

PAEDIATRICIAN EXPERIENCE OF COURT TESTIMONY RELATED TO SUSPECTED CHILD MALTREATMENT (Survey B) Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit Please contact the APSU by email SCHN-APSU@health.nsw.gov.au if you have any questions about this form	APSU Office Use Only	
	Survey ID #:	
<i>Instructions: Please answer each question by ticking the appropriate box or writing your response in the space provided.</i>	V1.1_17/06/2024	

Survey completion date:

Date survey completed: _____ (dd/mm/yyyy)

SECTION 1: About me

1. Number of years since graduation from medical school: _____

2. What are your qualifications in forensic medicine (if any)? _____

3. Number of child maltreatment cases in which you have had clinical contact in the past 12 months? _____

4. On how many occasions have you received a subpoena in relation to child maltreatment cases in your career? _____

5. On how many occasions have you testified in relation to child maltreatment cases in your career? _____

Patient details: The following questions refer to the patient whose assessment resulted in your testimony in court

6. Patient gender identity? Male Prefer not to answer
 Female Different term (please specify) _____
 Non-binary Don't know

7. Patient age (years) _____

8. With which ethnic group does the patient identify? (tick all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander	<input type="checkbox"/> African
<input type="checkbox"/> Māori	<input type="checkbox"/> European
<input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Peoples	<input type="checkbox"/> Asian
<input type="checkbox"/> Middle Eastern	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Latin American	<input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to answer
	<input type="checkbox"/> Don't know

9. What was the reported maltreatment type?

Head injury
 Physical injury (other)
 Sexual assault/ abuse
 Neglect
 Factitious and induced illness
 Emotional maltreatment

10. Date of medical assessment _____ (dd/mm/yyyy)

11. Date you received the subpoena _____ (dd/mm/yyyy)

12. Date of testimony provided in court _____ (dd/mm/yyyy)

13. Subpoena details: Court type you attended to give testimony? Protective (Children's or Family Court) Criminal Other

14. Country where subpoena was issued? Australia Aotearoa New Zealand

- a) If Australia, state or territory where subpoena was issued
- Australian Capital Territory
 - New South Wales
 - Northern Territory
 - Queensland
 - South Australia
 - Tasmania
 - Victoria
 - Western Australia

SECTION 2: My attitudes and beliefs

15. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
a) I am clear about my professional responsibilities when testifying in court	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Paediatricians who testify in court need high levels of expert knowledge	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) I have the required skills to testify in court	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) I am adequately trained to testify in court	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) My training, study and experience enable me to testify in court in cases of child maltreatment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) I have had adequate training about cultural competency in relation to suspected child maltreatment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION 3: Impact of testifying in court

For all following questions please consider your most recent court experience testifying.

16. To what extent do you agree with the following statements about the impacts of testifying in court on you individually?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
a) Immediately prior, during and or/after testifying in court I experienced physical symptoms such as difficulty concentrating, sleep disturbance, crying, trembling, sweating or racing heart	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Testifying was a real burden for me	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) There was adequate time between the date of subpoena and the date of testimony to prepare	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

17. To what extent do you agree with the following statement?
"Testifying in court has impacted my personal life (including the amount of time I spent my friends and family, interpersonal interactions, interpersonal relationships and other activities)"

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

18. Please describe how testifying impacted your personal life (both positively and negatively)?

19. To what extent do you agree with the following statement?
"Testifying in court has impacted my professional life (including clinical duties)"

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

20. Please describe how testifying in court impacted your professional life (both positively and negatively)?

21. To what extent do you agree with the following statement?

"I like testifying in court"

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

21a. Comment if why/why not?

22. To what extent do you agree with the following statement?

"I fear testifying in court"

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

22a. Comment if why/why not?

23. To what extent do you agree with the following statement?

"My time in court is adequately remunerated"

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

23a. Comment if why/why not?

24. To what extent do you agree with the following statements about the impacts of testifying in court on your work?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
a) This court experience has not affected my willingness to engage in child maltreatment work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) I developed/ enhanced my skillset as an expert witness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) I would encourage others to engage in child maltreatment work	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

25. To what extent do you agree with the following statement?

"I am concerned about my professional reputation as a result of testifying"

- Yes
- No

25a. *If yes*, what concerns do you have?

26. How much mental effort was required to testify in court?

- Very low mental effort
- Low mental effort
- Neither low nor high mental effort
- High mental effort
- Very high mental effort

27. To what extent do you agree with the following statements about the broader impacts of your testimony?

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Agree	Strongly agree
a) I have previously suspected child abuse or neglect and not reported to a statutory child protection agency	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Testifying in court has negatively affected my willingness to report suspected cases of child maltreatment in future	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) My perception is that my testimony significantly affected my patient/ their family	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) My perception is that my testimony significantly impacted on society	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION 4: DASS-21 Scale

28. Please read each statement and indicate how much the statement applied to you **in the week** you testified in court;

	NEVER Did not apply to me at all	SOMETIMES Applied to me to some degree, or some of the time	OFTEN Applied to me to a considerable degree, or a good part of the time	ALMOST ALWAYS Applied to me very much, or most of the time
a) I found it hard to wind down	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) I was aware of dryness of my mouth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
c) I couldn't seem to experience any positive feeling at all	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
d) I experienced breathing difficulty (eg excessively rapid breathing, breathlessness in the absence of physical exertion)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
e) I found it difficult to work up the initiative to do things	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
f) I tended to over-react to situations	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
g) I experienced trembling (eg in the hands)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
h) I felt like I was using a lot of nervous energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
i) I was worried about situations in which I might panic and make a fool of myself	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
j) I felt that I had nothing to look forward to	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
k) I found myself getting agitated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
l) I found it difficult to relax	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
m) I felt down-hearted and blue	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
n) I was intolerant of anything that kept me from getting on with what I was doing	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
o) I felt I was close to panic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
p) I was unable to become enthusiastic about anything	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
q) I felt I wasn't worth much as a person	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
r) I felt that I was rather touchy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
s) I was aware of the action of my heart in the absence of physical exertion (eg sense of heart rate increase, heart missing a beat)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
t) I felt scared without any good reason	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
u) I felt that life was meaningless	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

SECTION 5: REFLECTION

29. Experience: To what extent do you agree with the following statement?

"I adequately prepared for testifying"

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither disagree nor agree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

30. Number of hours you spent preparing to testify? _____

31. I did the following things to prepare for testifying; _____

32. How many hours in total did you spend attending court (travel to and from, waiting outside court etc)? _____

33. How many hours were you on the witness stand? _____

34. To what extent do you agree with the following statement?
"Testifying was an efficient use of my time"

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither disagree nor agree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

35. To what extent do you agree with the following statement?
"My questioning by counsel was fair and reasonable (including cross-examination)"

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither disagree nor agree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

36. To what extent do you agree with the following statement?
"Testifying was a positive experience"

- Strongly disagree
- Disagree
- Neither disagree nor agree
- Agree
- Strongly agree

36a) Comments if why/ why not? _____

37. I found the following sources of support helpful; _____

If you wish to discuss further please contact the Principal Investigator Dr Alyce Horstman, alyce.horstman@rch.org.au

Thank you for your help with this research project.

Please return this questionnaire to the APSU via email to SCHN-APSU@health.nsw.gov.au or fax to 02 9845 3082 or mail to Australian Paediatric Surveillance Unit, Kids Research, Locked Bag 4001, Westmead NSW 2145 - even if you don't complete all items.

The APSU is affiliated with the Royal Australasian College of Physicians (Paediatrics and Child Health Division) and Faculty of Medicine and Health, The University of Sydney.

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This study has been approved by a Human Research Ethics Committee properly constituted under NHMRC guidelines.