Child protection in South Australia

Case summaries and published sources

August 2016 - November 2026

Individual cases reported since the Nyland Royal Commission

Physical and sexual abuse, neglect, unsafe care, unmet needs and decisions affecting children and families.

Publicly available information only

Prepared from published news reports, court decisions and official reports. No confidential departmental records, private complaints or unpublished accounts are included.

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Scope and sources

The entries cover individual cases and findings reported between 5 August 2016, when the Nyland Royal Commission delivered its report, and 15 November 2026. Earlier or undated incidents are identified separately.

All material is publicly available. Sources include published news reports, court decisions and official reports. Where a published report refers to internal records, only the publicly reported information is used.

Incident dates and later reporting dates are distinguished. Quoted names are published pseudonyms. Anonymous accounts may overlap; the entries are not a count of individual children. Allegations, convictions, administrative findings and withdrawn proceedings are identified in the summaries.

Repeated coverage is grouped where the same case can be established. This selection excludes aggregate statistics and general reform announcements. Some links require a subscription. Page references refer to the printed pages of the cited reports.

Nyland report publication: Child Protection Systems Royal Commission, Department for Child Protection

1. Physical harm, unsafe placements and unmet needs

Individual incidents and advocacy cases involving children in care. Guardian examples are published accounts with identifying details changed; they are not criminal verdicts.

1. Drugs supplied to two girls in residential care

Contact began in late 2024; sentencing reported January 2026

James Keith Hamilton pleaded guilty to six counts of administering a controlled substance to two sisters aged 13 and 15 who lived in residential care. He met them at an Adelaide shopping centre and later supplied drugs. He was jailed. The offending was by an adult in the community, not an identified care worker.

Source: ABC News, 31 January 2026, Man jailed for introducing amphetamines to vulnerable teenagers in state care



South Australia's District Court, where James Hamilton was sentenced. Context photograph.

ABC News: Che Chorley

2. Child left without a caseworker as disability funding ran out

Guardian case study 2022-23

Eight-year-old "Jackson" lived in residential care without an allocated caseworker for six months. His NDIS funding ran out, affecting access to medical and disability support. After the Guardian intervened, DCP funded necessary support while an early NDIS review restored his funding within a month.

Source: Guardian, Annual Report 2022-23, p 40

3. Toddler waited in pain for surgery

Guardian case study 2021-22

Two-year-old "Summer", in family-based care, remained repeatedly ill and in significant pain while waiting beyond the expected 90 days for semi-urgent surgery. The delay disrupted her therapies and compounded developmental delays. After the Guardian advocated for private treatment, DCP approved it and successful surgery followed within weeks.

Source: Guardian, submission to the Royal Commission into Early Childhood Education and Care, 19 May 2023, p 4

4. Girl and carer sheltered from threats in a care home

August 2018

A girl and the carer protecting her sheltered in a bathroom for about two hours while a group of teenagers threatened to kill them and tried to get inside. Police enabled them to leave safely. The incident was described in SA Employment Tribunal proceedings, which accepted the worker's compensation claim for psychiatric injury.

Source: ABC News, 29 April 2020, Child protection worker compensated after being forced to shelter from teenagers in bathroom

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5. Residential care worker assaulted two children

16 October 2016

A South Australian residential care worker assaulted two children aged 10 and 12. He pleaded guilty to both offences in October 2017 and received a two-year good-behaviour bond. His employment was terminated. The assaults and convictions were recorded in a later tribunal decision upholding refusal of a Queensland working-with-children clearance.

Source: QCAT, Ibarra v Director-General [2021] QCAT 225, 22 June 2021, paragraphs 3-6 and 40

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6. Daily violence after children were placed together

Guardian report 2017-18

The Guardian described daily violence after two girls were moved into 11-year-old “Katy’s” residential home. She became frightened, struggled with school and stopped therapy. Staff said they lacked support. Advocacy led to one child moving and limits on further admissions. The remaining children still wanted to leave.

Source: Guardian, Annual Report 2017-18, case study “Katy”, “Janie” and “Lea”, pp 12-13

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7. Primary-school siblings frightened into hiding

Guardian report 2018-19

After an older child moved into their residential home, siblings experienced assaults and threats. One began soiling; another hid under furniture or in their room. Following Guardian advocacy, the siblings moved together and reported feeling safe.

Source: Guardian, Annual Report 2018-19, p 23, individual advocacy examples

8. Younger children terrified in a mismatched placement

Guardian report 2020-21

At “Cooper Street”, younger children were reportedly terrified by threats and disrupted sleep. The Guardian and caseworkers stopped another sibling group moving in until safety concerns were addressed.

Source: Guardian, Annual Report 2020-21, “Cooper Street”, p 18

9. Safety concerns without regular caseworker visits

Guardian report 2020-21

Five-year-old “Jasper” was not receiving regular face-to-face caseworker visits despite concerns about his safety in family-based care. Guardian monitoring secured monthly visits, therapeutic support and care-team meetings.

Source: Guardian, Annual Report 2020-21, “Jasper”, p 20

10. Disability needs unmet in unsafe commercial care

Guardian report 2018-19

A girl with disability lived with carers who lacked specialist training. Behaviour escalated, police were repeatedly called and school difficulties increased. The Guardian described the placement as unsafe. She improved after moving to appropriately skilled carers.

Source: Guardian, Annual Report 2018-19, p 23, individual advocacy examples

11. Missed application threatened a child’s school transition

Guardian report 2020-21

Eleven-year-old “Charlotte” faced another primary-school year after her social worker missed a school-transfer application. Guardian intervention enabled her to join her friends at the preferred school.

Source: Guardian, Annual Report 2020-21, “Charlotte”, p 17

12. Siblings distressed by cramped accommodation

Guardian report 2021-22

“Megan”, nine, and “Joshua”, thirteen, shared a bedroom in an unsuitable residential house. Their distress and behaviour escalated. Guardian monitoring continued until a move left both children settled.

Source: Guardian, Annual Report 2021-22, “Joshua and Megan”, p 17

13. Children drawn into dangerous behaviour after a placement move

Guardian report 2021-22

An older resident threatened “Jessica”, eleven, and “Harry”, eight, and involved them in behaviour exposing them to exploitation. Guardian advocacy supported a separate placement; the younger children then felt safer.

Source: Guardian, Annual Report 2021-22, “Jason”, p 17

14. Electricity switched off as punishment

Guardian report 2018-19

Young residents contacted the Guardian because staff switched off their home’s electricity as a behavioural punishment. After intervention, DCP said the practice would stop immediately.

Source: Guardian, Annual Report 2018-19, p 23, individual advocacy examples

2. Sexual abuse and exploitation of children in care

Convictions and official case accounts. Some offences occurred outside placements and were committed by adults in the community.

15. Teenager in state care raped after leaving her carers

Sentencing reported February 2026; incident date not specified

A 15-year-old girl under DCP care was raped after leaving her carers following an argument. Ricky Brown pleaded guilty to three counts of rape and one of indecent assault. He was jailed for eight-and-a-half years, with a four-and-a-half-year non-parole period backdated to December 2024.

Source: ABC News, 10 February 2026, Man jailed for raping teenager under care of Department for Child Protection



Department for Child Protection sign. Context photograph; not the care placement involved.

ABC News: Che Chorley

16. Boy in state care lured online and sexually abused

January 2021

Richard Ian Squires arranged a ride-share vehicle to bring a 16-year-old boy in state care to his home, then sexually abused him. The court heard he knew the boy's age and encouraged him to deceive his carers. Squires pleaded guilty and was sentenced to four-and-a-half years in prison in October 2021.

Source: ABC News, 27 October 2021, Adelaide man jailed for using Grindr to lure boy out of child protection and sexually abuse him

17. Girl in residential care groomed online and made pregnant

January 2020

Matthew James McIntyre groomed and sexually abused a 13-year-old girl living in residential care. She became pregnant. He pleaded guilty. In October 2020, the appeal court increased his prison sentence to five years and three months, with a three-and-a-half-year non-parole period.

Source: ABC News, 30 October 2020, Paedophile Matthew James McIntyre will spend longer in jail for impregnating 13-year-old girl



South Australia's Supreme Court in Adelaide. Context photograph accompanying the sentencing appeal report.

ABC News: Eugene Boisvert

18. Pregnant child under state guardianship sexually abused

2019 to 2020

Philip Edwin McIntosh sexually abused a young teenager under state guardianship who was pregnant to another person. They lived together, and he resumed offending after arrest despite being directed not to contact her. In December 2020, he was sentenced to more than six years in prison after pleading guilty.

Source: ABC News, 10 December 2020, Paedophile jailed for maintaining sexual relationship with pregnant teenager in state care



Adelaide District Court. Context photograph accompanying the McIntosh sentencing report.

ABC News: Dean Faulkner

19. Jayden McKenna sentenced over abuse of a girl in state care

Offences April-May 2022; sentence March 2024

Jayden Ramone McKenna pleaded guilty to two counts of unlawful sexual intercourse with a 13-year-old girl in state care. The offending occurred over three days after online contact. In March 2024 he received a suspended prison sentence and a two-year good-behaviour bond.

Source 1: The Advertiser, 23 April 2025 - retrospective confirming state-care status and sentence (subscription may be required)

Source 2: Isentia public news digest, 18 March 2024 - summary of Advertiser report

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20. Hayden Richman convicted over a girl in state care

Offence February 2023; sentence 26 April 2024

Hayden Wade Richman was convicted after pleading guilty to unlawful sexual intercourse with a 15-year-old girl in state care at a Mawson Lakes hotel. He received a two-year good-behaviour bond and 120 hours of community service. The judge accepted he likely believed she was 17, reducing his culpability.

Source 1: The Advertiser/Messenger, 26 April 2024 - conviction and sentence (subscription may be required)

Source 2: The Advertiser, 23 April 2025 - confirms the girl was in state care (subscription may be required)

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21. Sexual harm followed by a five-month wait for a placement move

Guardian case example 2019-20

The Guardian described harmful sexual behaviour involving "Shawn" and younger co-resident "Billie" in residential care. Leaving the placement together also exposed them to adult exploitation and a sexual assault. The Guardian sought an urgent move for one child, but DCP did not act on the move for five months.

Source: Guardian, Annual Report 2019-20, p 61

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22. Unsafe placement exposed a child to sexual offences

Guardian case example 2019-20

"Sage" and "Quinn" were placed together despite known histories of harmful sexual behaviour. The Guardian reported that inadequate safety planning allowed unsupervised contact and sexual offences against one child. Moving the other child into another shared placement exposed further vulnerable children to risk. Advocacy eventually secured a sole-child placement.

Source: Guardian, Annual Report 2019-20, p 62

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23. Warnings preceded further harmful sexual behaviour

Guardian report 2019-20

Nine-year-old “Skyler” entered shared residential care despite a caseworker’s warning. Within days, harmful sexual behaviour with another resident was alleged. Staff reportedly lacked adequate background information. Guardian advocacy secured a sole-child placement.

Source: Guardian, Annual Report 2019-20, “Skyler”, p 62

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24. Further sexual assaults after earlier disclosures

Guardian report 2018-19

Two young people reported sexual assaults by co-residents. Their advocate assessed DCP’s earlier response as inadequate, leaving them exposed to further assaults. Both were subsequently moved and reported no further abuse.

Source: Guardian, Annual Report 2018-19, p 23, individual advocacy examples

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3. Neglect and protection failures involving family homes

These children lived with family or were outside care placements. DCP involvement is explained individually; its involvement does not itself establish departmental fault.

25. Charlie died after severe neglect

July 2022; sentence imposed March 2026

Six-year-old Charlie died after severe malnourishment at her Munno Para home. Her mother, Crystal Hanley, admitted criminally neglecting Charlie and two other children and received a prison sentence of 17 years and 20 days. The court identified failures to provide adequate food and obtain medical treatment. The family had contact with child protection authorities.

Source: ABC News, 12 March 2026, Mother jailed for criminal neglect of three children, including 6yo Charlie, who died



Crystal Hanley outside court at an earlier appearance.

ABC News: Ethan Rix

26. Makai suffered after medical help was delayed

February 2022; sentence imposed March 2026

Seven-year-old Makai died from pneumonia and sepsis. His father, Shane Wanganeen, admitted criminal neglect causing harm by delaying hospital treatment for 16 hours, prolonging his suffering. He received a 19-month prison sentence. This was not a manslaughter conviction. The family's prior contact with government agencies was examined in the Hyde review.

Source 1: ABC News, 13 March 2026, Shane Wanganeen sentenced for neglect of 7yo son Makai

Source 2: ABC News, 1 October 2026, Child protection advocate calls on SA Premier to release child death review



Shane Wanganeen leaving the Supreme Court at an earlier appearance.

ABC News

27. Extreme-risk concerns closed without an investigation

August 2021 to June 2022; Ombudsman findings 2023

Reports about the "Harding" siblings raised concerns about domestic violence, substance abuse and prolonged absence from school. A notification identifying extreme risk was closed because of workload pressures. Before the Ombudsman intervened, DCP had never opened an investigation file for the children. The Ombudsman found its response inadequate.

Source: Ombudsman SA, Summary Statement of Investigations, June 2023, pp 2-4

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28. Repeated neglect warnings without adequate intervention

2020 to 2022; Ombudsman findings 2023

The Ombudsman documented repeated reports of violence, neglect, isolation and lack of basic care affecting the "Anderson" siblings. DCP repeatedly referred concerns elsewhere despite escalating risks and requests for intervention. No DCP file was open when the investigation began. The Ombudsman found the department's response inadequate.

Source: Ombudsman SA, Summary Statement of Investigations, June 2023, pp 1-4

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29. Infant died after a missed opportunity to intervene

November 2018; coronial findings June 2024

An 11-week-old infant, given the pseudonym "Caleb Evans", died while living with his mother in squalid conditions. The Coroner found DCP should have responded to an earlier warning and that removal from the unsafe sleeping environment may have prevented his death. The cause remained unascertained; neglect was not conclusively established as the cause of death.

Source 1: ABC News, 28 June 2024, Death of 11-week-old baby followed significant missed opportunity for intervention

Source 2: Coroner, Caleb Evans findings, 28 June 2024, especially paragraphs 19.3-20.15

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30. Whyalla toddler severely neglected after a DCP visit

July 2023; mother sentenced 26 February 2025

A Whyalla mother admitted criminally neglecting her daughter, who developed severe nappy rash after being left without basic care. The judge said a DCP worker had seen urine-soaked pyjamas and the rash weeks earlier without removing the children. The mother received a suspended sentence; the judge also considered her poor mental health and lack of support.

Source: ABC News, 4 March 2025 - court findings and sentence

31. Father jailed after grandmother's child-protection warnings

Abuse before November 2021; sentence 29 May 2023

An Adelaide father was jailed for 14 years after pleading guilty to sexually abusing his young daughter and child-exploitation-material offences. Her grandmother told Nine News she had repeatedly warned DCP after the girl was placed with him. DCP acknowledged its handling fell below the expected standard and that a review found gaps in practice. The father's non-parole period was just over 11 years.

Source 1: Nine News, 15 May 2023 - grandmother's warnings and DCP response
Source 2: ABC News, 29 May 2023 - father's sentence

32. Budda Spencer died while sleeping rough

Death 11 May 2021; inquest reporting August 2026

Thirteen-year-old Budda Spencer died after the skip bin in which he and two other boys were sleeping was emptied into a rubbish truck. His 2026 inquest heard that police and others had raised repeated welfare concerns before his death, including child-abuse reports and an unanswered email to DCP. These are accounts given to the inquest; final findings had not been located by the research cutoff.

Source 1: ABC News, 21 August 2026 - welfare reports and evidence at inquest
Source 2: ABC News, 18 August 2026 - support-service evidence
Source 3: ABC News, 17 August 2026 - opening of inquest

33. A child with disability: serious violence concerns closed without action

2017-August 2019; findings published 11 October 2019

The Deputy Ombudsman found that DCP wrongly failed to act on serious concerns about a young person with disability. An intake involving eight notifiers and alleged violence remained open after a late-2017 complaint, then was closed without action in August 2019. DCP had incorrectly claimed it could not respond and that a support program was involved. The department accepted recommendations to act or reopen the case and apologise.

Source: Ombudsman SA, Statement on investigation-Department for Child Protection, 11 October 2019 (2 pages)

34. Two children remained in a household the Ombudsman considered risky

September 2018

In 2018, the Ombudsman warned about “Sarah” and “Jacob” remaining with a man whom DCP accepted had probably abused other children. The department had treated the absence of a fresh notification as indicating no risk. DCP said it would stay involved; monitoring and safety-planning reports were requested. The report did not establish that these two children had been abused.

Source 1: ABC News, Fears children are living with a ‘sexual predator’ known to child protection, 21 September 2018

Source 2: InDaily, Ombudsman slams ‘simply staggering’ child protection practices, 21 September 2018

35. Port Pirie baby left critically ill by neglect

September 2018; parents sentenced 12 April 2022

A four-month-old boy was taken to hospital critically dehydrated, with kidney failure and untreated fractures. His parents, Jeremy Capper and Ebanee Coad, pleaded guilty to criminal neglect. In 2022 Capper received four years and seven months in prison; Coad’s three-year-nine-month sentence was suspended after the judge accepted she had experienced coercive domestic violence. DCP investigated and removed the children; the boy was later reported to be thriving.



Ebanee Coad (centre) and Jeremy Capper (right) at court in October 2021.

ABC News: Mahalia Carter

Source 1: ABC News, Port Pirie parents accused of criminal neglect of ‘close to death’ baby, 2 November 2018

Source 2: ABC News, Port Pirie couple sentenced for neglecting their four-month-old son, 12 April 2022

4. Removals, family separation and delays in care

Specific decisions and failures affecting children and families. Findings about process do not establish that every protective intervention was unnecessary.

36. Siblings returned to care in a distressing and unjust way

Complaint made in 2018; findings finalised November 2019

Three First Nations siblings complained about how DCP returned them from relatives to residential care. The Ombudsman found the approach unjust and wrong, including inadequate consideration of their rights and the absence of a full risk assessment. DCP apologised. The findings concerned how the return was handled; DCP had concerns about their welfare with relatives.

Source: Ombudsman SA, Annual Report 2021-22, pp 30-31, case RI2020/0001

37. Brothers in care went over a year without seeing each other

Guardian case study 2022-23

Fifteen-year-old "Nick" reported that he had not seen his younger brother for over a year, although both were in residential care. He had repeatedly asked for visits and had only limited telephone contact. Following the Guardian's advocacy, regular face-to-face visits were arranged within a month.

Source: Guardian, Annual Report 2022-23, p 64

38. More than a year without seeing a younger sister

Guardian report 2021-22

Eleven-year-old “Sean” had not seen his youngest sister for over a year. After an initial refusal was upheld, the Guardian challenged the process with DCP executives. Face-to-face sibling contact resumed.

Source: Guardian, Annual Report 2021-22, “Sean”, p 16

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39. Nearly two years to process a foster-care application

Ombudsman report 2024-25

A proposed foster carer’s application for two known children remained unfinished nearly two years later. The applicant reported losing contact while the children mostly remained in residential care. The Ombudsman found unreasonable delay and administrative error; DCP acknowledged the problem. This did not establish that the applicant would have been approved.

Source: Ombudsman SA Annual Report 2024-25, “Unreasonable delay processing a foster care application”, p 24

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40. Thirteen-year-old detained because no care placement was available

Reported 28 November 2019

Guardian Penny Wright described a 13-year-old who had asked for five months to leave an unsuitable residential placement. After a move and a further incident, the child spent two months in the Youth Training Centre because DCP could not find another placement. Wright described that detention as unnecessary.

Source: InDaily, Vulnerable children choose prison over residential care: guardian, 28 November 2019

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41. Four-day-old baby moved under a flawed safety plan

Early 2020; Ombudsman finding December 2021

DCP arranged for a four-day-old baby to live with the mother's estranged partner under safety plans developed without meaningful input from the mother. She later did not know where her baby was. The Ombudsman found administrative error: the process bypassed her ordinary court-review rights and was inconsistent with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. DCP said it had begun implementing the recommendations.

Source 1: Ombudsman SA, December 2021 - investigation 2020/00827, public summary

Source 2: InDaily, 11 January 2022 - case and department response

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42. Two safety-plan removals made despite mothers' objections

Findings September 2026; exact incident dates not published

In two individual complaints, DCP placed children with another parent or relatives using safety plans despite their mothers' clear disagreement. The Ombudsman found administrative error because formal removal powers had not been used. The department was responding to serious safety concerns, but the required agreement and support were missing. DCP accepted the concerns and outlined corrective action.

Source 1: Ombudsman SA, September 2026 - published investigation summary, pages 1-3

Source 2: ABC News, 27 October 2026 - cases and department response

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43. Infant placed with father without formal removal powers

Findings September 2026; exact incident date not published

A separate Ombudsman complaint concerned an infant removed from their mother and placed with their father without a safety plan or statutory removal powers. DCP had serious concerns about the mother's mental health. The Ombudsman found that her eventual reluctant agreement did not justify this approach and found administrative error.

Source 1: Ombudsman SA, September 2026 - published investigation summary, page 2
Source 2: ABC News, 27 October 2026 - infant removal and response

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44. Newborn removals from hospital raised concerns about practice

Removals in 2022-24; public accounts August 2024

A mother called “Emma” told ABC that her baby was removed the day after birth without advance warning, while she recovered from serious complications. A separate report described an Aboriginal newborn at Flinders Medical Centre being separated before removal was authorised and without liaison staff present. These are public reports about how removal occurred, not court findings that protection was unnecessary. The reports do not establish whether they concern different babies.

Source 1: ABC News, 14 August 2024 - mother's account and government response
Source 2: ABC News, 20 August 2024 - specific Flinders Medical Centre removal

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45. Young people disconnected from family and culture

Guardian report 2017-18

“Kevin” and “Brett”, Aboriginal teenagers under guardianship in detention, reported no contact with their social workers and deep disconnection from family and culture. After seven months of advocacy, they returned to family in the Northern Territory on release.

Source: Guardian, Annual Report 2017-18, “Kevin” and “Brett”, pp 25-26

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5. Allegations and court proceedings

These entries record reported allegations and their latest located outcomes. They must not be presented as findings of guilt. Where no later report was located, that does not establish that proceedings remain open.

46. Two girls removed over a gluten-intolerance dispute

April-September 2017; court reporting July and October 2022

The parents of two girls sued the state over their removal for five months in 2017. Their court claim alleged that DCP failed to properly investigate medical evidence and that one child became increasingly ill after being given gluten. In October 2022, their lawyer told the court one girl had reported sexual assault in care. These were allegations in civil proceedings, not findings of liability. Medical opinion was disputed, and no final judgment was located.

Source 1: ABC News, SA parents sue the state over daughters' removal, 21 July 2022
Source 2: ABC News, Court hears girl taken into state care was sexually assaulted, 24 October 2022

47. Former foster couple charged over abuse of two children

Alleged offences 2022-23; court reports November 2023 and May 2024

A former Adelaide couple were charged over alleged sexual abuse and exploitation of two foster children aged under 11. In May 2024, the court heard that 27 charges were withdrawn but more than 60 remained, including sexual and child-exploitation-material offences. The allegations were not findings of guilt; no later outcome was located in this research.

Source 1: ABC News, 16-17 November 2023 - initial court appearance
Source 2: ABC News, 15 May 2024 - charges withdrawn and remaining charges

48. Trevor Scroop trial over alleged abuse of boys in his care

Alleged offending 1989-2023; trial began September 2026

Trevor James Scroop pleaded not guilty to more than 40 charges of alleged physical and sexual abuse of boys. The alleged period, 1989-2023, spans both sides of Nyland. Prosecutors described formal and informal DCP housing arrangements; DCP said he was never a registered foster carer. Trial reporting in September 2026 anticipated hearings into 2027. No verdict was located.



Trevor James Scroop. He pleaded not guilty; no verdict was located in this research.

Supplied via ABC News

Source 1: ABC News, 15 September 2026 - trial begins

Source 2: ABC News, 4 June 2025 - charges, alleged DCP arrangements and DCP response

49. Child-protection worker's sexual-abuse charge withdrawn

Allegations concerned December 2021-July 2023; charge withdrawn 25 September 2026

Hannah Joyce Neale, who worked at an Adelaide supported-accommodation facility, was tried over an alleged sexual relationship with a teenage boy she supported. She pleaded not guilty. Prosecutors withdrew the charge during the trial on 25 September 2026, leaving her with no criminal charges. This is a reported prosecution and withdrawal, not a finding that abuse occurred.

Source 1: ABC News, 25 September 2026 - charge withdrawn

Source 2: ABC News, 1 September 2026 - allegations at opening of trial

Source 3: The Advertiser, 1 August 2024 - initial appearance and alleged dates (subscription may be required)

6. Earlier or undated incidents reported after Nyland

These reports appeared after August 2016, but some underlying events were earlier or cannot be dated precisely. They are included for the public reporting and later findings, not as proof that all the harm occurred after Nyland.

50. Maggie: alleged rape and humiliation in residential care

Account published October 2019; care history approximately 2015-19

‘Maggie’, a pseudonym, told ABC she was repeatedly moved between motels and residential homes and excluded from her home after curfew. She said another resident raped her and she remained in the same placement for five days afterwards. She also alleged humiliating treatment by a worker. Police confirmed a sexual-assault report and investigation. DCP said reports of harm were taken seriously and investigated.

Source: ABC News, How the child protection system failed to keep Maggie safe, 11 October 2019

51. A family assessed at very high risk had its case wrongly closed

Findings published 6 May 2019

The Ombudsman found a family’s case was wrongly closed despite a ‘Very High’ risk assessment. The inquiry concerned possible risk to children living with a parent accused of historical sexual abuse of another child. DCP had completed its safety assessment late and used an override that did not permit closure. It accepted the recommendation to reopen the case and reassess risk.

Source: Ombudsman SA, Statement on investigation-Alleged wrongful case closure, 6 May 2019 (2 pages)

52. Two siblings placed together with a known sexual-behaviour risk

Events predominantly before 2017; findings 4 June 2019

The Ombudsman found it was wrong to place two siblings with another young person despite previous sexualised incidents and professional warnings. Further incidents occurred. Staff failed to report or consistently record serious disclosures, and the agency missed opportunities to investigate and protect the children. DCP accepted the findings.

Source 1: Ombudsman SA, Statement on investigation-disclosures of sexualised behaviour between young people in care, 4 June 2019 (4 pages)

Source 2: Ombudsman SA, Media release, 4 June 2019

53. Two children's sexual-abuse disclosures closed without investigation

Finding September 2021; alleged abuse occurred years earlier

Two children disclosed alleged sexual abuse by an adult relative, and one still had contact with that person. DCP assessed the notifications as requiring a response but closed them without investigating. The Ombudsman found that response wrong and recommended reassessment, staff training and policy changes.

Source: Ombudsman SA, September 2021 - investigation 2019/05301, public summary

54. Joshua Marshall describes abuse and repeated hotel placements

Public account published 25 January 2026; incident years not precisely established

Joshua Marshall told ABC News that he had experienced physical abuse and humiliation in an early care placement, followed by years of moves between residential settings and hotels. He said the instability left him unable to regard anywhere as home. ABC reported that the carer was not charged over the described incident and was acquitted over other allegations. These are his publicly reported experiences, not findings of guilt.

Source: ABC News, 25 January 2026 - Joshua Marshall's account



Joshua Marshall, pictured as an adult, shared his experience of state care with ABC News.

ABC News: Daniel Taylor

55. Daniel describes police restraint after throwing a pillow

Public account published 20 February 2026; incident years not stated

Daniel, a pseudonym, told ABC that police were called when he threw a pillow during counselling at age 12, and that officers tackled and handcuffed him. He said he later spent more than two weeks in Adelaide youth detention at 17 before the charges were dropped. His account describes how repeated police involvement affected his experience of residential care.

Source: ABC News, 20 February 2026 - Daniel's residential-care and detention account

56. Former Families SA worker jailed for earlier abuse

Offending 2014-16; sentenced 17 August 2018

Aaron Sean Jaede pleaded guilty to sexually abusing two girls in his care and received a prison sentence of more than 12 years. The sentencing and victim-impact reporting occurred after Nyland; the published offending period does not establish that any offence occurred after 5 August 2016.



Aaron Sean Jaede, who later pleaded guilty and was sentenced in August 2018.

ABC News

Source 1: ABC News, 17 August 2018 - former child-protection worker sentenced

Source 2: InDaily/AAP, 17 August 2018 - final sentence and offending dates

Source 3: InDaily/AAP, 16 July 2018 - victim-impact statements