



# PartnerSPEAK Gendered Violence Professional Development Symposium with Rosie Batty

The impact of online child abuse offending on families:  
Building knowledge and understanding

## PROGRAM AND INFORMATION

Trauma is a significant issue for the partners and families of those who are investigated, charged and sentenced for online child abuse offending. However, there is only limited understanding and awareness among frontline workers about the impact of this on affected partners.

**Symposium target audience:**

Police, child protection, helpline staff, family violence staff, therapeutic practitioners, sexual assault counsellors, researchers.

**Aim:**

To increase awareness and knowledge of the trauma experienced by partners of online child sex offenders with a focus on the impact of secondary victimisation and stigmatisation

**Outcome:**

To enhance the practice of professionals who respond to partners of online child sex offenders based on the needs of affected partners as expressed in the research findings and to reduce the risk of retraumatisation through involvement with professionals.

**Contact:**

This event is being organised by PartnerSpeak and hosted by RMIT's Centre for Applied Social Research. For all queries about this event and registration, please contact [events@partnerspeak.org.au](mailto:events@partnerspeak.org.au)

**Date:** Wednesday, 01 March 2017

**Time:** 9.30 am - 12.30 pm

**Venue:** The Green Brain

Building 16, Level 7,  
Conference Rooms 1 and 2  
336–348 Swanston Street  
RMIT City Campus  
Melbourne

**Cost:**

Donation rate: \$200

Full price: \$140

Unfunded organisation: \$80

Student: \$40

If you are experiencing financial difficulty with regard to the registration fee, please email:

[events@partnerspeak.org.au](mailto:events@partnerspeak.org.au)

**Registration:**

**Eventbrite:**

<http://bit.ly/PartnerSPEAK-March-01>



**PartnerSPEAK.org.au**  
*stop pornographic exploitation against kids*



**ANZATSA**



**RMIT**  
UNIVERSITY

**Centre for Applied  
Social Research**



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## PROGRAM

### Program:

#### 9.30 Symposium opening address

Rosie Batty, most well known for her relentless work as a domestic violence campaigner which lead to Rosie been named the 2015 Australian of the year and the Pride of Australia National Courage Medal recipient. Rosie Batty also experienced, first hand, the shock and trauma of realising that the father of her child had been charged with offences relating to child abuse material.

#### 9.55 Session 1- Examining the impact

Dr. Marg Liddell is a senior lecturer at RMIT University who undertook world-first research on behalf of PartnerSPEAK, *'Women's experience of learning about their partner accessing child abuse material.'*

Rachel Condry is an Associate Professor at the University of Oxford. Rachel is the author of one of the only books that explores the experiences of the relatives of people who commit serious offences, *Families Shamed: The Consequences of Crime for Relatives of Serious Offenders*

#### 10.45 Morning Tea

#### 11.10 Session 2 - Moving forward with support

Natalie Walker is the founder and general manager of PartnerSPEAK. Natalie has brought intentional peer support to the partners of online child sex offenders and will be accompanied by an affected partner presenting about the impact of this support.

Panel Discussion and Q&A: Chaired by Russell Pratt, ANZATSA executive committee (Australian and New Zealand for the Treatment of Sexual Abuse)

#### 12.30 Close





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## ABOUT

Pilot research and anecdotes from the PartnerSPEAK online support forum show that there is limited understanding of online child abuse offending and its impact on partners and families of those who are investigated, charged and sentenced for this offending.

Trauma is a significant issue for partners and families of online child sex offenders. The first layer of trauma is from the shock of their partners' abusive behaviours which is intensified by the stigma associated with being the partner of a sex offender. However, their voices are rarely heard. They are not considered "victims" and are often forgotten in the aftermath; it is as if this group is invisible.

Additionally, all but one of the victims interviewed for the pilot research experienced extreme mental health issues and the majority had symptoms aligned with post trauma stress disorders.

Digital sexual offences are increasing (investigations up by 250% in 2015). 11,000 people were charged with child abuse material offences in 2015 in Australia and 99% of offenders are male, most often aged 25-50, married with children. This is a traumatic experience affecting thousands of families in Australia.



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## PRESENTERS

### Rosie Batty

Rosie Batty, most well known for her relentless work as a domestic violence campaigner which lead to Rosie been named the 2015 Australian of the year and the Pride of Australia National Courage Medal recipient. Rosie Batty also experienced, first hand, the shock and trauma of realising that the father of her child had been charged with offences relating to child abuse material.

Rosie's name has become synonymous with the words courage and resilience. Only hours after her son's life was tragically taken, Rosie gave voice to many thousands of victims of domestic violence who had until then remained unheard.

Rosie Batty rose above her personal tragedy and the great loss of her 11 year old son, Luke, who was the victim of domestic violence at the hands of his father in a very public assault. Rosie's ability to articulate the train of events that had led to this tragedy, has demonstrated the wider implications of her experience.

Now a tireless campaigner, Rosie is the CEO of The Luke Batty Foundation and runs the Never Alone Campaign, asking all Australians to stand with her and beside all victims of family violence by signing up at [neveralone.com.au](http://neveralone.com.au)

Along with the former Victorian Police Chief Ken Lay, Rosie was named as the founding members of the Council of Australian Governments advisory panel on preventing violence against women. Rosie is now leading a Victim Survivors' Advisory Council for the Victorian Government as a response to the country's first Royal commission into Family Violence.

Fortune Magazine has named Rosie one of it's top 50 world's greatest leaders and Rosie was voted the most influential person in the Not for Profit sector on Pro Bono Australia's Impact 25 list and has been inducted into the Victorian Honour Roll of Women. Rosie is also an Ambassador for Lort Smith Animal Hospital and Patron of Doncare Community Services.

Her public speaking appearances are a remarkable story of resilience, courage, inspiration and making a difference. Rosie's incredible strength and selfless efforts are an inspiration to many people.



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## PRESENTERS

### Dr Marg Liddell

Marg Liddell is a Senior Lecturer in Justice and Legal Studies and a member of the Centre for Applied Social Research, School of Global, Urban and Social Studies, RMIT University. Marg has conducted research into women's experiences of learning about their partner accessing child abuse material on behalf of PartnerSPEAK, '*Women's experience of learning about their partner accessing child abuse material.*' She is also involved in a research project examining the links between money, gender and family violence. Marg's wider research areas include child protection, youth and the justice system.



### Rachel Condry

Rachel Condry is an Associate Professor of Criminology and a Fellow of St Hilda's College at the University of Oxford. Her work focuses broadly on the intersections between crime and the family. She has carried out research projects on the families of serious offenders, prisoners' families, parenting expertise in youth justice, and adolescent to parent violence. Rachel is the author of one of the only books that explores the experiences of the relatives of people who commit serious offences, *Families Shamed: The Consequences of Crime for Relatives of Serious Offenders* (Willan, 2007). Rachel has recently completed a three year ESRC-funded research study, with Caroline Miles, on adolescent to parent violence in the UK. She is currently working on the topic of prisoners' families and developing an edited book with Oxford University Press drawing together the work of international researchers working in this field. She is a member of the British Society of Criminology and is on the editorial board of the *British Journal of Criminology*, the *Howard Journal of Crime and Justice*, and the ESRC's Peer Review College.



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## PRESENTERS

### Natalie Walker

Natalie Walker is the founder of PartnerSPEAK which is based on the principles of Intentional Peer Support.

Natalie is an unwavering advocate for partners of online child sex offenders. Natalie is advocating that the impacts of child abuse material being brought into the family home is recognised as another form of family violence against women and their children and that it is responded to by agencies and government appropriately. In response to the prevalent myth of collusion," Natalie says, "We're taking attention away from making the person who is sexually abusing children accountable and instead are focussing on another victim. Partners are suffering severe trauma, significant financial loss, social exclusion and fear for the safety of their children and we demand her to explain how she could not have known. If that's what we're outraged about, we're doing something really wrong."

Natalie has qualifications in family violence, mediation, education and not-for-profit management.

### Russell Pratt (Chair)

Russell Pratt is a Principal Practitioner with the Children, Youth and Families Division of the Department of Human Services. Prior to this he was the manager and senior clinician of South Eastern Centre Against Sexual Assault (SECASA) AWARE program for three years. He has also worked privately, mainly consulting and assessing on the areas of youth, sexually abusive behaviours, complex risk, trauma and family systems. Russell has worked for over 13 years in the field of sexual assault, both with victims/survivors and with youth exhibiting sexually problematic behaviours and sexually abusive behaviours. He is a past chairman of the Victorian Offender Treatment Association (VOTA) and a current board member of ANZATSA.

He was the recipient of the 2008 Creswick Foundation Fellowship in Child Development and Family Relationships. He has presented at over 20 national and international conferences in Australia, the United States and Europe, including at ANZATSA, ATSA, Monash University (Prato, Italy) and NAPN.

Amongst his clinical interests are complex systems, trauma treatment, families, sexually abusive behaviour treatment and supervision.





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## INFORMATION

### Child-friendly event

We are pleased to inform symposium attendees that this is a child-friendly event (for young children who will not be impacted by the content of the symposium) and we will provide an area where parents can be with their children and also volunteers with Working with Children Checks who can also provide some supervision.

### Event will be filmed

Symposium attendees are to be advised that we will be filming the day's proceedings. Please see PartnerSPEAK event coordinator Zoe Goodall (or another PartnerSPEAK representative) as you sign in if you would like to ensure you are not filmed.

### Hashtag/social media

If you are active on social media, please use the following hashtag for this event:

#PartnerSPEAKsymposium for Twitter/Facebook

### Directions/How to get to the Green Brain, RMIT

The Green Brain is located on Level 7 of Building 16 on the corner of Swanston and La Trobe streets, catch a City Loop train to nearby Melbourne Central train station or to Flinders Street. From Flinders Street, you can take a connecting City Loop train or Yarra Tram along Swanston Street.

Trams running along Swanston Street include routes 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 16, 64, 67 and 72. Tram routes 24, 30 and 35 run along La Trobe Street. Visit the Public Transport Victoria website for more information and connecting services in your area.

No on-campus parking is available for visitors, but you'll find many commercial car parks a short walk away. Metered street parking is also available nearby, but note the time limits and clearway restrictions.

### Sponsors

PartnerSPEAK is grateful to CASR for their generous support in co-hosting this event.

PartnerSPEAK also thanks ANZATSA for their support in through the chair role and sponsorship of refreshments.

