



Preventing repeat child exploitation material offending:

A psychological intervention approach

CEM-COPE PROGRAM:

Coping with Child Exploitation Material Use Group Program

Participant Flyer



The Problem Behaviour Program, Forensicare, and the Centre for Forensic Behavioural Science (CFBS) at Swinburne University of Technology, are trialling a group program for individuals with child exploitation material (CEM – also known as child pornography or child abuse images) offences without a known history of contact sexual offences. The 15session program aims to reduce risk of future CEM use and is delivered by Forensicare. There is also a voluntary research project tied to the program. This is run by the CFBS and aims to understand the benefits of the program to group members and if the program can be improved in the future.

What is the program?

The CEM-COPE Program is a 15--session psychoeducation program that aims to reduce the risk of future CEM use through increasing participants' understanding of their offending and increasing coping skills. Sessions are two hours in duration and are delivered by the Problem Behaviour Program, Forensicare, either in-person (at 505 Hoddle St Clifton Hill) or online (if required due to COVID). The program includes education and skill development relating to the legal context, problematic internet use, emotional and sexual coping skills and interpersonal relationship skills.

When will the program run?

Depending on referral numbers, the program will run one to two times per year. See the instructions below to find out how to get involved and when the next round of the program will run.

Am I eligible to participate in the program?

You will be eligible to participate if you have pleaded guilty, or have been convicted of a CEM offence relating to access, possession, distribution, or the digital creation of CEM.

You are not eligible to participate if you have been involved in contact (in-person) sexual offending, or have been directly involved in the exploitation or abuse of a child (e.g., via webcam, or videorecording contact abuse). You are also not eligible to participate if you are currently experiencing active symptoms of a severe mental illness (e.g., psychotic disorder or bipolar affective disorder), are in acute distress (acute self-harm or suicide risk), or have a severe cognitive impairment (e.g., acquired brain injury or intellectual disability).

How do I get involved in the program?

If you would like to participate in the CEM-COPE Program you can ask the service who told you about the program to place a referral for you. You will need to sign the Referral Details and Consent Form indicating that you agree for the service that told you about the project to pass on your details and background material relating to your offending history.

Alternatively, you can refer yourself to the program by completing the Referral Details and Consent Form yourself and contacting the Community Forensic Mental Health Service Intake team via email at CFMHSintake@forensicare.vic.gov.au (subject: 'CEM-COPE Program').

Once we receive and accept your referral, a member of the CEM-COPE team will contact you to answer any questions and set up a time to meet you to complete the pre-program assessment. This involves completing a brief interview and some questionnaires, which you will also be asked to complete again at the end of the program.



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CEM-COPE RESEARCH STUDY

What is the CEM-COPE Pilot Study?

The clinicians and researchers from the CFBS at Swinburne University who developed the program are conducting a study to understand how the program may benefit group members and whether it can be improved to benefit others in future. As part of this, they are seeking the feedback of both group members and facilitators about their experiences of the program. They are also investigating if the program helps people to (1) make positive changes in areas that contribute to CEM offending and (2) avoid further CEM offending.

What does participation in the pilot study involve?

Group members who wish to participate in the pilot study will be asked to complete two brief questionnaires and to participate in a one-hour focus group interview following their completion of the program. Permission will also be requested to access clinical and legal information related to your participation in the program.

Do I have to take part?

Participation in the study is voluntary and it is up to you to decide if you want to take part. Your decision to take part or not take part in the study will not impact on your ability to participate in the CEM-COPE Program itself, impact the services you receive from the agency that informed you about the study, or have any bearing on the outcome on any outstanding legal outcomes.

How do I get involved in the CEM-COPE pilot project?

Researchers from the CFBS are working with the facilitators who run the program at the PBP to get people involved in the study. If you are eligible for the program, the PBP staff member who meets you for your program assessment session will tell you more about the study and ask you if you would like to be involved. You can also let us know that you are interested in being involved ahead of time by ticking the third box on the attached Referral Details and Consent Form.

For further information about the research pilot, please contact:

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Referral Details and Consent Form

Name:	
Date of Birth:	
Phone Number:	
Email Address:	
Preferred method of initial contact (circle):	Phone Email Either
Name of the organisation that told you about the CEM-COPE Program:	

I give permission for my contact details to be provided to the Problem Behaviour Program, Forensicare so that they can contact me about participating in the CEM-COPE program

I give permission for a copy of my criminal history and a summary of my current CEM offence to be provided to the Problem Behaviour Program, Forensicare, to support my referral to the CEM-COPE program

I am interested in participating in the CEM-COPE research pilot and would like to speak to someone to find out more

Name _____

Signature _____

Date _____

Verbal consent obtained remotely by referring agency
If so, please sign the above (with your details) on behalf of your client