

Child Safe Environments (CSE)



Government of South Australia
Department of Human Services

Aims of this presentation

To provide you with an understanding of child safe environments and:

- your legislative obligations
- the support available to help you to meet requirements
- how situational harm prevention works and its application in your club



Child safe environments

The main requirements:

- develop policies and procedures to ensure child safe environments
- meet the working with children check (WWCC) requirements under the *Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016*
- lodge a child safe environments compliance statement with the Department of Human Services (via the online Child Safe Environments Compliance system - CSEC)



Change of language in legislation

The *Children's Protection Act 1993* has been repealed and replaced by the:

- *Children and Young People (Safety) Act 2017* which requires prescribed organisations to provide safe environments for children and young people as set out in the legislation
- *Child Safety (Prohibited Persons) Act 2016* which sets out the obligations of persons or bodies who provide a service or undertake an activity that constitutes child-related work including ensuring these people have a valid Working with Children Check (WWCC).

The language has changed from 'abuse' and 'neglect' under the former CP Act to 'harm' and 'risk of harm' to reflect the lower threshold under the current legislation.



Organisational risk factors

Royal Commission identified organisational risk factors that ↑
CYP vulnerability to perpetrators:

- lack of understanding of grooming techniques/strategies
- inadequate supervision of CYP
- unwillingness to intervene in potentially inappropriate behaviours
- absence of clear and formal rules and expectations
- an institution's trust in the perpetrator
- lack of avenues/opportunities to report concerns of child sexual abuse.

O'Leary et al (2017)



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What is situational crime prevention?

A theoretical approach that can be used by organisations to develop whole-of-organisation responses that:

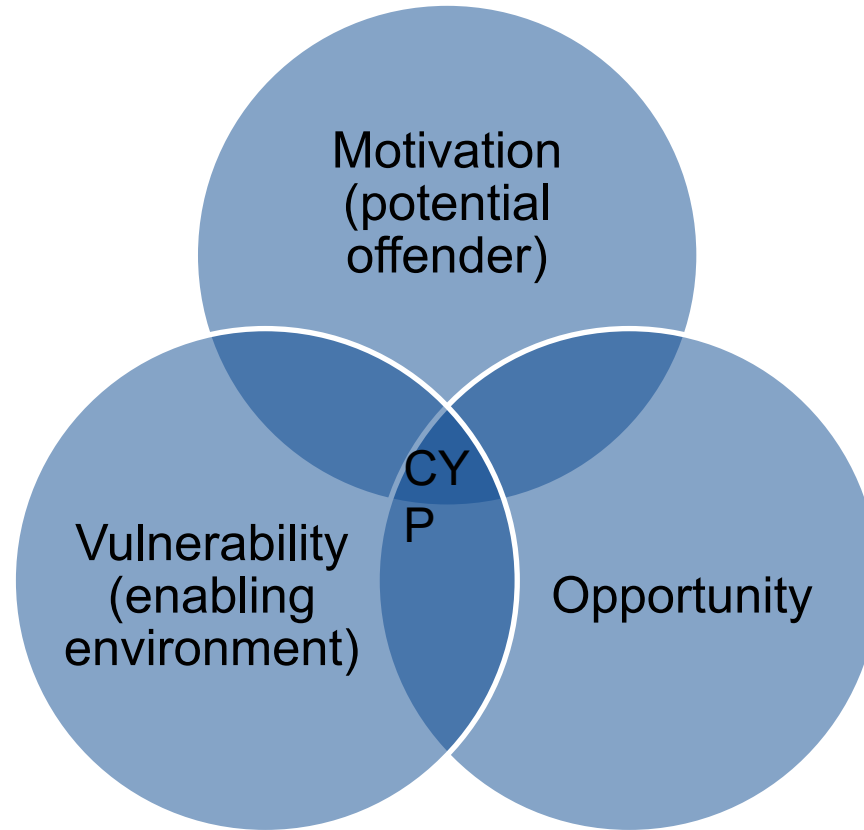
- focus on the policies, practices and strategies that can reduce children and young people's vulnerability and*
- empower all adults to play an active part in their protection*

Morley and Higgins



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What factors need to be present for harm to occur?



What does situational crime prevention do?

- increases the effort required and risk for the offender to engage in harmful behaviour towards CYP
- decreases the vulnerability of CYP
- facilitates positive organisational cultures and settings where every adult has a role in the protection of CYP and understands their obligation to identify and respond to risks of harm for CYP
- reduces the excuses for organisations to not act to protect CYP from harm



What are the 3 Ps of prevention?

- People
- Places
- Processes



National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

- Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (RCIRCSA) recommendation to implement national child safe standards
- In February 2019 COAG agreed to the implementation of the National Principles



What support is available for organisations?

- CSE website:
 - Policy guidance templates
 - Code of Conduct templates
 - CSEC User Guide
- CSE training:
 - Safe environments: Through their eyes
 - Responding to Abuse and Neglect: Education and Care (RAN-EC) for Department for Education schools and education settings
- In future:
 - Additional supporting resources eg how to assess risk across various settings



Questions?

Contact us by:

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Sailing