



Testimonial for Pooja Sawrikar

The technical report for the development and evaluation of an education program for service providers about culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) client victims/survivors of child sexual abuse, conducted by Dr Pooja Sawrikar from Griffith University, was published in 2019. It is part of a wider, ambitious, and valuable program of research aiming to end the silence on child sexual abuse in culturally and linguistically diverse communities via capacity building with existing service organisations and individuals. This report documents the development and testing of an education program aimed at a range of mental health service providers including counselors, social workers, psychologists, general practitioners, and psychiatrists.

This is in-depth work that explores and explains the relationships between myths that shift culpability to the victim, prohibitive social norms, internalizing blame, unsupportive responses by families and communities and severe mental ill-health outcomes in victims/survivors from culturally and linguistically diverse communities. I found this report compelling reading. Its attention to detail, comprehensiveness, and transparency are commendable. It is rare that the scholarly community are gifted with such a detailed project account. My hope is that this will be welcomed on many fronts, and highly cited as landmark research that helps build knowledge and capacity in the services sector about how best to meet the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse victims/survivors of child sexual abuse both in Australia, and beyond.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kerryann Walsh'.

Professor Kerryann Walsh
Queensland University of Technology
23 April 2020