



Jillian Skinner MP

Member for North Shore Deputy NSW Opposition Leader Shadow Minister for Health

MEDIA RELEASE

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MORE SUPPORT NEEDED FOR CHILD ABUSE VICTIMS and FAMILIES

North Shore MP Jillian Skinner has praised the important work done by ASCA - Adults Surviving Child Abuse – at the launch of ***Forget me Knot Day (Friday 13th)*** part of International Week for the Prevention of Child Abuse.

Mrs Skinner said child abuse was one of those issues that made her “truly angry” and said she was a founding member of NAPCAN – National Association for the Prevention of Child Abuse.

“Tragically child abuse occurs throughout all sections of our community and the long-term consequences of this abuse and neglect are profound.

“From a humble office in Kirribilli, ASCA offers support throughout Australia with very little Government funding for this vital work. However despite these problems and difficulties and with the incredible dedication of their staff they are raising awareness about the legacy of childhood trauma.”

Mrs Skinner said ASCA worked through an Australia-wide network of survivors, supporters and professionals to break down the sense of isolation and alienation that many survivors felt.

“The launch of the ***Forget me Knot Day*** is the first annual national day for adult survivors of child abuse. The Knot in Forget me Knot is symbolic of the “tangle” of child abuse, which in most cases is a lifelong challenge for the adult to overcome,” Mrs Skinner said.

“For child abuse survivors, untangling the knot of this abuse is often a solitary, confusing and complex task. It is important for all Australians to be aware of the long-term impact of child abuse and vital that we all work towards preventing this tragedy happening and supporting those who have been affected by it,” she said.

According to ASCA there are more than 2 million adults surviving child abuse in Australia.