

Mindframe reminder: LIVE broadcasting of George Pell sentencing**12 March 2019****Please cascade to all appropriate staff**

The sentencing of George Pell will be televised LIVE from the County Court of Victoria tomorrow, Wednesday 13th of March, 2019 – at approximately 10am AEDST.

The County Court of Victoria has advised the *Mindframe* team that the public broadcast of the sentencing will be approximately 60 minutes in length and will stream images of Chief Justice Peter Kidd only. *Mindframe* understands that the sentencing process will include details of the offences.

***Mindframe* wish to remind 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. We would 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 wishes 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. *Mindframe* also wish to acknowledge those who are 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 these issues can adversely impact on 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.

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

Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467 www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au

MensLine Australia: 1300 78 99 79 www.mensline.org.au

1800RESPECT 1800 737 732 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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[Blue Knot Foundation](#) - 1300 657 380

Counselling and support for survivors