

Too Sensitive to Talk About



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Topics



- Mental Injury – what ACC covers
- Sexual Abuse statistics
- ACC funded Services
 - Sexual Abuse Assessment and Treatment Services
 - Integrated Services for Sensitive Claims (ISSC)
 - ISSC referral pathway
 - Growth of sensitive claims
 - ISSC pathway – services provided
- ACC45 and AC Schedule 3 events
- Lump Sum Compensation – Impairment Assessments



Mental Injury

A clinically significant behavioural, cognitive or psychological dysfunction

Determined using diagnostic classification systems

Three Main Categories of Mental Injury

- Physical Injury
- Criminal Act [sexual]
- Traumatic event at Work (Work Related Mental Injury)



Sexual abuse in NZ – Why be Concerned?



- About 25% females and 6-13 % males report having experienced sexual abuse in New Zealand in their lifetime (Ministry of Justice, 2014).
- Children and young people more likely to experience sexual abuse than adults.
- 15-24 year age-group highest risk – four times the likelihood
- Maori girls and women – likelihood twice as high as the general population
- People with disabilities high risk
- 90% of sexual abuse is perpetrated by someone known to the victim



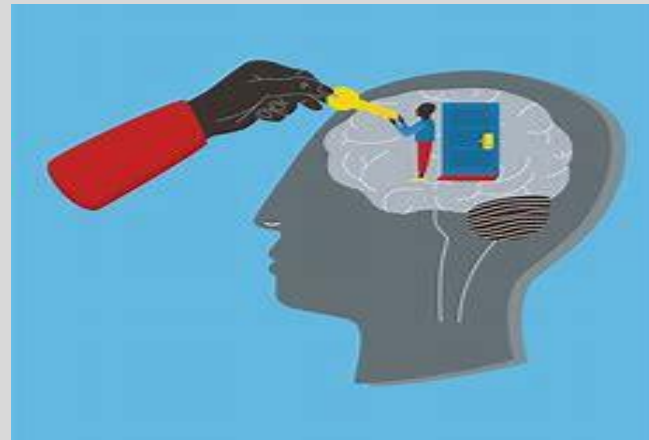
Sexual abuse in NZ – Why be Concerned?



- Only about 10% of sexual abuse is reported to the police – very low conviction rate - rape 35% conviction rate
- High rates of re-victimisation – 25% of victims of child sexual abuse
- Significant physical and mental health problems
- Social issues – teenage pregnancy, single parenthood, lack of education, low SES
- Child's home environment a key factor in recovery – early intervention of specialist services
- Counselling – better equipped and resourced to deal with the SA effects.



ACC Funded Services: SAATS and ISSC



SAATS – Sexual Abuse Assessment and Treatment Services

Medical and forensic examinations – specialist medical assistance – injuries, STI's, pregnancy, psychological needs – acute and historical

Training, ongoing education and supervision - MEDSAC

Local SAATs service responsibility to contact GPs – referral process and service

Referral information can be accessed via the 'Safe to Talk' Homecare Medical Health Services website

Safe to Talk – sexual harm helpline 0800 044 334; Text 4334; 24/7

SAATS-LINK website downloadable pamphlet – <https://www.saats-link.nz>

Referral information available on HealthPathways

Provide options for follow-up treatment – Claim lodgement so clients can access counselling services

What is the ISSC?



- Introduced November 2014 – re-tendering Nov 2020
- Anyone who has experienced sexual abuse or assault in New Zealand can seek assistance from ACC, including visitors
- No proof required -
- Fully funded support, treatment and assessment is available even if the abuse happened a long time ago
- Flexible and adaptable – can always come back for more support
- Introduction of support services available alongside therapy – social Work, family/whanau, cultural advice
- Clients do not need to have engaged with Police to access support
- Clients can self-refer



Sexual abuse disclosure

Many incidents of sexual abuse go unreported and delayed help-seeking, by several years, is common.

Barriers to disclosure

- Not been believed
- Guilt and self-blame
- Shame
- Fear
- Grooming
- Helplessness
- Concern for others
- Lack of privacy and confidentiality

Enablers to disclosure

- Being believed
- Non-judgement
- Having access to a close, trusted relative or peer
- Safe and confidential space to disclose
- Time to consider options
- Having control over the process
- Culturally appropriate responses

People can heal from experiencing sexual abuse and go on to living fulfilling lives.



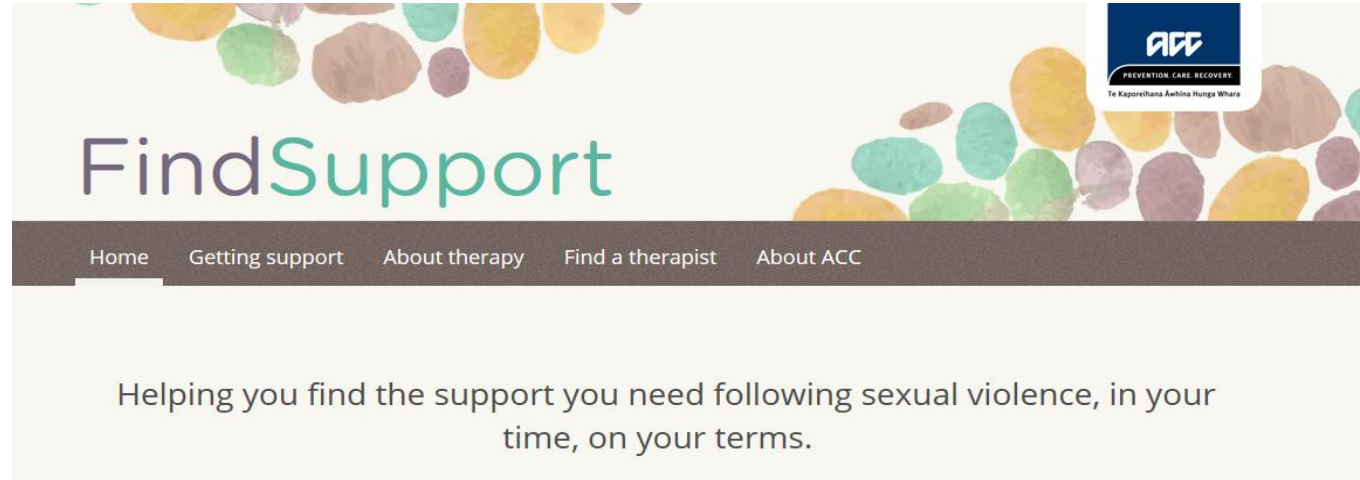
Referral Pathways into the ISSC

- Self refer via the www.findsupport.co.nz website
- GP to lodge a claim via an ACC45
- Contact a provider directly (if already has a claim with ACC and have seen a provider previously)
- Call Sensitive Claims – 0800 735 566 – they can support clients to access a provider in their area
- Current Referral Patterns

GP	38%
Counsellor	38%
Psychologist	11%
Other health professional	13%



www.FindSupport.co.nz



Assisting clients to access ACC-funded support in their time, on their terms.

The website allows the client to find a supplier in their area.

Allowing the client to ensure they choose the help that suits them.

The website is easy to follow and explains:

- How to get help
 - Finding a therapist
 - What ACC can help with
- How it works
Help for family and whanau



Sensitive Claims Growth



Financial Year	Number of Claims
2014/15	3093
2015/16	6,202
2016/17	7,158
2017/18	8,290



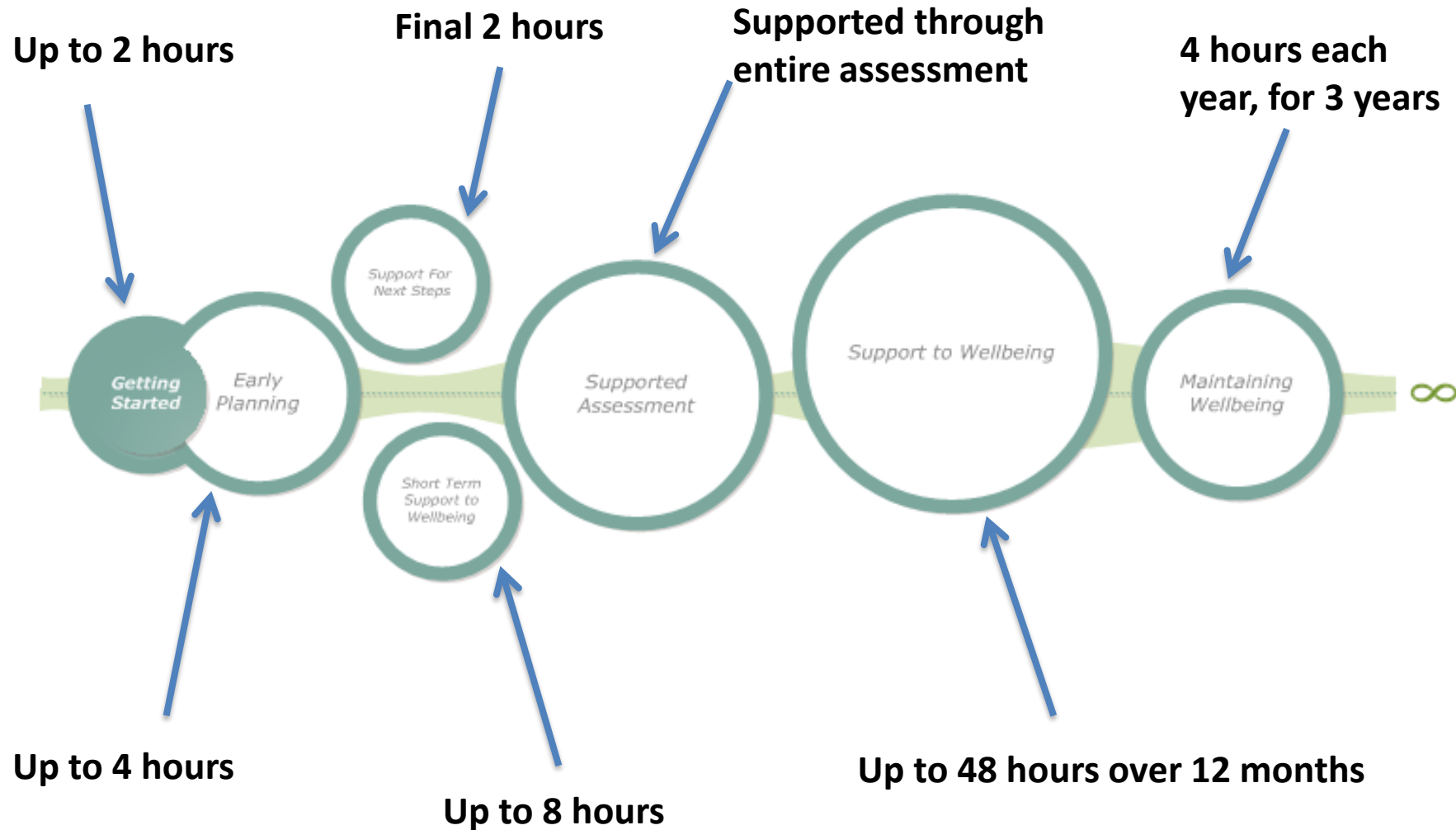
Support Services



- **Cultural Advice (up to 10 hours)**
 - For Providers to access advice to ensure they are working in a culturally appropriate and safe way with every client
- **Family/Whanau Support (up to 20 hours)**
 - To help educate and provide support strategies for those people who are emotionally important to the client
- **Social Work (up to 10 hours)**
 - To help remove and reduce barriers to a client accessing and attending their treatment



Integrated Service for Sensitive Claims



ACC-45 Information

Sensitive Claims – Part D Injury Diagnosis

The READ Code SN571 – Sexual Abuse should be included – along with any applicable READ codes, e.g.

Eu431	PTSD
Eu430	Acute Stress reaction
Eu32	Depressive Episode

AC Act 2001: Schedule 3 Events

- Indecent communication with young person under 16 years
- Sexual violation
- Attempted sexual violation
- Assault with intent to commit sexual violation
- Inducing sexual connection by threat
- Inducing indecent act by threat
- Incest
- Sexual connection with dependent family member
- Attempted sexual connection with dependent family member
- Indecent act with dependent family member
- Meeting young person following sexual grooming, etc
- Sexual connection with child under 12
- Attempted sexual connection with child under 12
- Indecent act on child under 12

AC Act 2001: Schedule 3 Events Cont

- Sexual connection with young person under 16
- Attempted sexual connection with young person under 16
- Further offences relating to female genital mutilation
- Indecent act on young person under 16
- Indecent assault
- Exploitative sexual connection with person with significant impairment
- Attempted exploitative sexual connection with person with significant impairment
- Exploitative indecent act with person with significant impairment
- Compelling indecent act with animal
- Assault on a child, or by a male on a female.
- Infecting with disease
- Female genital mutilation
- Further offences relating to female genital mutilation



Lump Sum Payments

Lump Sum Compensation for Mental Injury: Permanent Impairment

- Lump Sum payment for ‘permanent impairment’ is compensation for ‘living with an injury’
- A person must be assessed as >9% impaired to receive any payment; the compensation amount rises exponentially with the percentage rating
- In Mental Injury the rating percentage is based on the person’s day to day functioning in areas:
 - ADLs (self care, household, work, independence)
 - Social functioning (interactions, engagement, social norms, etc)
 - Concentration, persistence and pace (attention, task completion, focus, etc)
 - Adaptation (resilience, drug use, stress response, etc)
- A person must be ‘permanently impaired’ and ‘stable’ to be assessed for Lump Sum compensation
- “Permanently impaired” refers to an established effect of the injury
- ‘Stability’ refers to whether the impairment is likely to change in the next 12 months



Permanent Impairment contd...

- Permanent impairment would be expected if the sensitive claim events occurred several years ago
- The condition is 'stable' if the person is not acutely ill, there are no 'new' current stressors, medication has not been changed for more than three months, etc.
- Impairment Assessors are psychiatrists and GPs trained to use the AMA4 Guides and the ACC Handbook to 'rate' impairment, they consider the whole of the mental and physical health records
- Impairment Assessors are available by appointment in most areas of New Zealand
- Only the impairment due to the covered mental injury can be compensated
- A person may be impaired and have cover for PTSD, but may also have a forensic history, drug use, anxiety and significant personality traits which are not due to the sensitive claim events. Their overall impairment will be greater than the impairment due to PTSD. The Lump Sum payment will be based on the impairment rating for PTSD only.
- Referral Form ACC554



Key Contacts



- www.findsupport.co.nz
- Sensitive Claims Unit – **0800 735 566**
 - isscclaims@acc.co.nz
- Angelika Weinheimer
 - Angelika.weinheimer@acc.co.nz
- Kris Fernando – Manager Clinical Partnerships
 - Kris.fernando@acc.co.nz
- Contact Centre **0800 222 070**

