

MEDIA RELEASE

PRESIDENT OF ASCA APPOINTED AM

ASCA President, Dr Cathy Kezelman, awarded the Member of the Order (AM) on Australia Day, 2015

Australia, 27 January 2015: The President of Adults Surviving Child Abuse (ASCA) – the leading national organisation supporting the estimated five million Australian adult survivors of childhood trauma¹ – Dr Cathy Kezelman, has been awarded the prestigious Member of the Order (AM) of Australia, announced yesterday on Australia Day, with an investiture ceremony to follow.

The AM to Dr Kezelman, formally recognised her unwavering commitment to providing hope, optimism and pathways to recovery for the millions of Australian adult survivors who are living with the long-term effects of prior trauma and abuse.

Dr Kezelman is a prominent voice on the subject of childhood trauma and abuse. She is co-author of ASCA's [Practice Guidelines for Treatment of Complex trauma and Trauma Informed Care and Service Delivery](#) – a global first in setting the standards for clinical and organisational practice. She is also the author of a memoir chronicling her own journey of recovery from child sexual abuse, [Innocence Revisited- a tale in parts](#).

As ASCA President, Dr Kezelman has been instrumental in supporting the work of the Australian Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and being an influential voice in many of the roundtables.

Under Dr Kezelman's stewardship ASCA has grown from a peer support organisation to a national thought leader - combining the voice of survivors with that of academics, researchers and clinicians.

The Member of the Order, introduced forty years ago to acknowledge exceptional achievement and service, is one of the highest honours in the country. Reflecting on the award, Dr Kezelman said she was honoured by this recognition of service.

“The needs of adult survivors and the work of ASCA are a personal passion and long-term commitment. I am so grateful for the opportunity this AM presents for ASCA's

¹ Estimated from a range of key resources

mission,” she said. “I hope that it garners even greater awareness, acceptance, understanding and community support for adult survivors who are trying to reclaim their lives. I want the issue of childhood trauma and abuse to be destigmatised so victims can speak out and be heard.”

“We know experiences of childhood trauma can seriously affect individuals– their health, wellbeing and relationships with themselves, their loved ones and the wider community as well.

“The legacy of childhood trauma and abuse also has a large effect on the national economy. My aim is to show this clearly to Government – by investing in professional education, training and specialist services towards treatment and trauma informed practice responses we can not only help survivors on their path to recovery but also help to address our long-term budget challenges,” Dr Kezelman said.

Help and support is available from the ASCA professional support line on 1300 657 380, 9am- 5pm Monday-Sunday.

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About ASCA: www.asca.org.au

ASCA is the leading national organisation supporting the estimated five million Australian adults who are survivors of childhood trauma, including abuse. ASCA provides hope, optimism and pathways to recovery for adults.

At the forefront of pioneering trauma informed policy, practice and research, ASCA has been instrumental in supporting the work of the Australian Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and people engaging with it. This includes the training of key workers and practitioners.

In 2012 ASCA released Practice Guidelines for Treatment of Complex Trauma and Trauma Informed Care and Service Delivery, a global first in setting the standards for clinical and organisational practice. ASCA is a founding member of the national Trauma Informed Care and Practice Advisory Working Group.



Formed in 1995, ASCA provides a range of services including professional phone support with trauma informed counsellors, a referral database, advocacy, research, workshops for survivors and their supporters, along with education, training and professional development for workers, organisations and health care professionals.