

Guest Lecture

'Preventing Child Sexual Abuse: A Public Health Perspective'

By: Dr Amy Young

Friday, 3 July 2026

02:00pm to 4:00pm (Jakarta time)

Indonesian graduates and scholars of Australian tertiary institutions who are interested in attending this event, please RSVP by Wednesday, 1 July, via this link: <http://oz.link/rsvpGL3JUL>

**Due to the limited availability of places, early registration is recommended. A link to this event will be shared with you after registration.*

Lecture overview

Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) remains a significant but under-recognised public health concern in Indonesia, with far-reaching consequences for both child development and long-term maternal health. Using a population-based perspective, this lecture explores the prevalence, risk factors and health consequences of CSA, with particular attention to its intergenerational impacts. Evidence consistently shows that experiences of CSA are associated with a range of adverse maternal health outcomes, including unintended pregnancy, obstetric complications, maternal depression and increased vulnerability to intimate partner violence.

Responding to CSA requires a comprehensive public health approach that spans prevention, early detection and care. Primary prevention focuses on strengthening protective environments through comprehensive sexuality education and parenting programs. Secondary prevention emphasises early identification and timely intervention within schools and health services, while tertiary responses prioritise trauma-informed care and long-term psychosocial support. Embedding these efforts within maternal and child health systems, particularly through community-based services, offers a strategic entry point for breaking cycles of violence and improving outcomes across generations.

This lecture situates CSA within Indonesia's policy and programmatic landscape, examining existing frameworks and community-based initiatives. It also highlights persistent challenges, including stigma, limited resources and weak intersectoral coordination, which hinder effective implementation. The discussion concludes by identifying opportunities to strengthen national responses through improved cross-sector collaboration and culturally sensitive, evidence-informed prevention strategies.

Dr Amy Young is a Research Fellow with the Childlight East Asia & Pacific Hub in the School of Social Sciences at the University of New South Wales (UNSW). She completed her doctoral studies at UNSW, where her research focused on children's rights and education in Brunei Darussalam. Drawing on Dr Young's background as a school teacher and academic lecturer, she has led interdisciplinary research projects on children's health and climate change in Indonesia, alongside extensive work in violence prevention, particularly in relation to child protection, gender-based violence and domestic and family violence.

In her research practice, Dr Young prioritises amplifying the voices of children and marginalised communities in decision-making processes, using innovative, cross-disciplinary methodologies spanning anthropology, social work and education. She has served as Chief Investigator in multi-partner research teams and has collaborated closely with government agencies, NGOs, and educational institutions across the Asia-Pacific region. Dr Young's current work at the Childlight Hub centres on placing children at the heart of efforts to understand and prevent sexual exploitation and abuse, particularly in the digital era.



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