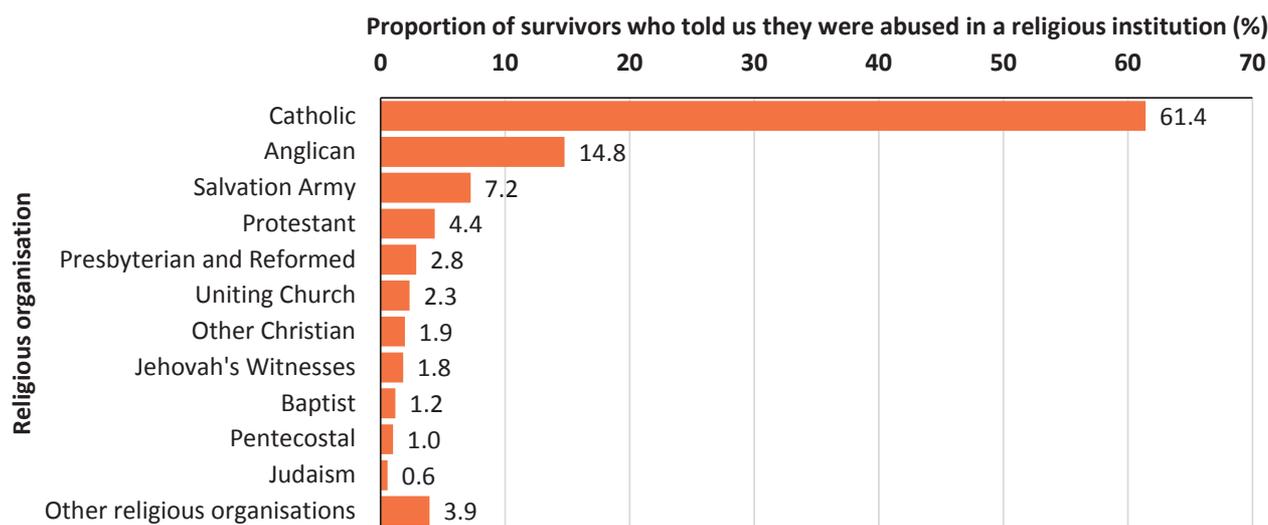


Figure 1 – Survivors as a proportion of all survivors who told us they were sexually abused in a religious institution, by religious organisation, private sessions 7 May 2013 – 24 November 2017

Note: 'Other religious organisations' includes Baha'i, Brethren, Buddhist, Churches of Christ, Eastern Orthodox, Hindu, Islam, Latter-day Saints, Church of Jesus Christ of LDS (Mormons), Lutheran, Miscellaneous religions, Oriental Orthodox, Seventh-day Adventist, Spiritualism and unknown religions.



As a proportion of all survivors, 35.7 per cent of survivors said they experienced abuse in a Catholic Church institution and 8.6 per cent said they were abused in an Anglican Church institution.

Institution type

35.2 per cent of survivors told us the abuse took place in a historical out-of-home care institution, 31.6 per cent in a school and 14.6 per cent in institutions providing religious activities.

Table 1 – Number and proportion of survivors by institution type, private sessions 7 May 2013 – 24 November 2017

| Institution type | Number | Proportion (%) |
|---------------------------------------|--------|----------------|
| Out-of-home care | 3,277 | 41.1 |
| <i>Out-of-home care: pre-1990</i> | 2,809 | 35.2 |
| <i>Out-of-home care: 1990 onwards</i> | 298 | 3.7 |
| <i>Unknown era</i> | 205 | 2.6 |
| Schools | 2,521 | 31.6 |
| Religious activities | 1,162 | 14.6 |
| Youth detention | 639 | 8.0 |
| Recreation, sports and clubs | 482 | 6.0 |
| Health and allied | 221 | 2.8 |
| Armed forces | 105 | 1.3 |
| Supported accommodation | 84 | 1.1 |
| Family and youth support services | 66 | 0.8 |
| Childcare | 41 | 0.5 |
| Youth employment | 23 | 0.3 |
| Other | 295 | 3.7 |
| Unknown | 96 | 1.2 |

Note: Some survivors told us they were abused in more than one institution type. These survivors have been counted under each institution type identified.

The survivors of child sexual abuse

Of the 7,981 survivors we heard about in private sessions:

- almost two in three survivors were male survivors (63.6 per cent). More than one in three were female survivors (36.1 per cent)
- 14.9 per cent of survivors identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- 4.2 per cent of survivors identified as having disability at the time of abuse
- the average age of survivors at the time of their private session was 52 years. The youngest survivor to attend a private session was seven years old. The oldest survivor was aged 93.

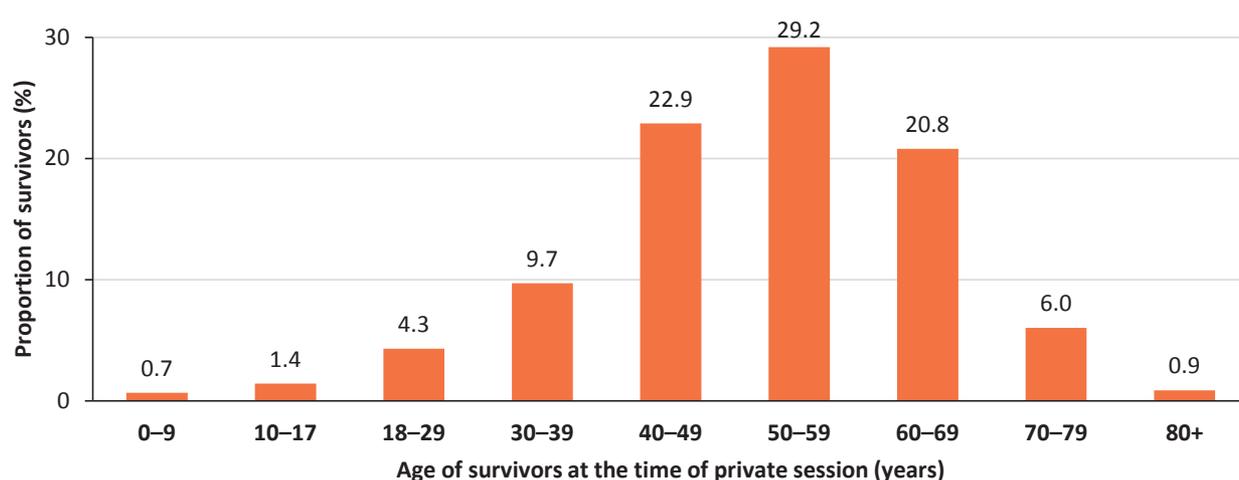


Figure 2 – Age of survivors at the time of their private session, private sessions 7 May 2013 – 24 November 2017

Note: 1.9 per cent of victims we heard about in private sessions were deceased. Age was unknown for 2.3 per cent of victims.

Adult perpetrators and children with harmful sexual behaviours

Of the survivors we heard from in private sessions:

- 93.3 per cent told us they were abused by one or more male adult perpetrator or child with harmful sexual behaviours. 10.7 per cent said they were abused by one or more female adult perpetrator or child with harmful sexual behaviours. Some survivors told us they were abused by both a male and female person
- of those survivors who provided information about the age of the perpetrator, 85.2 per cent said they were abused by an adult perpetrator and 23.4 per cent told us they were abused by a child with harmful sexual behaviours. Some survivors told us they were abused by both an adult perpetrator and a child with harmful sexual behaviours.

The vast majority of survivors told us about the role of the perpetrator (95.3 per cent). Of these survivors:

- 31.8 per cent said they were abused by a person in religious ministry and 20.4 per cent said they were abused by a teacher
- 13.5 per cent told us they were abused by a residential care worker and 11.3 per cent told us they were abused by a foster carer
- some told us they were abused by custodial staff (5.7 per cent), a dormitory master/housemaster (5.6 per cent), ancillary staff (4.3 per cent), a medical practitioner or nurse (3.8 per cent), a volunteer (2.9 per cent), a youth group leader (2.8 per cent) and a sporting coach (2.2 per cent).

Nature of the abuse

In private sessions, Commissioners were told about the nature of abuse experienced by survivors.

- The average age of victims when first abused was 10.4 years. For male victims it was 10.8 years and for female victims it was 9.7 years.
- 77.7 per cent of survivors told us they were abused in a single institution, while 21.4 per cent said they experienced abuse in multiple institutions.
- 91.9 per cent of survivors provided information about the frequency of the abuse. Of those, most (85.4 per cent) told us that they experienced multiple episodes of abuse, while 20.7 per cent told us that they experienced a single

episode of sexual abuse. Of those who told us about multiple episodes of abuse, some said they were abused by one person while some said that they were abused by multiple people.

- Where information about the forms of abuse experienced was provided (86.1 per cent), 71.4 per cent of survivors told Commissioners they experienced non-penetrative contact abuse. Over half of survivors (55.7 per cent) said they experienced penetrative abuse. Male survivors were more likely to tell us about non-penetrative contact abuse than female survivors (74.1 per cent and 66.6 per cent respectively). However, female survivors were more likely to tell us about penetrative abuse than male survivors (63.1 per cent and 51.5 per cent respectively).
- Other forms of sexual abuse mentioned by survivors included grooming and entrapment (24.1 per cent), violation of privacy (23.5 per cent), exposure to sexual acts and material (12.5 per cent) and child sexual exploitation (2.7 per cent).
- Almost three in five (57.8 per cent) survivors told Commissioners that they experienced other forms of maltreatment in addition to sexual abuse. Of these survivors, 80.4 per cent told us they experienced emotional maltreatment. Survivors also said they were subjected to physical abuse (63.1 per cent), witnessed the abuse of others (16.9 per cent), were neglected (14.9 per cent) or forced to work (10.3 per cent).

Comprehensive information about the nature, disclosure and impact of child sexual abuse is detailed in the Final Report.

Quantitative information from private sessions presented in this fact sheet is drawn from the experiences of 7,981 victims and survivors of child sexual abuse in institutions, as told to us in private sessions as at 24 November 2017. When we discuss this information, we use the term 'survivor' to refer both to survivors and victims who attended a private session and those (including deceased victims) whose experiences were described to us by family, friends, whistleblowers and others. The numbers of total contacts, written accounts and police referrals were accurate at the time of publication.