

ECPAT New Zealand is pleased to present

Choose With Care Workshops

October 2007

An Information and Training Programme to Help Build Child Safe Organisations

ChildWise (ECPAT in Australia) developed its innovative child sexual abuse prevention programme Choose with Care based on its experiences in child protection training over 15 years in Australia and South East Asia.

Why Do We Need Choose With Care?

Choose With Care has been developed in response to sex offenders targeting organisations working with children. It is now well known that sex offenders seek employment in organisations where they can gain access to vulnerable children. They will often seek out positions which not only provide them with access to children but also a professional subterfuge to conceal their abusive activities. Unfortunately it is not easy to identify a child sex offender. There are no reliable psychological tests or profiles to identify them.

Choose with Care has been awarded:

- National Child Protection Award Overall Winner 2003
- Crime Prevention Awards Certificate of Merit 2002

What is Choose With Care?

Choose With Care is an innovative prevention program, which aims to minimise the risk of child abuse occurring within organisations working with children. The program is unique in Australia and one of few world-wide promoting a systemic approach to child abuse prevention. The program will assist organisations to improve their screening, recruitment and management practices for staff and volunteers.

The Choose With Care Program includes information on:

- Child protection policies
- Codes of conduct
- Screening procedures
- Recruitment and selection practices
- Legal issues and responsibilities
- Systems for responding to complaints of abuse within an organisation
- The ongoing maintenance of a child safe organisation.

Three Informative Workshops:

- New Plymouth October 23rd
- Tauranga October 23rd
- Whangarei October 25th

Who is Choose with Care for?

Choose With Care is highly relevant to any organisation or voluntary group working with children. It will assist in developing awareness and outlines practical steps that organisations can take to reduce the opportunities for children to be abused whilst in their care.

Organisations using Choose With Care include:

Childcare centres/kindergartens, Family Day Care, Youth Groups, Sports and Recreation clubs, Holiday programs, After school care, Health or welfare organizations, Foster care agencies, Mentoring groups, International development programs, Voluntary groups working with children and young people.

Guest Presenters:

Bernadette McMenamin

Chief Executive Officer, Child Wise

Bernadette has worked in the field of child abuse prevention and advocacy for over twenty years and has specialised in the sexual exploitation of children both in Australia and overseas.

She is highly regarded internationally for her expertise in the area of child protection and children's rights and has trained extensively throughout the world. Bernadette created the Choose With Care program and developed other highly regarded and innovative child abuse prevention programs that are being delivered in Australia and overseas.

In recognition of her contribution to the protection of children from sexual exploitation, Bernadette won the 2004 Victorian nomination for Australian of the Year and was awarded the Order of Australia in June 2004.

Karen Flanagan

National Program Manager, Choose With Care

Karen is widely acknowledged as one of Australia's foremost educators and practitioners in the field of child sexual abuse and child abuse prevention. Her professional career commenced in the statutory child protection system and therapeutic foster care in Northern Ireland. In Australia, Karen has worked as a senior consultant in child protection training and been a counsellor to thousands of traumatised and abused children. She established and managed a renowned therapeutic program for victims and young perpetrators of sexual abuse for 10 years whilst also managing the Protective Behaviours Program in Victoria.

Karen is the National Program Manager of Choose With Care, delivering child protection training and consultancy in Australia and the South East Asia Pacific region.

Register now by contacting ECPAT

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