



DANIEL MORCOMBE

Protecting children a duty

6th September 2011

Tags child abuse, daniel morcombe

DANIEL Morcombe's tragic story will never be forgotten, but Child Protection Week chair Holly Brennan has asked us also to remember the nearly 300,000 cases of child abuse in Australia last year.

Ms Brennan said it was easy to be horrified by a high profile media case, but perhaps we should be horrified more often about the alarming statistics taking place on a daily basis.

"Statistics show a child is physically, emotionally or sexually abused every 12 minutes in Australia,"; she said.

"The National Child Protection Clearinghouse says there were 286,437 suspected cases of child abuse in Australia in 2009-10.";

As part of National Child Protection Week, which began yesterday, Ms Brennan called for people to embrace this year's theme: "Protecting Children is Everyone's Business";.

Ms Brennan said around half of the adults who saw the signs of abuse did not think it right to take action to prevent further abuse.

"A survey of 22,000 adults last year found less than half would report suspected abuse of children to authorities,"; she said.

It was important to understand a child was much more likely to be abused or neglected by someone they know and trust.

"It is more likely to be a father or mother, step-parent, grandparents, sports coach, teacher, priest or fellow student abusing a child than the strange man in the trench coat,"; Ms Brennan said.

"If you're worried about a child, don't be silent, do something,"; she said.

If you suspect a child is being harmed or at risk of harm contact the Child Safety After Hours Service Centre on 1800 177 135.

CHILD ABUSE STATISTICS

- The Australian Institute of Family Studies reports physical abuse of children ranges from 5% to 10%
- Emotional abuse affects up to 17% of children
- Up to 16% of male children and up to 36% of female children report sexual abuse
- In Queensland there were 6922 substantiated reports of child abuse or neglect in 2009-10

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