

CHILD CRIMINAL EXPLOITATION



It is the belief of IFYS that all children and young people who are exploited sexually or criminally should, first and foremost, be treated as victims. It is not unusual for children and young people suffering these forms of abuse to be viewed as juvenile offenders who have made the decision to involve themselves in activity that is criminal. This means they often do not benefit from the appropriate protection or support they so desperately need.

Research demonstrates that young people who are victimised through child criminal exploitation (CCE) commonly exhibit similar behaviour and indicators to those who experience child sexual exploitation (CSE).

Child Criminal Exploitation

Many case studies demonstrate that it is common for victims to be groomed and entrapped in criminal exploitation by their abusers first, as a means of manipulating and coercing them into sexual exploitation later. For more information on child exploitation and how to recognise it, visit www.projectparadigm.com.au



Running away or going missing from home/care



Staying out late



Changes in mood or behaviour, becoming withdrawn or isolated



Changes in overall appearance – e.g. tattoos, clothing, personal hygiene



Drug and alcohol use



Relationships/friendships with older young people or adults



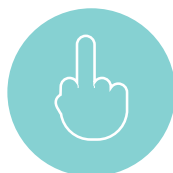
Unexplained items – e.g. money, jewellery, phone, expensive clothing



Mental health difficulties – self-harm, suicide ideation



Excessive social media use chatting to unknown people online



Offending behaviour



Becoming more secretive in nature



Displaying sexualised behaviour inappropriate for the young person's age

How to Help

If you believe a child is in immediate danger, or you have immediate concerns for the welfare of a child, call “000” or local police on **131 444**.

If your concern is about online child exploitation and abuse you can report directly to the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation at www.acce.gov.au/report

If you would prefer to report in-confidence visit Crime Stoppers at www.crimestoppers.com.au or by phoning **1800 333 000**.

24 hour support is also available for children and young people at Kids Helpline **1800 55 1800** or kidshelpline.com.au