



Helping protect children and create safer communities

2020 PROGRESS REPORT

Contents

Cover Image: Rosie was rescued from online sexual exploitation in an International Justice Mission (IJM)-supported operation in the Philippines. Westpac Group is providing \$18 million to IJM over three years to rescue and protect children like Rosie in the Asia Pacific region (APAC). © IJM.



Image: Playroom inside Parkerville's George Jones Advocacy Centre in Armadale, WA has been designed to mimic a family home with toys and brightly painted walls to make highly traumatised children and their parents feel safe and comfortable. Parkerville Children and Youth Care are the recipients of a Scale grant, comprising \$300,000 per year over three years to support child and family advocates and psychologists within the Multiagency Investigation and Support Team at the George Jones Child Advocacy Centre. © Parkerville.

Collaborating for change

It has been a challenging year. I know how deeply disappointed many have been by our issues, including responding to shortcomings in risk management. We know how passionately you care about creating safer communities for all children. We have taken accountability, we are making progress, but there is still much to do.

We recognise that the scale and severity of child exploitation and abuse has grown at an astounding pace and can only be tackled through collective action. Our Safer Children, Safer Communities work program is an important step forward in this approach, by allowing us to direct our energy towards catalysing change within Westpac Group, raising awareness in business and the community, investing in technology to detect online crimes and helping scale the efforts of organisations in Australia and across APAC that are protecting children. We are invested in bringing businesses and the community to work together to help children grow and prosper and shine a light on the deeply detrimental impacts of abuse.

¹ Republic of Philippines Anti-Money Laundering Council. 'Online Sexual Exploitation of Children', May 2020, p. 5

² Lesa Gale, 'Explosion of online child abuse shames Australia, but we must talk about it', The Australian, September 2020. Note: Lesa Gale was the Assistant Commissioner for the Australian Federal Police at the time of producing the article.
<https://www.theaustralian.com.au/commentary/explosion-of-online-child-abuse-shames-australia-but-we-must-talk-about-it/news-story/7acf24eee6e281a352fcb-d24a880e060>

³ We Protect Global Alliance, 'Global Threat Assessment', 2019, p.9.
<https://www.end-violence.org/sites/default/files/paragraphs/download/Global%20Threat%20Assessment%202019.pdf>

We started this journey through our partnerships with Save the Children Australia and IJM, organisations focused on tackling the problem of child sexual exploitation, including online sexual exploitation of children (OSEC) in the Philippines. By increasing access to child protection services and working to strengthen criminal justice systems, these organisations are tackling the issue in a region that saw a 246% increase in child sex abuse reports during the COVID-19 pandemic¹. A great example of this is IJM's role in supporting Rosie's rescue from online sexual exploitation. You can read about this on page 19.

Australia is the third largest consumer of live, online child sexual abuse², illustrating the pervasive nature of this problem. In an effort to support organisations working across a range of child protection initiatives in Australia, we are awarding \$9.2 million over three years through our 2020 Impact Grants program to 27 organisations working across the country. One of these organisations is yourtown who will use the funding to expand their 24x7 national Kids Helpline service for children and young people facing abuse. Read more about yourtown and other organisations that we are supporting on page 31.

Access to technology, particularly with one in three internet users worldwide being a child³, has created significant challenges in protecting children. The partnership between AiLECS Lab at Monash University and the Australian Federal Police is especially relevant here. You can find out more about how the Lab, another recipient of our 2020 Impact Grants program, is ethically using artificial intelligence (AI) to detect and classify harmful online imagery on page 39.

Over the course of the year, we have also made a number of changes within Westpac Group to strengthen our financial crime program and integrate child safeguarding more deeply into our policies and procedures. I encourage you to refer to our 2020 Annual Report for more detail or see page 43 for a summary.

Child exploitation and abuse is a complex problem and one that cannot be solved alone. I am immensely grateful to our Roundtable and our Advisory Group of experts who provided us direction early on and helped us develop our work program. I also want to thank everyone else who has helped us take these important steps forward. I am hopeful that together, through our collective efforts we can bring about lasting impact.

Yours sincerely,



PETER KING

CEO
Westpac Group

The Safer Children, Safer Communities work program

As one of the largest financial institutions in Australia and New Zealand, we believe we have an important role to play in identifying, mitigating, and managing risks related to child exploitation and abuse.

As part of our AUSTRAC Response Plan last year and our commitment to respecting and advancing human rights, we established the 'Safer Children, Safer Communities' program - a series of actions and investments that we intend to deliver over a three-year period (2020 - 2023) to help protect and create safer communities for children across Australia and APAC.

Through the work program, we are working with industry experts and partners, with a focus on helping prevent the sexual exploitation and abuse of children, including online sexual exploitation of children.

“We recognised that we needed to work with experts who had a deep understanding of the issue and could help guide our role in remediation. This is why we convened a Roundtable and supporting Advisory Group.

They told us:

- That the sexual exploitation of children is a complex problem to solve.
- That deeper awareness was needed in business and across the Australian community.
- That child safety should be a business norm, just like respect for human rights.
- That Westpac Group needed to take steps to address harm to people.

And this was an opportunity to make an impact on the next generation of thinkers and decision makers.

What resulted was a theory of change to provide a vision for long-term change both within the company and in the community. Together we decided that Westpac Group's Safer Children, Safer Communities work program would focus on funding partnerships to address the problem of exploitation and create impact for children both in Australia and across APAC.”

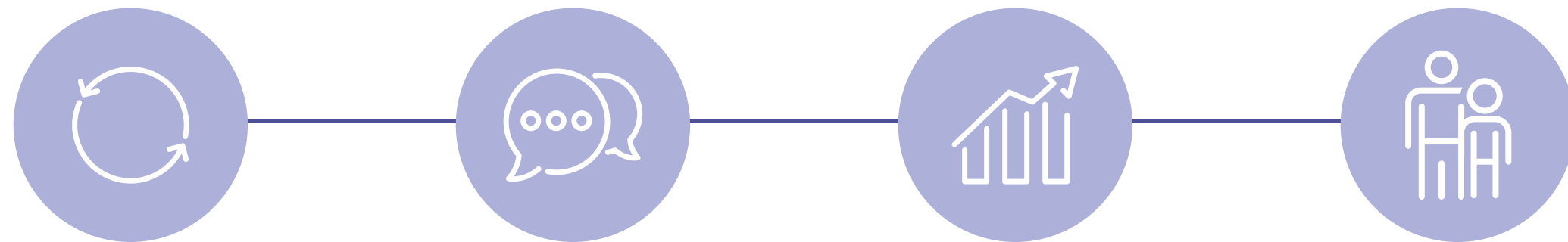
SIOBHAN TOOILL

Group Head of Sustainability
Westpac Group

Our theory of change

We aim to achieve our ambitions by supporting work across our target areas and providing a holistic approach to child safety and protection.

OUR AMBITIONS



CATALYSE CHANGE

Catalyse change in Westpac Group to create deeper awareness and accountability and be an advocate in Australia for safeguarding children.

RAISE AWARENESS

Raise awareness of the issue of OSEC, and the role of business and the community in acknowledging and taking responsibility for safeguarding and protecting children.

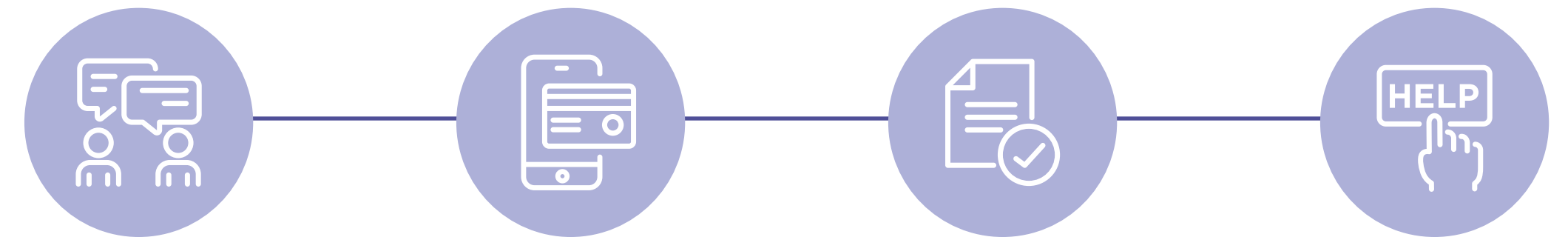
ACCELERATE UNITY OF ACTION

Accelerate unity of action on OSEC, through the development and adoption of collaborative technologies and capabilities to better detect, monitor, report and prevent harm to children associated with financial crime.

HELP PROTECT CHILDREN

Help protect children in Australia, and in those APAC countries where children are at highest risk, by supporting and scaling the efforts of organisations to empower, protect and support children, survivors, their families and carers, and improve their access to restorative justice.

OUR TARGET AREAS



RAISING AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING

Raise awareness and understanding of child exploitation, including OSEC and create a sense of urgency to act in business, across industry and the community.

TECHNOLOGY

Invest in technology or other means of collaboration to help detect, monitor, report and prevent harm to children.

EDUCATION AND PREVENTION

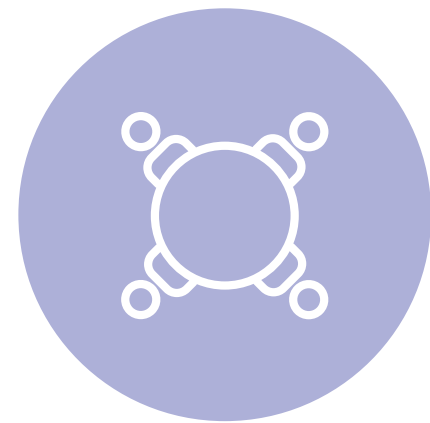
Invest in the delivery of effective educational, e-safety and child sexual exploitation and abuse prevention programs and early intervention initiatives particularly to at-risk and vulnerable youth and children and their families.

RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

Invest in the provision of trauma-informed services including response, recovery, and remedy to survivors in a way which complements and/or enhances existing services and puts children's needs first.

A collective effort

Tackling child exploitation and abuse requires a collective effort, and we continue to engage with a range of stakeholders to learn and share our experiences.



ROUNDTABLE

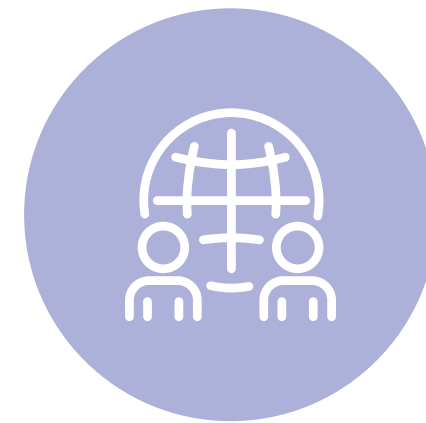
We have established the Safer Children, Safer Communities Roundtable of experts in human rights, child safety, online safety, and law enforcement to guide our approach.

In 2020, the Roundtable helped co-design our work program, provided guidance on internal processes and endorsed our 27 2020 Impact Grant recipients.



ADVISORY GROUP

We have invited representatives of civil society groups, national child protection organisations and experts in modern slavery, trafficking and human rights working on the frontline of preventing child exploitation and abuse in Australia to provide us with insights on how our programs can help make a difference. In 2020, the Advisory Group also helped us co-design our work program.



STRATEGIC PARTNERS

IJM and Save the Children Australia are two of our key strategic partners working on the frontline of preventing OSEC in APAC. They provide us with insights on the ground and help us reach children and their families in the Philippines.

“For anyone wanting to create systemic social change, it is important to engage with a range of stakeholders about; where the problems arise, what can be done to resolve them and how to repair the harm they cause – all the time remembering the human dimension of what has occurred. This takes on added importance and urgency when you have been a part of the system in need of change. No matter how inadvertent, this is the position in which Westpac Group finds itself.

The creation of a Roundtable of experts was a key commitment set out in Westpac Group’s AUSTRAC Response Plan. To bring out the best in a group of leaders and experts who, together, have a breadth of experience in child protection advocacy, human rights, cyber-security and combating child exploitation, it is necessary to create an environment where candid and constructive feedback is encouraged and respected. I believe that our group has met this requirement – unified, as we are, in our aim to achieve positive outcomes for some of the most vulnerable people in the world.

Together with the Advisory Group, we have: co-designed a powerful theory of change, endorsed 27 organisations for funding through the 2020 Impact Grants program, discussed a proposal to invest \$25 million in cross-industry data sharing projects and now continue to direct the delivery of the Safer Children, Safer Communities work program. However, this is just the beginning of the work to be done – both inside Westpac Group, through its network of influence and on the ground.

The Safer Children, Safer Communities work program is an opportunity for Westpac Group to create a lasting legacy; one that will be evaluated according to a sole criterion – the extent to which we help end the exploitation of children.”

SIMON LONGSTAFF

Executive Director, The Ethics Centre
Chair, Safer Children, Safer Communities Roundtable

2020 year in review

\$33.2M

committed funding
across Australia and APAC.



THE PHILIPPINES

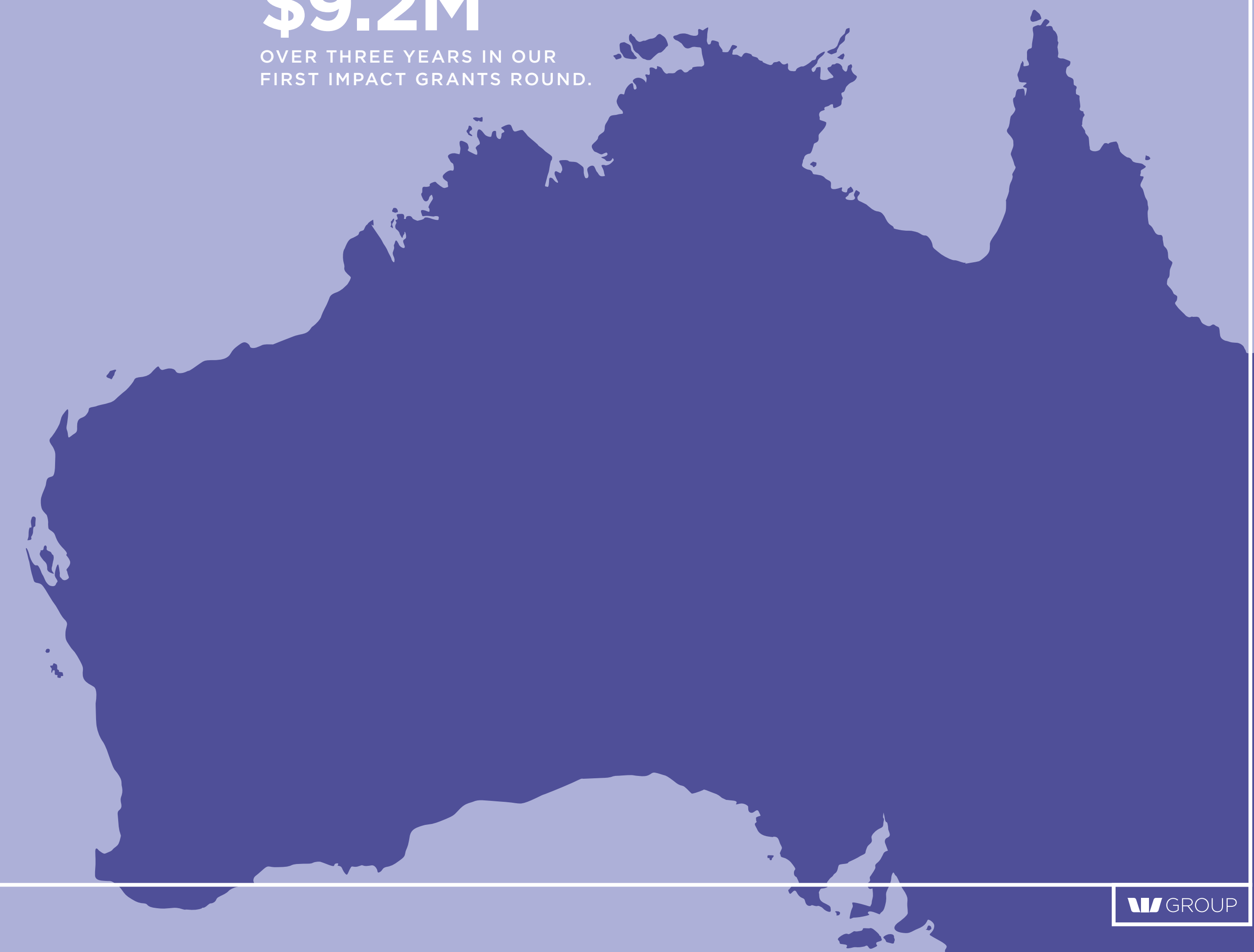
\$24M

CONSISTING OF \$6 MILLION
OVER SIX YEARS TO SAVE
THE CHILDREN AUSTRALIA
AND \$18 MILLION OVER
THREE YEARS TO IJM.

AUSTRALIA

\$9.2M

OVER THREE YEARS IN OUR
FIRST IMPACT GRANTS ROUND.



Outcomes in 2020



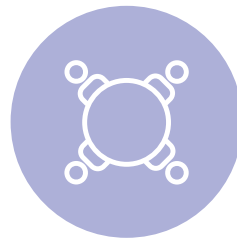
Developed the Safer Children, Safer Communities work program to make a meaningful impact on child safety and protection in Australia and across APAC.

\$9.2M

in funding awarded over three years to 27 organisations helping to protect and create safer communities for children and their families in Australia.

23

Representatives from 23 organisations engaged through our Roundtable and Advisory Group representing civil society groups, national child protection organisations and experts in modern slavery, trafficking and human rights.



Established a Roundtable of experts in human rights, child safety, online safety, and law enforcement to guide our approach.

200

Recruited over 200 additional employees to strengthen our financial crime management program.

\$25M

Commenced scoping and discovery work to invest \$25 million in cross-industry data sharing projects to better detect, monitor, report and prevent harm to children associated with financial crime.

IN THE PHILIPPINES

\$18M

funding to IJM over three years to expand the IJM Philippines national program, establish an ENDOSEC Centre and an OSEC Hub.

\$6M

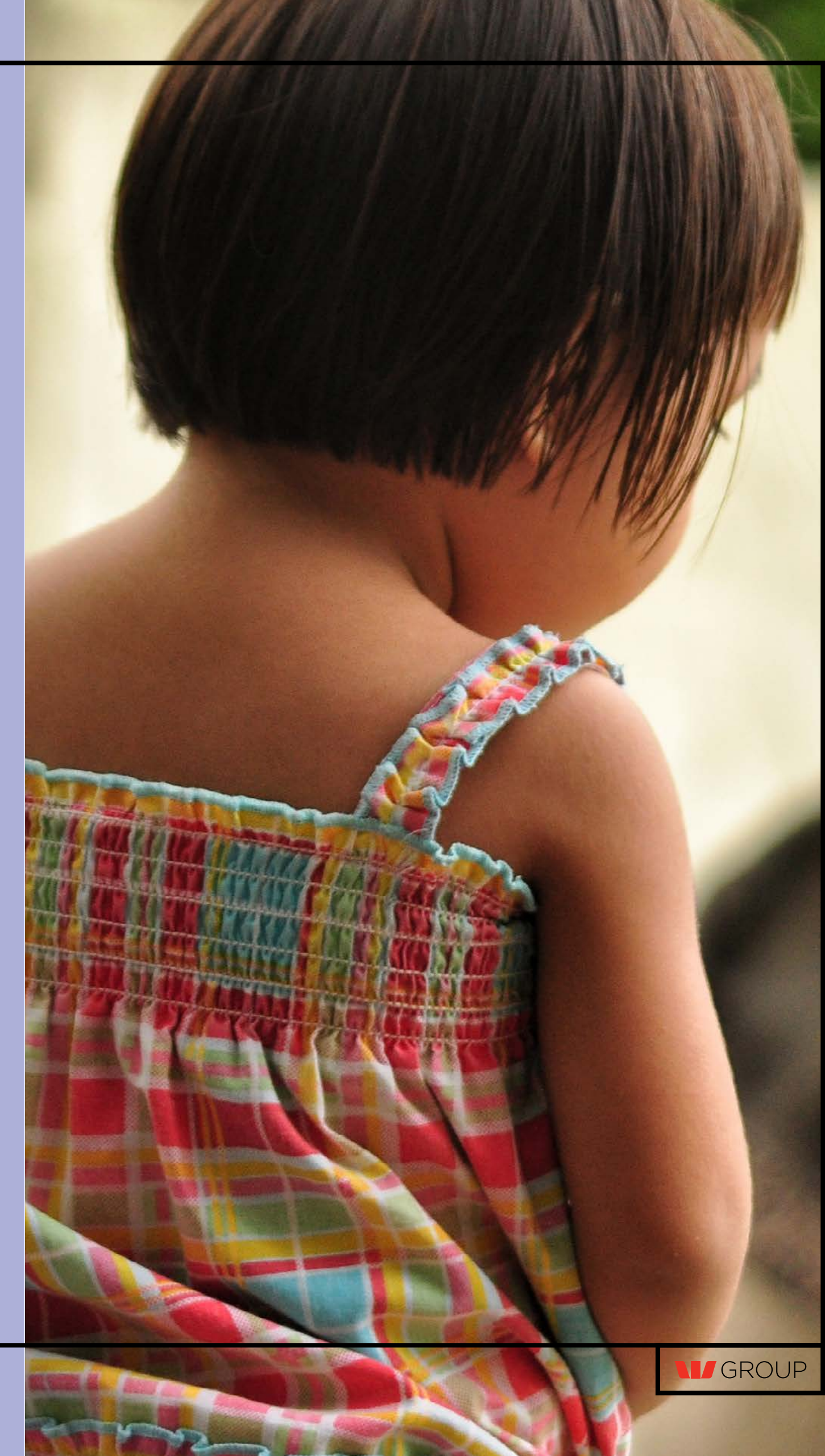
funding to Save the Children Australia over six years to support the delivery of the 'Protect Children - Philippines' project.

89

victims and children at risk rescued and 23 rescue operations conducted by IJM and their partners since July 2020.

2,453

children and 604 parents and caregivers participated in community training workshops conducted by Save the Children Australia's Philippines team.



OUR SUPPORT IN ASIA

The Philippines has been identified as a hub for the live streaming of child sexual abuse, ranking in the top 10 countries where OSEC is on the rise. A combination of poverty, strong internet coverage, the family-based nature of the crime, English proficiency, and a well-established payment service is adding to the complexity of this problem⁴.

We are committed to tackling the issue of OSEC in APAC. Through our partnerships with IJM and Save the Children Australia, we are helping expand their anti-OSEC programs. These programs are focused on strengthening social services resources, developing preventative and responsive services, influencing community attitudes, and advancing anti-OSEC advocacy efforts across the region.

1 in 2

Filipino children have experienced online violence including sexual violence and bullying⁵.

Reports of OSEC increased by

264%

as the country battles the COVID-19 pandemic⁶.

68%

of all OSEC reports received by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) are related to abuse in APAC⁷.

⁴ Rick Brown, Sarah Napier and Russell G Smith, 'Australians who view live streaming of child sexual abuse: An analysis of financial transactions', 2020, Australian Institute of Criminology. <https://www.aic.gov.au/publications/tandi/tandi589>

⁵ SaferKidsPH advocates to stop online sexual abuse and exploitation of children, 2020. <https://www.unicef.org/philippines/press-releases/saferkidsph-advocates-stop-online-sexual-abuse-and-exploitation-children>

⁶ Republic of Philippines Anti-Money Laundering Council. 'Online Sexual Exploitation of Children', May 2020, p. 5

⁷ Elie Bursztein, Travis Bright, Michelle DeLaune et al. 'Rethinking the Detection of Child Sexual Abuse Imagery on the Internet', 2019. In Proceedings of the 2019 World Wide Web Conference in collaboration with Google, NCMEC, Thorn, p. 1

Partners help bring justice to the most vulnerable

Rosie, her 17-year-old twin sisters, and two younger cousins were rescued from online sexual exploitation in an IJM-supported operation in the Philippines.

Rosie's mother was arrested and is standing trial for allegedly setting up a webcam in her home and exploiting her daughters in front of it. Foreigners would pay Rosie's mother to direct the abuse using the internet. Her older sisters have recounted how they would try to stop Rosie from having to participate in the live shows.

She and her sisters now meet regularly with an IJM social worker, who describes Rosie as, "incredibly brave. Her hardships have not broken her spirit. She is resilient and strong."

The sisters were initially taken to a temporary crisis centre and after their mother was charged under the Philippines cybercrime and anti-trafficking law, they were transferred to a longer-term government shelter.

IJM will continue working alongside Rosie and her sisters to help the girls heal from the trauma and move forward in their recovery.

SINCE JULY 2020, IJM'S TEAM AND PARTNERS HAVE:

23

conducted 23 rescue operations.

89

rescued 89 victims and children at risk.

55

trained 55 law enforcement officers and 46 public prosecutors.

21

arrested 21 perpetrators.

Image: Rosie and two friends who were rescued from online exploitation in an IJM-supported operation in the Philippines. © IJM.

⁸ Exposing, Neutralising and Deterring Online Sexual Exploitation of Children



INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION

IJM is an anti-slavery organisation focused on rescue operations, restoring survivors through aftercare programs, arresting and prosecuting suspected criminals with help from local authorities and working to strengthen criminal justice systems.

IJM has worked in the Philippines alongside the Philippines public justice system for over 20 years.

We have partnered with IJM, providing \$18 million in funding over three years to expand the IJM Philippines national program - their flagship casework and community protection program; establish an ENDOSEC⁸ Centre - a centre of excellence providing subject matter expertise, consulting and access to experts and an OSEC Hub that serves as an umbrella body to advance anti-OSEC efforts in APAC and globally.

“In OSEC cases like Rosie’s, the dynamics of the abuse are far more complicated because of the ‘trauma-bond.’ Although Rosie hated what her mother was doing to her and her sisters, the nature of OSEC often leads to victims feeling guilty or responsible for breaking up their family. They have to come to terms with forgiving themselves before they can even begin to grasp the idea of forgiving their abusers. This abuse completely distorts the sanctity of family.”

ROSIE’S IJM SOCIAL WORKER

Understanding and addressing OSEC in the Philippines

Davao City is the seventh most populated region in the Philippines with 1.5 million children and adolescents. In a baseline study conducted as part of Save the Children Australia's Protect Children - Philippines program, children from Davao City reported the highest number of online requests for nude photos in exchange for money or a mobile phone. In response, Save the Children's Philippines team has designed and implemented a range of interventions engaging children, parents, carers, civil society organisations and local government units to address the risks of OSEC.

BASELINE STUDY

A baseline study, interviewing 187 people was conducted across the cities of Davao, General Santos and Tagum and the municipality of Maramag to assess formal and informal OSEC prevention mechanisms in families, schools, communities and local governments.

The study found that most regions, specifically Davao City are struggling to monitor internet cafes which are rarely registered and often accessed by children in private booths without supervision. In General Santos a majority of OSEC cases related to parents or relatives transacting live shows, pictures, or videos of children with foreigners.

Image: Laneway in Davao City, Philippines, one of the four communities where a baseline study was conducted. © C. Gabuco/ Save the Children.

INTERVENTIONS TO ADDRESS OSEC

The study has helped identify the gaps and challenges in attitudes that make children vulnerable to OSEC and consequently enabled Save the Children's Philippines team to design interventions such as community workshops, communications campaigns, cash grants and local government unit engagement strategies.

By December 2020, 2,453 children and 604 parents had participated in community workshops on the risks of OSEC. These workshops were conducted in partnership with local civil society organisations such as Talikala who were engaged to raise awareness on detecting and reporting OSEC cases in Davao City. Due to limited mobility from COVID-19 restrictions, local organisations like Talikala are vital for ongoing education during a pandemic.

“Victims of OSEC, often end up becoming victims of trafficking. So it's important that there are specific interventions to address OSEC and solve the problem at the source. When organisations like ours are involved, there is pressure on village officials, and it sends a strong message that the community is committed to protecting their children against abuse and exploitation.”

JEANETTE LAUREL-AMPOG

Executive Director
Talikala



To coincide with Children’s Month in November, a Child’s Rights, OSEC & Online Safety Campaign was conducted with 2,080 high school students participating in a #KidsProtectKids online module of 12 quizzes on topics such as OSEC and online safety.

Save the Children’s Philippines team have also been working to strengthen the efforts of local government units by providing personal protective equipment for face to face meetings, sharing online resources on COVID-19 prevention and ensuring child protection initiatives are included in government budgets. To date, meetings have been held with 14 local government units.

SAVE THE CHILDREN

Save the Children Australia is an independent children’s organisation and has been working in the Philippines for over three decades.

Through our partnership with Save the Children Australia, we will be providing \$6 million in funding over six years to support the delivery of the ‘Protect Children – Philippines’ project to strengthen the skills and knowledge of local child protection service providers, increase access to child protection services, build the resilience of children and families as well as tackle community level attitudes to better protect children from OSEC.

Image: Children playing in Davao City, Philippines, one of the four communities where a baseline study was conducted. © C. Gabuco/ Save the Children.

PROTECT CHILDREN – PHILIPPINES 2020 PROGRAM OUTCOMES

2,453

children and 604 parents and caregivers participated in community training workshops.

2,080

high school students participated in a communications campaign.

160

families received conditional cash grants.

14

local government unit meetings conducted to strengthen monitoring of OSEC.

OUR SUPPORT IN AUSTRALIA

Australia is the third largest consumer of live, online child sexual abuse⁹. During the COVID-19 lockdown, rates of child exploitation increased even further, with many victims trapped at home with their abusers. Victims may be located in Australia or overseas.

In 2020, we launched our Impact Grants program to fund not-for-profit and civil society organisations across Australia to pilot a range of new ideas, as well as expand existing evidence-based models to help create positive outcomes for children.

1.4M

people in Australia have experienced child sexual abuse before the age of 15¹⁰.

122%

increase in reports of OSEC in Australia from April – June 2020¹¹.

94%

of parents reported that their child's online safety was important to them, but only 46% felt confident to deal with online threats¹².

⁹ Lesa Gale, 'Explosion of online child abuse shames Australia, but we must talk about it', The Australian, September 2020. Note: Lesa Gale was the Assistant Commissioner for the Australian Federal Police at the time of producing the article. <https://www.theaustralian.com.au/commentary/explosion-of-online-child-abuse-shames-australia-but-we-must-talk-about-it/news-story/7acf24eee6e281a352fcbd24a880e060>

¹⁰ Australian Bureau of Statistics (2017). Personal Safety Survey, Australia, 2016. Cat. No 4906.0. Canberra: ABS.

¹¹ These are public reports made to the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation (ACCCE). The April-June 2020 data is compared to the same period in 2019 ACCCE Website, accessed Oct 2020: <https://www.accce.gov.au/news-and-media/newsletters/newsletter-august-2020>

¹² Esafety Commission, 2018, Parenting in a Digital Age, p. 9. <https://www.esafety.gov.au/sites/default/files/2019-07/eSafety%20Research%20Parenting%20Digital%20Age.pdf>

Scaling the efforts of Australian organisations to empower, protect and support children

\$9.2M **27** **96%**

funding awarded over three years, through our 2020 Impact Grants program, to support child protection programs and initiatives across Australia.

not-for-profit and civil society organisations supported in 2020.

funded programs will be co-designed with children.

9 **45,000**

programs supporting Indigenous children, refugee, migrants or culturally and linguistically diverse children and children with disabilities.

'at risk' children and their families expected to be helped over three years.

PROGRAMS WE ARE FUNDING

5

new technological solutions to be developed.

12

education and prevention programs to be delivered focused on educational, e-safety and child sexual exploitation and abuse prevention.

8

trauma-informed services to be supported focused on response, recovery and remedy.

2

programs focused on raising awareness and understanding.



2020 Impact Grant recipients

Scale grants

8 grants of \$300,000 per year over three years.

ORGANISATIONS	PROGRAM REACH
Monash University (AiLECS Lab)	National
Playgroup Queensland	National
Jesuit Social Services	National
yourtown (Kids Helpline)	National
MacKillop Family Services	National
Interchange Outer East	National
Berry Street Victoria	VIC
Parkerville Children and Youth Care	WA

Strengthen grants

7 grants of \$100,000 per year over two years.

ORGANISATIONS	PROGRAM REACH
Child Abuse Prevention Services (CAPS)	National
Ngaoara Ltd	National
Life Education NSW	National
Act for Kids	National
Bravehearts Foundation	National
Jute Theatre Company	Far North QLD
Kids First Australia	VIC

Seed grants

12 grants of \$50,000 over one year.

ORGANISATIONS	PROGRAM REACH
Central Tablelands and Blue Mountains Community Legal Centre	NSW
Sexual Assault Support Service	TAS
The Trustee for the Cool Australia Trust	National
Youth off the Streets	NSW
Leisure Networks	VIC
Multicultural Communities of SA	SA
IFYS Limited	QLD
NSW Crime Stoppers	NSW
Settlement Services International	NSW
KARI Foundation	NSW
Australian Refugee Association	SA
Neighbourhood Watch Australasia Limited	National



Expanding yourtown's 24x7 national Kids Helpline service for children and young people facing abuse

YOURTOWN

Child sexual exploitation and abuse is a largely silent yet growing epidemic, increasingly enabled by access to the internet. It is estimated that roughly 8% of boys and 20% of girls experience sexual abuse in Australia¹³.

Recipient of a **SCALE GRANT**
\$300,000 per year over 3 years

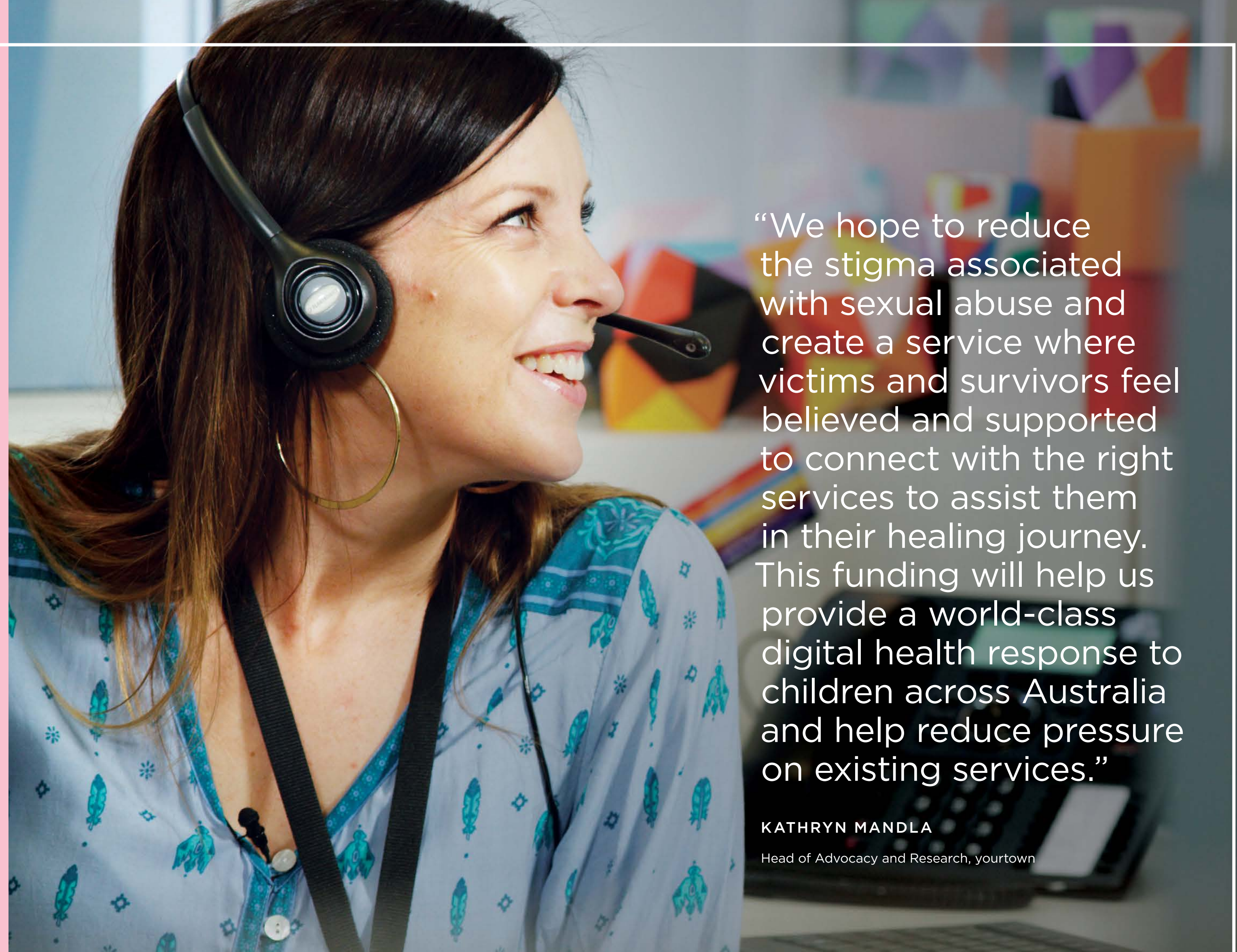
Location of program delivery:
NATIONAL

Expected reach:
**10,000 CHILDREN,
PARENTS AND CARERS**

The funding will help yourtown expand their 24x7 national Kids Helpline service to offer multi-modal support and counselling via phone, WebChat, email and peer support forums for children and young people who have been or are at-risk of being sexually exploited or abused as well as their families.

Image: Hannah is a Kids Helpline counsellor who has been with the helpline for over eight years. © yourtown.

¹³ Bravehearts Foundation, 2019. Child Sexual Assault Facts and Statistics.
bravehearts.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/WIP_Facts-and-stats_updated-Oct-2019.pdf



“We hope to reduce the stigma associated with sexual abuse and create a service where victims and survivors feel believed and supported to connect with the right services to assist them in their healing journey. This funding will help us provide a world-class digital health response to children across Australia and help reduce pressure on existing services.”

KATHRYN MANDLA

Head of Advocacy and Research, yourtown

Teaching 11-13 year olds to respond safely to predatory behaviour

LIFE EDUCATION NSW

One in five young people in Australia reported being socially excluded, threatened or abused online¹⁴ while one in four have been contacted online by strangers¹⁵.

“Online threats to the health, wellbeing and safety of children and young people are becoming increasingly prevalent. Parents often find it difficult to keep up with changing technology and need support to help their children stay safe online,” says Life Education NSW/ACT CEO, Jonathan Peatfield.

The funding from the grant will be used to adapt and expand Life Education NSW’s cybersafety program – bCyberwise to support children aged 11-13 years (currently reaching children aged 8-10 years) with the knowledge and skills to recognise and respond safely to predatory behaviour or content that may be sexually exploitative or damaging. It will also help them build the confidence and resilience needed to report dangerous or risky online experiences and to seek help if they have been affected.

Recipient of a **STRENGTHEN GRANT** \$100,000 per year over 2 years

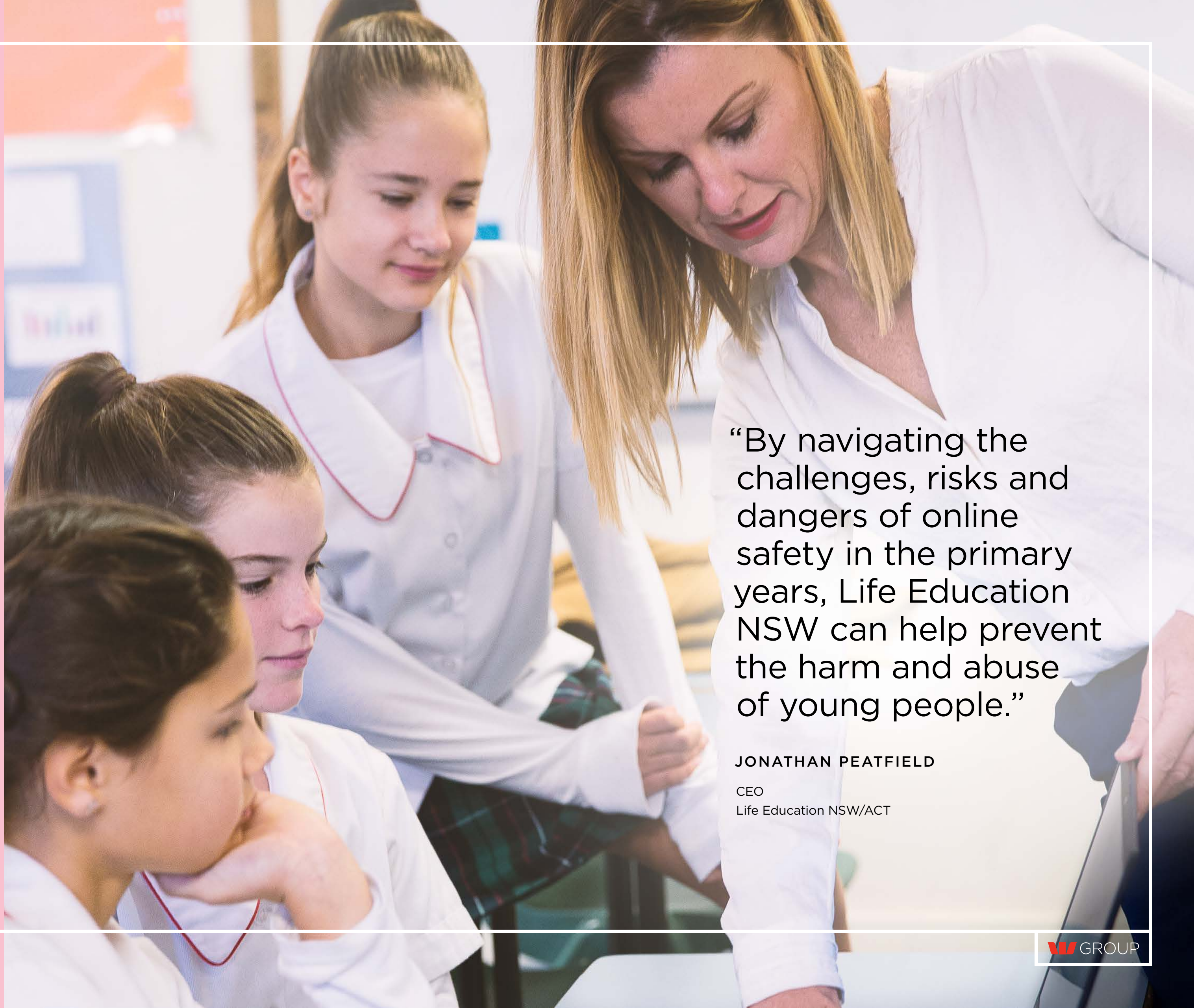
Location of program delivery: **NATIONAL**

Expected reach: **50,000 CHILDREN**

Image: Terese Hooper, Director of Education Life Education NSW talking through online safety with school children as part of Life Education NSW’s preventative health and well-being program. Terese will manage the re-development of the cybersafety program - beCyberwise. © Life Education NSW.

¹⁴ eSafety Commissioner, Cyberbullying: factsheet. <https://www.esafety.gov.au/educators/training-professionals/professional-learning-program-teachers/cyberbullying-factsheet>

¹⁵ eSafety education, 2020, Unwanted contact and grooming: factsheet. <https://www.esafety.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-04/Unwanted%20contact%20and%20grooming%20Factsheet.pdf>



“By navigating the challenges, risks and dangers of online safety in the primary years, Life Education NSW can help prevent the harm and abuse of young people.”

JONATHAN PEATFIELD

CEO
Life Education NSW/ACT

Trauma-informed therapeutic intervention for Aboriginal children

KARI FOUNDATION

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children account for less than 5% of all children and young people in Australia, however represent almost 35% of children in out-of-home care. Aboriginal children in out-of-home care tend to have higher chances of experiencing homelessness, drug and alcohol issues and various forms of abuse than their peers. These children commonly have complex issues and severe trauma when they enter out-of-home care¹⁶.

Recipient of a
SEED GRANT
\$50,000

Location of program delivery:
SYDNEY, NSW

Expected reach:
**80 CHILDREN,
PARENTS AND CARERS**

The funding from the grant will help KARI Foundation pilot a trauma-informed art therapy intervention in collaboration with the South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD). It will be staffed by KARI psychologists and SWSLHD health professionals and will be designed as an entry point into services, while encouraging participants to access further health services within KARI and SWSLHD.

Image: Mother and bub having a cuddle after a playgroup session at a KARI clinic. © KARI Foundation.

¹⁶ Raman et al, 2017, Taking culture seriously: Can we improve the developmental health and well-being of Australian Aboriginal children in out-of-home care?
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/28736897/>

“The seed funding will allow the KARI Foundation to collaborate with health, culture and art industry experts to support the development of a new trauma-informed service, which will connect children, carers and parents.”

CAIN SLATER

Head of Partnerships, Marketing and Fundraising
KARI Foundation



INVESTING IN TECHNOLOGY

Never has it been easier for perpetrators to contact children, share images of abuse, hide their identity and transfer payments. The increasing use of social media has also increased the pool of potential victims. While technology is often an enabler, it is also a key tool for decreasing OSEC in Australia and overseas.

Enough data exists to identify and investigate OSEC perpetrators, however it is often isolated to different industries such as financial services, telecommunications, airlines, social media and search engines as well as across government and regulators. A lack of cross-industry data sharing means data cannot be readily aggregated to provide a full picture of a perpetrator.

Our aim is to bring funding and focus to help increase data collaboration, build new infrastructure, and design the analytics required to improve the detection of perpetrators. We are working with an international non-government organisation to invest \$25 million in cross-industry data sharing projects to better detect, monitor, report and prevent harm to children associated with financial crime. We will work with our partners and endeavour to leverage global solutions wherever possible.

21K

ACCCE received almost 21,000 reports of child sexual exploitation in the 12 months to July 2020¹⁷.

122M

122 million more children have come online globally since February 2018¹⁸.

¹⁷ James Carmody, 'Online child sexual exploitation reports in Australia have surged under coronavirus lockdown, AFP say', ABC News, 2020. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-09-11/child-sexual-exploitation-reports-jump-in-covid-lockdown-afp-say/12648260>

¹⁸ We Protect Global Alliance, 2019. Global Threat Assessment Report; <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5630f48de4b00a75476ecf0a/t/5deecb0fc4c5ef23016423cf/1575930642519/FINAL+++Global+Threat+Assessment.pdf>

Ethical use of AI to identify crime

AILECS LAB (MONASH UNIVERSITY)

Everyday, Australian police review an ever-increasing volume of images to determine those relating to online child exploitation. These images need to be viewed and classified by the investigators. This is a time consuming, manual, and stressful task.

Recipient of a
SCALE GRANT
\$300,000 per year over 3 years

AILECS

The Artificial Intelligence for Law Enforcement and Community Safety (AiLECS) Lab is an Australian-first research lab with an overarching theme of the ethical use of artificial intelligence in law enforcement and community safety.

The Lab is the recipient of a Scale grant, comprising \$300,000 per year over three years. The funding will be used to develop machine learning tools to detect and classify online child sexual abuse material.

Image: AiLECS Lab Launch (July 2019) with (L-R): Commander Doug Boudry (AFP), Professor Margaret Gardner AC, President and Vice Chancellor (Monash University), Dr Campbell Wilson, AiLECS Co-director (Monash University), Dr Janis Dalins AiLECS Co-director (AFP), Deputy Commissioner Karl Kent OAM (AFP), Professor Jon Whittle, Dean Faculty of IT. © Monash University.



AiLECS Lab, a collaboration between Monash University and the Australian Federal Police (AFP), is investigating how artificial intelligence (AI) and machine learning can assist with quickening the detection and classification of images. This means that an algorithm will be able to assess an image or video at speed and determine if it has a high probability of being sexually explicit and involving a child.

The Lab will use a system called Data Airlock, jointly-designed with the AFP. The system will provide indirect access to actual case data to develop and test machine learning algorithms. This will assist to minimise the Lab's data analytics team's exposure to confronting data, thereby managing the legal and ethical restrictions that exist in developing such technologies.

The technology ultimately aims to classify and triage any child sex abuse material, associated messaging and financial activity on seized devices. This has the potential to accelerate investigations and prosecutions as well as reduce exposure which causes significant psychological trauma for AFP officers undertaking this work.

“Child exploitation is a crime that seriously harms victims and has a detrimental impact on our community. Given the insidious nature of this crime it is not something law enforcement can fight alone. Partnerships with academia and private industry are critical in finding better ways to protect children and make those who seek to harm them accountable for their crimes.”

DOUG BOUDRY

Commander, Crime Command
Australian Federal Police

CATALYSING CHANGE WITHIN WESTPAC GROUP

The AUSTRAC proceedings highlighted shortcomings in our management of financial crime risk and have been a catalyst for change within Westpac Group.

In the last year, we have refreshed our Board and Executive Team, are refocusing on core banking, and are accelerating our program to address shortcomings in our management of risk.

Change is underway, but there is a lot to do.

Action already taken to help reduce the human impact of financial crime

We want to create deeper awareness of the importance of safeguarding children. While we cannot entirely eliminate the risk of customers exploiting our products for criminal purposes, we have taken a number of steps in 2020 to mitigate the risk.

- Closed relevant products and implemented enhanced process oversight.
- Added over 200 additional employees to our financial crime team.
- Established a Board Legal, Regulatory & Compliance Committee and elevated the Financial Crime, Compliance and Conduct function, with the Group Executive reporting directly to the CEO.
- Where Westpac flags transactions that suggest potential child exploitation in high risk locations, these transactions are now prioritised for action and reported to AUSTRAC within 24 hours.
- Uplifted our approach to transaction monitoring, specifically those relating to CSE, human trafficking and people smuggling to enhance our suite of risk indicators and detection scenarios.
- Currently updating a number of internal policies, procedures, and standards to include child safeguarding considerations.

Image: A Westpac Group employee at our head office in Sydney. Over 2020, we have added over 200 additional employees to our financial crime team.



Glossary

ACCCE

Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation

AFP

Australian Federal Police

AILECS LAB

Artificial Intelligence for Law Enforcement and Community Safety

APAC

The Asia-Pacific region

AUSTRAC

Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre

CSA

Child Sexual Abuse

CSAM

Child Sexual Abuse Material

CSE

Child Sexual Exploitation

ENDOSEC

Exposing, Neutralising and Deterring
Online Sexual Exploitation of Children

IJM

International Justice Mission

NCMEC

National Centre for Missing & Exploited Children

OSEC

Online Sexual Exploitation of Children

SCSC

Safer Children, Safer Communities

CONNECT WITH US

Connect with us

Throughout 2020, people from across the community have guided us, provided us with feedback, shared their insights, helped us build new connections and supported us in doing the right thing.

WE THANK YOU

