



Administrators Meeting

Presentation by Safe Place Services &
ESPC Services

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www.safeplaceservices.org.au
www.espcservices.com






Original Aims for Adventist Support ...

- To provide a central point-of-contact across all levels of the Church organization for:
 1. Information and advice on sexual abuse and harassment .
 2. Complaints alleging sexual harassment (of adults) and sexual abuse (of children) by Church workers (employees and volunteers) to be submitted and investigated.
 3. Training and resourcing of both employees and laity.
 4. Support for victims of sexual harassment and abuse ensuring that the Church responds in a responsible manner.
 5. Review the Church's handling of matters, as necessary, including providing advice and recommendations on improvements to systems and processes.





Creating a safe faith community
for everyone

Objectives ...

1. To keep existing Church departments and administrative positions independent and at arms-length from the Church's organizational response.

Rationale:

- To avoid the appearance that the Church's response is 'self serving'
 - To maintain objectivity of recommendations and advice
 - To meet the expectations of the public and victims groups for such Units to be separated from Church leaders
2. To have the Church's organizational response overseen by a Management Committee of employed staff as well as people with professional qualifications and experience in the fields of sexual abuse and assault.
 3. To establish a new dedicated service to operationalize these aims & objectives.





History of Key Events ...

- 2000 Adventist Support commences
- 2003 December, NSW Supreme Court Judgement
- 2004 Policies and procedures reviewed
- 2005 Appointment of external firm to conduct investigations
- 2006 Change to 'Safe Place Services' & Safe Place Committee model proposed for local Conferences
- 2008 Platform of policies reviewed
- 2009 Targeting of investigations to employee/appointed volunteers
- 2010 Targeting of investigations to child-related cases





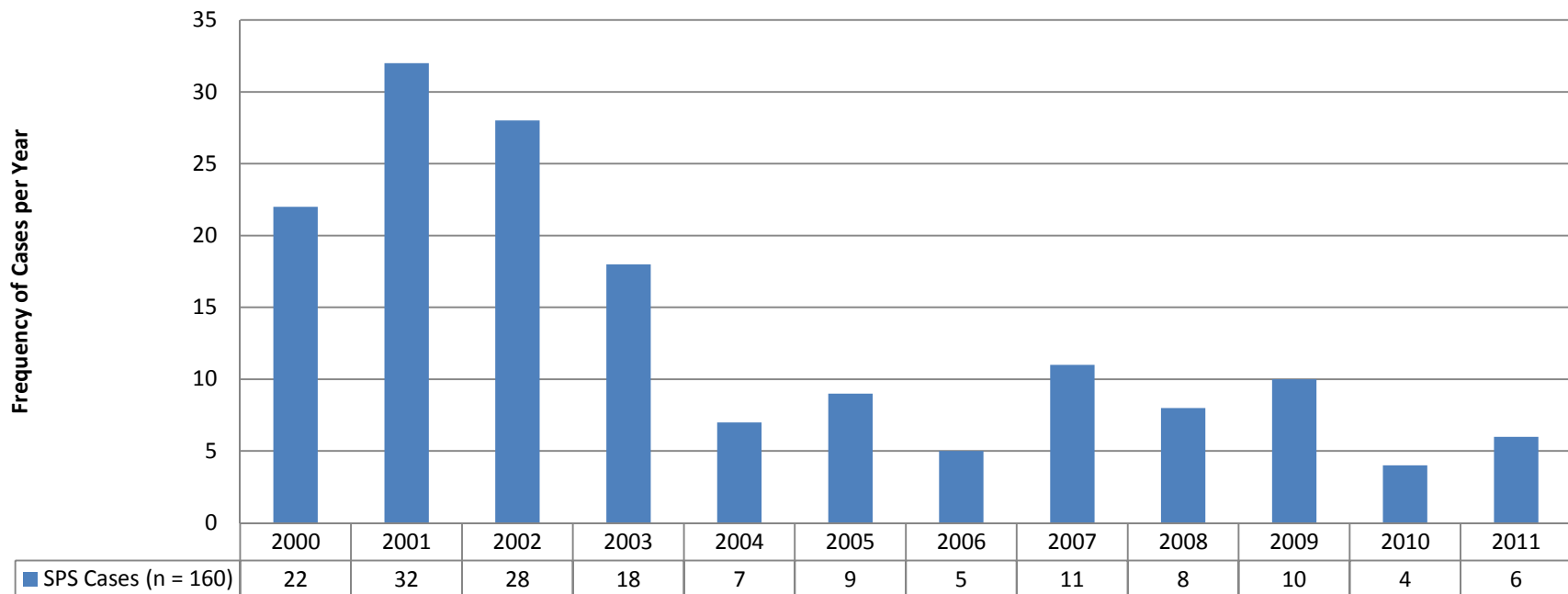
Overview of Investigations 2000 – 2011

Dallas O'Connor



Number of Cases Investigated Each Year

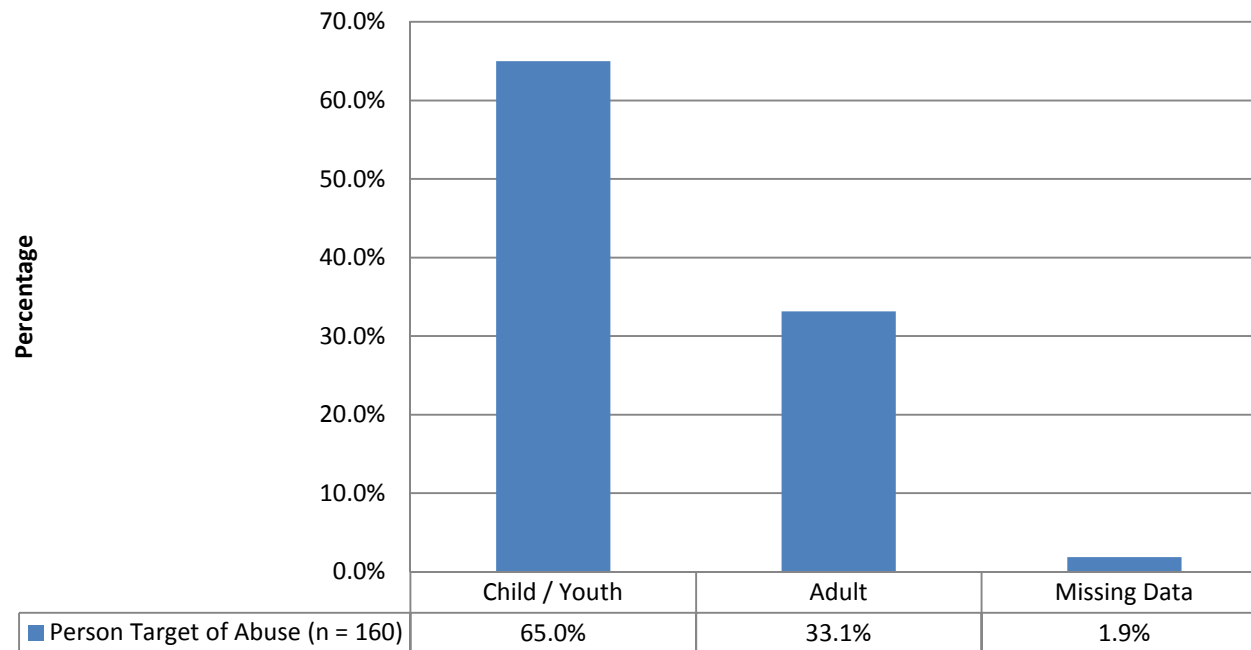
SPS Cases (n = 160)





Primary Target of Abuse: Children & Adults

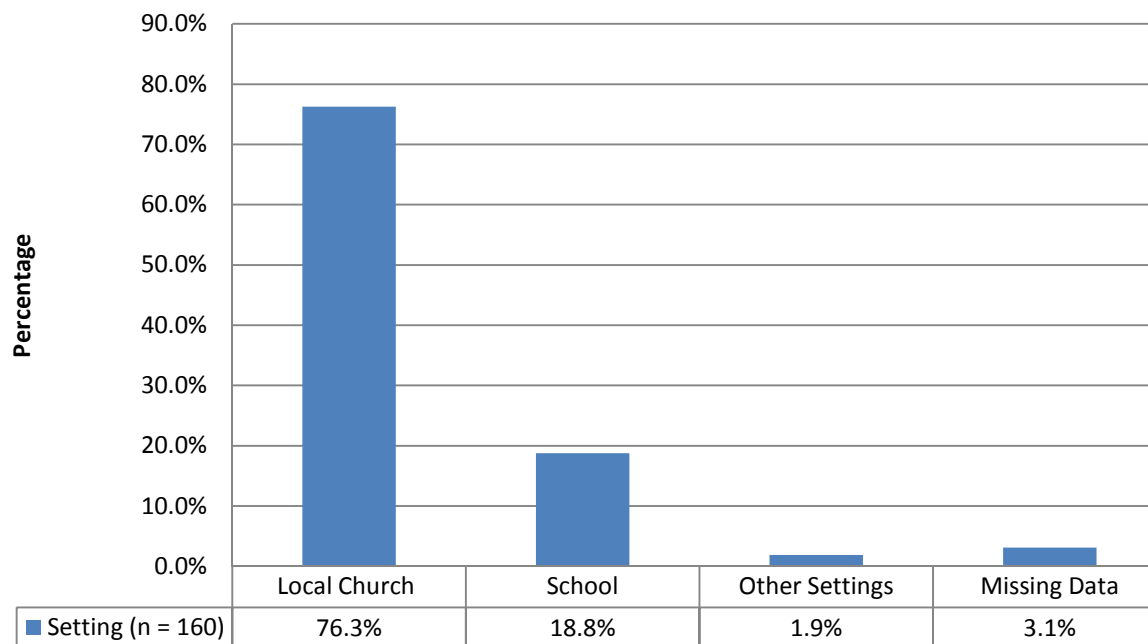
Person Target of Abuse (n = 160)





Context of Alleged Abuse

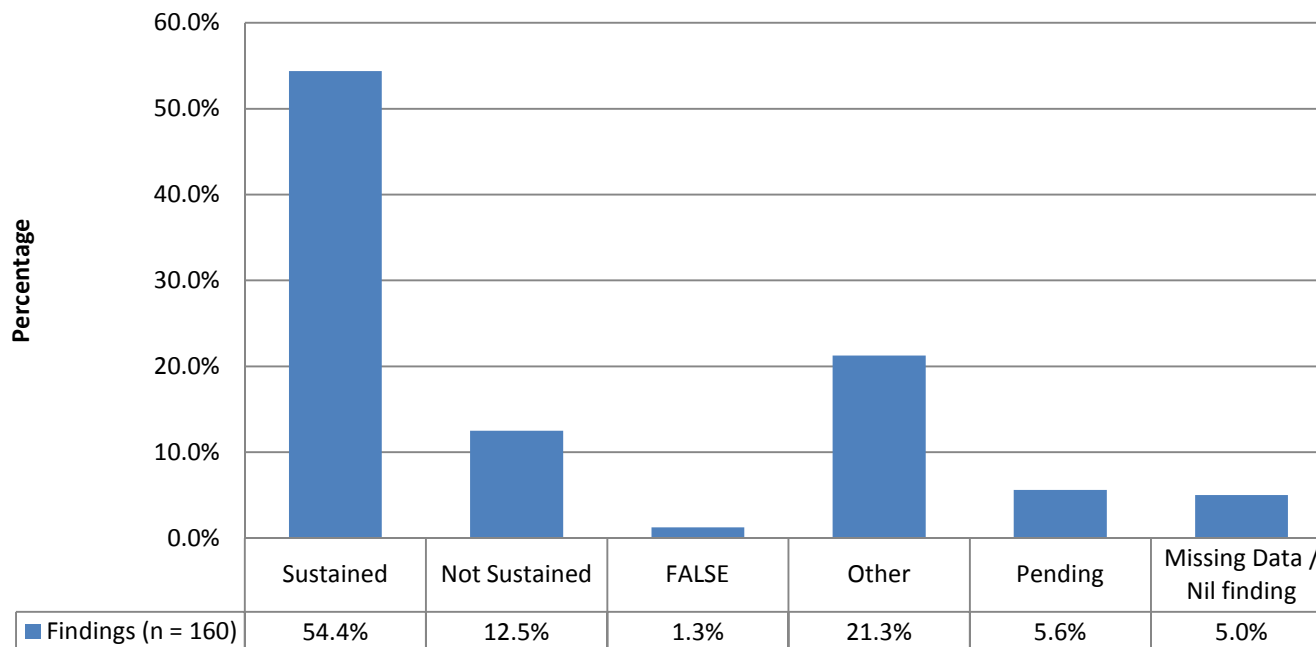
Setting (n = 160)





Investigation Results: Adjudication Findings

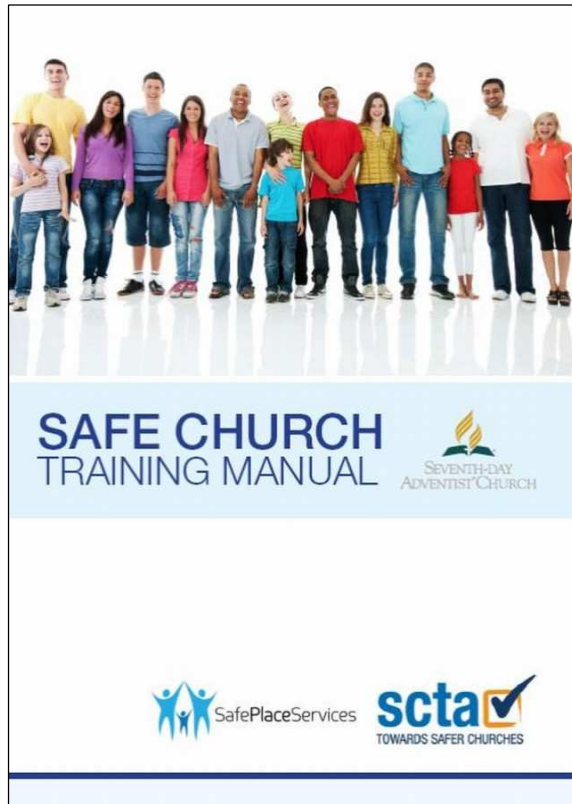
Findings (n = 160)





Lessons from the past ...

- Networking with other Christian groups and 'best practice' leaders
- Understanding of 'natural justice' implications has grown and its implications for Church processes
- Church personnel who respond to situations are not immune from complaints of 'bias' (no matter whether rightly or wrongly), thus if Administration is kept at arms-length from highly emotive decisions/issues this is advantageous
- The issues we face (in terms of the nature of complaints and allegations) as the Adventist Church are not unique to us, but are indicative of what other Christian groups and religious organizations also deal with
- The stressors that cases place upon us (in terms of finances, staffing, personal relationships) as the Adventist Church are also felt by other Christian and community organizations



Training for Local Churches:

Church Boards

4 Modules (5 – 6 hrs. total)

Child/Youth team members,
assistants and occasional
helpers –
Module 2 only (1.5 hrs.)

4 Modules

1. Foundations of Safe Places
2. Protecting Vulnerable People
3. Safe Leaders & Leadership
4. Safe Programs

Sexual Abuse

A "HOW TO HELP" GUIDE FOR VICTIMS,
PARENTS OF VICTIMS AND
CONGREGATIONS




ADVENTIST
SAFE PLACE SERVICES
2012 Edition

Sabbath August 25

Abuse Prevention
& Awareness Day

