



PERSPECTIVES from the Director...

PROVIDING HOPE FOR CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE VICTIMS

Welcome to the mid-year edition of our newsletter. At Jannawi, we always aim to increase awareness of significant public health and safety issues that affect children and families. One of the most significant issues, and perhaps the least recognised, is child sexual abuse. Unfortunately, we witness first-hand the detrimental consequences that child sexual abuse has on victims later in life, as the majority of the parents we counsel at Jannawi have experienced this type of abuse. It is a crime that continues to go unreported due to stigma and a lack of awareness. It's a serious issue that people do not speak

about freely - not because the community doesn't care, but because they are unsure of how to respond or help. It brings enormous pain, suffering and shame to victims, as perpetrators work hard to ensure that children stay silent. The use of threats, bribes and other tricks to silence children means that this trauma can be buried and manifest in mental ill-health, drug misuse and chaotic, unsafe lives. The community remains unaware of the extent of child sexual abuse and that perpetrators are more often than not, known to their victims. A better understanding of the dynamics and the tactics used by perpetrators to silence victims is desperately needed.

Fortunately, at Jannawi, we not only help bring greater public awareness of these life-

altering issues, but we help victims heal and recover by firstly acknowledging the abuse they have suffered, and then honouring them for having the courage and strength to share their pain with us.

We thank you for your continued support of Jannawi. Your donations provide victims of child sexual abuse and other abuse victims with a much-needed support service that helps them deal with the pain and suffering they have endured. Thank you for continuing to provide children and families hope for a brighter future.

Biljana Milosevic
Director – Jannawi Family Centre

News

JANNAWI VIDEO

Jannawi was very fortunate to have a video produced recently by talented director Michele Konrad. Michele is a Director at Nous Group with a certificate in content creation from the Australian Film, Television and Radio School. Titled *Two Lives*, the video Michele created for Jannawi highlights the two very different paths the lives of victims of abuse can take, depending on whether or not they receive help. The first path, represented by a grey cap worn by the child in the video, shows the unfortunate circumstances that arise when abuse is not addressed. The second path, represented by a red cap worn by the same child in an alternate version of his life, shows the positive results of Jannawi's intervention and guidance.

The video highlights the critical role Jannawi plays in keeping children and families on the right path, even in the most challenging



circumstances. We are grateful for the effort and time put in by Michele and her cast and crew, which included talented professional actors Katherine Shearer and David Hooley, all of whom donated their time to produce this thought-provoking and emotive video.

To view the video, please visit
<https://vimeo.com/338379831>

Two Lives has been entered in the Cause Film Festival, a short film competition whose

purpose is to support film makers, charities and causes to spread their message to a wider audience. We wish Michele and the film the best of luck!

Screen shots from the video can be seen on the next page.

“Video has the power to engage audiences and evoke emotions, in a way that surpasses any other medium. We are proud to have produced a video for Jannawi, and to help spread the word on the amazing work they do for families in need.

”

Michele Konrad, Director

Jannawi Video



Screen shots from Jannawi video

Case Study

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

When Zara's children, seven-year-old Ali and five-year-old Aya, told her that her new partner, Harry, had touched them sexually, she believed them. What she couldn't understand however, was how he had found the opportunity to abuse them, and how she had not detected anything was wrong.

When the family was referred to Jannawi Family Centre, Zara was still shocked and reeling from Harry's breach of her trust. Her former husband, the children's father, had been verbally abusive and physically intimidating, and their relationship had knocked her confidence, leaving her fearful of men. So it had taken her a considerable amount of time to trust Harry, whose behaviour was calm and respectful in contrast to her ex, and who was ready to help her with the practical challenges of being a single mum. He regularly paid bills and bought things for the children when she couldn't afford them, unlike their father who had withheld money as a form of control. As is common in these types of situations, Harry had convinced Ali and Aya that no one would believe them, and that he would hurt their mum if they said anything about the abuse. It was only after Ali attended a Protective Behaviours workshop at his school that he felt confident to disclose, initially to another adult, what was happening. An AVO was issued and Harry was charged.

Once the children were safe, it was essential that the whole family received specialist counselling to address the impact of the abuse and to promote healing and recovery. It is common for child sex abuse victims to feel shame and inflict self-blame, which for some survivors continues throughout their lives. If victims do not find the right intervention, it can leave an enduring legacy of depression and anxiety that may affect

“If child sexual abuse victims do not find the right intervention, it can leave an enduring legacy of depression and anxiety that may affect every aspect of their life, or lead to drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and suicide.”

every aspect of their life, or lead to drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm and suicide. The Jannawi team worked closely with the children to support them through the consequences of their trauma which included poor sleep, feeling worried and unsafe, and problems at school.

A family counsellor explained to Zara that abusers get close to children by manipulating their mothers, typically by offering them help. The counsellor reassured Zara that she was not to blame, and helped her through her feelings of guilt. From famous entertainers and clergymen, to ordinary men like Harry, the abuser's playbook is essentially the same: use trust, authority or some combination of the two to normalise time spent alone with children, then exploit that opportunity to commit the abuse. From the outside, an abuser may appear involved and generous, so their interest in a new partner's children goes unchallenged.

The Jannawi team helped Zara recognise how 'grooming' operates, and exposed the mind games Harry had used to confuse her judgement. The team was able to restore Zara's confidence in her own ability to responsively parent and protect her children. Similarly to the many other child sex abuse cases that Jannawi handles, the family's case will be a long journey with more guidance, sessions and work required. Jannawi's unique and specialised support means families like Zara's can rebuild after a crisis, find strength and optimism, and ultimately have hope for the future.





WHY JANNAWI NEEDS YOUR HELP

Jannawi's primary purpose is to protect children who have experienced trauma through violence, neglect, physical, psychological or sexual abuse. The level of child abuse and domestic violence in Australia is appalling and on the increase. The traditional solution to child abuse has meant increasing numbers of children being removed from their homes and families. Jannawi's approach is unique and our philosophy is that children are best cared for by their own families. We aim to establish long-term community support networks and resilience in children, so they have the ability and support to thrive in their community. Our current premises in Lakemba, our staff and program resources are at capacity. We are seeking additional funding to enable us to provide these services to more families in urgent need, rather than turning them away.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Donations are always welcome and appreciated as this is the primary way in which we can continue to provide and extend the vital services that Jannawi offers to families in need. We also welcome contacts and introductions to corporate sponsors and property developers who can assist us in locating and securing additional space, even if it is on a short-term or temporary basis.

Contact: Please contact Jannawi Connections Board Chair, Monique Jackson for more information on how you can help 0410-716-927.

DONATE TO JANNAWI

Online at www.jannawi.org.au or return this form to:

Jannawi
PO Box 148 Lakemba NSW 2195
ph: 02 9750 0500 fax: 02 9750 6190
info@jannawi.org.au

Title: ☐ Mr ☐ Mrs ☐ Miss ☐ Dr ☐ Other

First name/s: _____ Last name: _____

Mailing address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____

Phone: () _____ Mobile: _____ Email: _____

Please accept my:

Single gift of \$ _____ or Monthly credit card gift of \$ _____

PAYMENT DETAILS

☐ Cheque (make payable to Jannawi Inc)

Credit card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Amex ☐ Diners

Card number: _____

Expiry date: ____ / ____ CVV: _____ Cardholder name: _____

Signature: _____

Thank you for your generous support!

Gifts over \$2 are tax deductible

ABN: 45 306 019 085 Charitable Fundraising No: CFN 23846

PRIVACY ASSURANCE: The information you provide on this form is collected by Jannawi to maintain contact and keep you up-to-date with information about Jannawi, its services, events and achievements. Your name may be published in the annual honour roll. If you wish to remain anonymous or do not wish to receive information, please contact us on email admin@jannawi.org.au. We abide by the "NSW Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act".