

Australian Study into Economic Costs Of Child Sexual Exploitation

ICMEC Australia is a not-for-profit that brings together financial institutions, government, law enforcement, NGOs and commercial entities to reduce the volume of child exploitation crimes within and from Australia. The organisation supports collaborative actions, and develops data and technology driven solutions that facilitate stakeholders in collecting and combining the digital evidence of online-facilitated sexual crimes against children.

ICMEC Australia is looking to commission an Australian research piece into the economic costs and impacts of child sexual exploitation (CSE), particularly facilitated online. The project will be multi-phased, with opportunities to refine and refresh the findings periodically so that the findings do not become static and outdated.

Research Brief – Phase One

For Phase One (focus of this current invitation for applications), the output will be an initial overview report outlining the different cost categories and preliminary estimates of the financial and non-financial (monetised) impacts of CSE, particularly facilitated online.

The initial report will serve as a ‘conversation starter,’ where ICMEC Australia welcomes interested parties to provide feedback and suggestions and inform the next tranche of research. The findings will also be used to speak to government and industry about CSE, particularly facilitated online, as an issue within Australia, and will build awareness on the requirement for funding and consideration within public health models.

Research Framework

- A literature review of research/publications in the same and/or related fields domestically and internationally. This will help align methodologies and cost categories for this report.
- The cost categories, which includes direct and secondary/consequential, could be further segmented to cover the following perspectives:
 - a) Government (if possible, distinction between Commonwealth and State)
[Note: if no better data can be leveraged, the annual Report on Government Services (RoGS) cost data can be considered for the estimations]
 - b) Financial services institutions
 - c) Corporates/businesses
 - d) Personal / individual
 - e) Society / Community
 - f) Others

- Suggested existing research which could be leveraged include the following (non-exhaustive list):
 - Australian Institute of Family Studies (AIFS) (2018) *The economic costs of child abuse and neglect*, AIFS website, <https://aifs.gov.au/resources/policy-and-practice-papers/economic-costs-child-abuse-and-neglect>
 - Deloitte Access Economics (2019) *The economic cost of violence against children and young people*, Canberra: Deloitte Access Economics.
 - Conti, G., Morris, S., Melnychuk, M., & Pizzo, E (2017) *The economic costs of child maltreatment in the UK: A preliminary study*, NSPCC.
 - Fang, X., Brown, D.S., Florence, C.S., & Mercy, J.A. (2012) *The economic burden of child maltreatment in the United States and implications for prevention*, Child Abuse and Neglect, 36, 156–165.
 - Kezelman, C., Hossack, N., Stavropoulos, P. & Burley, P. (2015) *The cost of unresolved childhood trauma and abuse in adults in Australia*, Sydney: Adults Surviving Child Abuse and Pegasus Economics.
 - Letourneau, E.J., Brown, D.S., Fang, X., Hassan, A., & Mercy, J.A. (2018) *The economic burden of child sexual abuse in the United States*, Child Abuse & Neglect, 79, 413-422.
 - McCarthy, M.M., Taylor, P., Norman, R.E., Pezzullo, L., Tucci, J., & Goddard, C. (2016), *The lifetime economic and social costs of child maltreatment in Australia*. *Children and Youth Services Review*, 71, 217-226.
 - Saied-Tessier, A. (2014), *Estimating the costs of child sexual abuse in the UK*, NSPCC.
 - Taylor, P., Moore, P., Pezzullo, L., Tucci, J., Goddard, C. and De Bortoli, L. (2008) *The cost of child abuse in Australia*, Australian Childhood Foundation and Child Abuse Prevention Research Australia: Melbourne.
 - Radakin F., et al. (2021) *The economic and social cost of contact child sexual abuse*, UK Government website, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-economic-and-social-cost-of-contact-child-sexual-abuse/the-economic-and-social-cost-of-contact-child-sexual-abuse>

How to apply?

To apply for Phase One of this research project, please refer to the [Application Review Guidelines](#), including satisfying the Eligibility Threshold and addressing the Review Criteria in your application. Should you have any questions, please contact Dannielle Kelly, Head of Capacity and Prevention at dkelly@icmec.org.au.

Applications from eligible researchers or organisations need to be submitted to dkelly@icmec.org.au by 5pm (AEDT) on Wednesday 27th September 2023.

ICMEC Australia will be in touch once the applications are assessed, including finalising the details on the funding and contractual terms with the selected partner organisation and/or researcher(s).

Phase One of this research project should ideally commence in October 2023 and be completed within a six-months period.

Application Review Guidelines

Applicants should check whether they met the following Eligibility Threshold before submitting an application.

ELIGIBILITY THRESHOLD [PASS / FAIL]

Eligible applicant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reputable researchers and/or academic institutions that have subject matter expertise in the area of child sexual exploitation • Demonstrable ability to undertake literature review synthesis and economic cost analysis • Have the expected resourcing and capacity to achieve the required deliverables outlined in the Research Brief within a six-months period • A consortium arrangement can be considered, provided the lead applicant meets the eligibility threshold
---------------------------	---

Applications from eligible researchers or organisations should address the following Review Criteria.

Proposals must be a maximum 10 pages in total (spreadsheets and other appendices may also be attached).

REVIEW CRITERIA

1. Alignment with Research Brief	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear, concise, and thoughtful articulation of how the research framework outlined in the Research Brief would be implemented, including any anticipated limitations • A detailed project plan showing what and when the expected research outputs (e.g. initial draft and final report) would be delivered within the six-months period
2. Dependencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must state any relevant dependencies required for this research project (e.g. skills gap, software) • Contingencies and a clear realistic plan should be provided on how to procure and/or resolve the dependencies.
3. Lifecycle Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A high-level plan on how applicants intend to support ICMEC Australia in the dissemination and application of the research findings <p>Note: the Phase 1 report is intended to serve as a ‘conversation starter’, encourage feedback and suggestions, and inform finding refinements and the next tranche of research.</p>
4. Organisational Capability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrable track record of same/similar research undertaken by: 1) the eligible organisation; and/or 2) the individuals involved in managing and delivering this research project • Where relevant, applicants should include any necessary checks and compliance that will need to be secured.
5. Operating Budget and Total Funds Requested	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicants must provide an operating Budget, including a breakdown of the funding requested. Note: the requested funding should exclude any overheads and indirect costs of the eligible organisation. • Funding requested should be fair, highly transparent and configured to the service level required to achieve the intended deliverables outlined in the Research Brief.