Tip sheet 9:
Talking about Safe2Say
(anonymous reporting)



9.1 Why this matters

- It can take a long time for a young person to tell someone about abuse.
- Fear and shame can stop young people from speaking up.
- Safe2Say is an online way to report sexual abuse in WA without giving a name.
- Having a choice in how they report can help a young person feel in control.
- Reporting without giving a name can take the pressure off and make it easier for a young person to start getting help.
- Safe2Say is a tool, not a person. It gives a young person a way to speak up, but they still need you to help them feel safe and plan the next steps.

9.2 What you might notice

A young person thinking about reporting may:

- ask what if questions about reporting
- tell you small parts of a story to see how you react
- try to make the abuse sound not that bad or minimise what happened
- change their mind often about wanting to speak up
- worry about getting someone else in trouble
- seem very quiet, jumpy or angry for no clear reason.

9.3 What helps

Believing and supporting	You can say: *'I believe you. This is not your fault.'* Believing them reduces shame and makes it easier for them to ask for help.
Giving them choice	You can say: *'You don't have to decide today. We can go step by step.'*
Explaining Safe2Say clearly	It's an online platform. It's not a 'live' chat. Reports are usually checked during office hours (Monday to Friday). If they need help right this second, they should call **000**.
Show them the Safe2Say site	Sometimes just looking at the homepage together on a phone can make it feel less scary.
Being honest about your role	If your job requires you to report child abuse by law or policy, tell them early. Don't let this be a surprise later.

For more information, see **Support services for adults** from the Trusted Adult Guide.

If the young person shares something that feels unsafe, stay calm and follow the steps in **How to respond: The 6-step-framework**. If you're unsure what to do, check in with another trusted adult or a professional. You don't have to make decisions alone.

9.4 What to avoid

Treating Safe2Say as a handover	The website is a tool, but you are their support. Stay by their side.
Pressuring them	Don't force an immediate report. This can break trust.
Asking detective questions	Pushing for lots of detail can feel overwhelming for a young person. It can also affect what police or professionals need to do later. Ask only the questions you need to understand the concern and make sure the young person is safe right now.
Minimising	Don't say *'It's not that serious.'* This can stop them from telling again in the future.
Promising to keep secrets	If a young person is at risk, taking action is the best way to keep them safe. Let them know that you need to tell a professional to make sure the harm stops.
Overloading them	Too much detail or legal talk can cause fear. Keep it simple.

9.5 Quick responses

These are suggestions. Use your own words and adapt them to suit you and the young person.

If the young person says…	You can say or do…
'I want to report, but not in person.'	*'Safe2Say is an online way to report without going to a station. We can look at it together if you want.'*
'I don't want anyone to know it's me.'	*'Safe2Say lets you report without giving your name. You choose what you share.'*
'I'm scared it will make things worse.'	*'That fear makes sense. We'll go at your pace and work out a safety plan.'*
'I don't know if it counts as abuse.'	*'You're the expert on your own feelings. If something felt wrong or unwanted, it's worth talking about.'*
'I don't want to get them in trouble.'	*'I hear that you're worried about them. Right now, my main job is to make sure you are OK. We can take this slowly.'*
'It happened a long time ago.'	*'There's no time limit on speaking up. You still deserve support and safety.'*

- Safe2say is an information-sharing tool. It doesn't always stop harm right away. You must still help the young person with a safety plan.
- You still need to make your own report. If your job says you must report abuse, a young person using Safe2Say doesn't count as your legal report. You must still follow your own workplace steps.
- In WA, police officers are mandatory reporters of child sexual abuse.

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(unless Excluded Material)