

***Mindframe* reminder: George Pell appeal hearing****4 June 2019****Please cascade to all appropriate staff**

The appeal hearing of George Pell will take place on Wednesday and Thursday (5 and 6 June) at the Supreme Court building in Victoria.

*Mindframe* reminds the Australian media that information included in the coverage and subsequent reporting of high-profile cases, can impact whole communities as well as individuals who have been directly affected.

*Mindframe* would also like to remind editors and journalists that due to international media interest, there is a high chance Australian media may be syndicated by overseas media outlets.

Continued public discussion can be difficult for people with lived experience of child sexual abuse and related trauma, in particular those who also experience mental ill-health as a result. Repeated coverage of graphic and detailed descriptions of sexual abuse may be confronting to audiences.

*Mindframe* would also like to acknowledge the people who have experienced suicidal ideation, suicide attempts and those who have lost their lives to suicide as a result of child sexual assault and to those bereaved, during this time of heightened media and community discussions.

**Reminder: safe use of language**

Language used in media reports can have an impact on interview participants directly, and indirectly on vulnerable audiences. This is specifically in relation to reporting on mental health issues, suicide and self-harm.

It is also important to remember that suicide, self-harm and mental ill-health are complex issues and certain ways of reporting on these can adversely impact vulnerable members of the community. To help provide context, please refer to the following quick tips on safely reporting [Suicide](#), [Mental Ill-health](#) and [self-harm](#).

*Mindframe* has worked closely with the [Blue Knot Foundation](#) in supporting both media and media sources during the completion of the Royal Commission, commencement of The Redress and the National Apology held in October 2018, the conviction and sentencing of George Pell.

### Tips for media to produce safe stories

People with lived experience of child sexual abuse are often negatively impacted by their experiences and this may result in complex trauma, which can be life-long. Interviews of people with lived experience of complex trauma may result in the discussion of mental ill-health, diagnosis of a mental illness, self-harm and suicide.

Finding the right national and local agencies or organisations to comment can help add balance and accurate help-seeking messages to your media stories.

### Help-seeking information

Help advocate for appropriate help-seeking information in all media stories. Individuals are more likely to seek help and support when appropriate services are included in stories. *Mindframe* recommends media add help-seeking information to stories (online, print and broadcast) which can provide somewhere for people who may be adversely impacted by the coverage, to seek professional support.

Click [HERE](#) for 24/7 national support lines.

### National 24/7 Crisis Services

**Lifeline:** 13 11 14 [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)

**Suicide Call Back Service:** 1300 659 467 [www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au](http://www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au)

**MensLine Australia:** 1300 78 99 79 [www.mensline.org.au](http://www.mensline.org.au)

**1800RESPECT:** 1800 737 732 [www.1800respect.org.au](http://www.1800respect.org.au) (24/7)

**Blue Knot Helpline:** 1300 657 380 Mon-Sun, 9am-5pm AEST

### Media self-care

Reporting suicide can also impact to the welfare of journalists. To support media professionals *Mindframe*, in consultation with the [DART Centre Asia Pacific](#), has developed journalism self-care resources. These resources can be found [here](#).

### Contact information

Please contact *Mindframe* for further information or advice:

#### The *Mindframe* project team

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Counselling and support for survivors