

Speak up!

It's ok to talk
about bad secrets!

Tell your bad secret to
an adult that you trust.

If no one listens or no one believes you, it's really important to **keep telling other people** til someone helps.

You could call one of the numbers on the back of this factsheet.

Always remember:

**It is never your
fault!**

**Don't be shame,
speak up!**

**You deserve to be
happy and safe!**

Numbers you can call:

Wirringa Baiya Aboriginal
Women's Legal Centre
1800 686 587 (freecall) or
02 9569 3847

Kids Helpline
1800 551 800 (24/7)

Child Protection Helpline
132 111 (24/7)

Police 000 (triple zero) (24/7)

BAD SECRETS

Info for children
about being safe

Warning!

The stuff is not nice,
but really important
to know!



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BAD SECRETS - Info for children about being safe

This info is for anyone UNDER 16 years of age.

If you are 16 years or older, you should read our fact sheet 8 called 'Adult Sexual Assault'.

Sexual abuse is a crime, it is against the law!

What is sexual abuse?

Sexual abuse is when someone uses their power to do sexual things with you. It might make you feel yucky, scared, dirty or confused.

If you are UNDER 16 years of age you CANNOT agree to have sex or do sexual things.

The law says that because of your age, you can't agree or 'consent' even if you think you are ok with it.

You've done nothing wrong by thinking you've agreed.

Sexual abuse can include when someone:

- 🔊 shows you their bum, penis, breasts, vagina or rubs themselves (masturbates) in front of you.
- 🔊 films or takes photos of you in a sexual way.
- 🔊 makes you look at sexual pictures on a computer, TV, in a magazine or on a phone.
- 🔊 touches you on the bum, penis, vagina or breasts OR makes you touch them there.
- 🔊 has sex with you, including putting a penis or finger inside your body.

It is never your fault.

No-one has the right to do sexual things to you.

No-one has the right to trick you or make you do sexual things with them.

Who abuses children?

It could be someone like friends, teachers, coaches, neighbours, family or someone else you know. It might be a stranger (but hardly ever).

How does abuse happen?

Sometimes the person will use tricks and buy you stuff to get your trust. They will then get you to do sexual things.

If this happens, you might feel yucky and shame.

Bad secrets

- 🔊 The person who is hurting you can be sneaky and really nice so no one guesses the bad secret.
- 🔊 They might tell everyone you're a liar to make them look good.
- 🔊 The person might make threats so you won't tell anyone about the bad secret.

The person might say:

"You better not tell or you'll get into trouble!"

or

"If you tell anyone, DoCS will take you!"
(DoCS is now called 'Community Services')