Right2BSafe

Helping our communities prevent child sexual abuse

Every child has the right to be safe. Right2BSafe is CAPS Hauraki's community prevention initiative, helping adults understand what they can do to protect tamariki from sexual abuse. Its focus is on children under 14, with practical information for parents, caregivers, whānau, professionals and others who play a part in children's lives.

Prevention starts with adults

Keeping children safe is an adult responsibility. Children can learn about their bodies, boundaries and asking for help, but they should never carry the responsibility for preventing abuse. Right2BSafe encourages adults and communities to talk openly, recognise concerns and take practical action before harm occurs.

Abuse is never a child's fault. A child who could not say no, leave a situation or tell someone still deserves to be believed, protected and supported.

What Right2BSafe is about

The project raises awareness of child sexual abuse and shares ways to make everyday settings safer. Its community approach recognises that prevention involves the people around children, including whānau, neighbours, schools, clubs and services.

CAPS' published campaign material describes local people speaking up through posters, community publicity and radio messages. Practical information supports these messages, helping adults turn awareness into action at home and in the community.

Information adults can use

CAPS' prevention resources cover everyday situations and questions, including:

- Talking with children about body safety, personal boundaries and trusted adults.
- Developing a family safety plan and agreeing on privacy and respectful behaviour.
- Planning for babysitting, sleepovers, time away from home and changes within whānau.
- Recognising unsafe behaviour and knowing how to respond when a child tells you something concerning.

Use information in ways that suit each child's age, culture, language and communication needs. Keep conversations calm and ongoing, and make it clear that children can ask for help at any time.

How you can take part

You do not need specialist knowledge to begin. Start with the adults who share responsibility for children in your home, workplace or community, and agree on practical actions you can take together.

- Make space for conversations about child safety rather than waiting for a concern to arise.
- Share reliable prevention information with whānau and others who care for children.
- Ask schools, clubs and community groups how they supervise children, uphold boundaries and respond to concerns.
- Take concerns seriously and seek advice promptly. Do not leave a child to manage an unsafe situation alone.

Contact CAPS to ask about Right2BSafe information, campaign resources or ways your organisation or community can support prevention. CAPS can advise what is currently available.

If you are worried about a child

Prevention information can help you take action, but you do not need to work out what happened yourself. If a child tells you about abuse, listen calmly, reassure them that it is not their fault and explain that you will get help. Avoid leading questions, repeated questioning or promising secrecy.

If a child is in immediate danger, call Police on 111. For concerns about possible abuse, contact Oranga Tamariki on 0508 326 459, available free 24 hours a day, or contact Police. You can ask for advice even if you are unsure.

Contact CAPS Hauraki

For information about Right2BSafe or help finding support:
Phone 07 868 8644
Email reception@capshauraki.co.nz
301 Pollen Street, Thames

For free, confidential sexual harm support at any time, call Safe to talk on 0800 044 334 or text 4334.

Further information

CAPS Hauraki | Right2BSafe campaign

CAPS Hauraki | Keeping kids safer resources

Oranga Tamariki | Worried about a child

Safe to talk | Support and contact options

Prepared October 2026 using CAPS' published campaign information and the 2025/26 service description. Links and contact details checked October 2026. Earlier campaign material is background information; contact CAPS for current resources and activities.