

# Language Analysis | Sample answer

In response to the article published here:

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/more-must-be-done-to-fight-child-sex-abuse-20190601-p51tjp.html>

## Child sex abuse

Recently, there has been an increase in the number of child sex abuse reports in Australia.

In response to this, The Age argues that despite Australia's growing awareness of sexual abuse conducted in institutions, we must be more proactive in our attempts to prevent the crime from continually occurring within our community, especially within our own homes.

The opening sentence immediately emphasises the lingering prevalence of 'rape and other sexual abuse of children', illuminating Australians to the inadequate action taken to eliminate these crimes. Subsequently, as 'most' abuse is committed by 'male family members or close family friends', parents and guardians are likely to be shocked, horrified and angry at the evident danger threatening the safety of their children at home. In the title, and repeatedly throughout its editorial, the paper refers to 'sexual abuse' and 'child sex abuse', reinforcing the reality that our society is indeed rife with this felony. The editor links these acts to words such as 'acutely distressing' 'horrifying', and 'trauma', intending to portray child sex abuse as a harrowing and horrendous violation of the lives of Australia's minors, in a place that should offer comfort and security. Consequently, parents are inclined to be alarmed by the frequency of child predators that pose a risk to the daily lives of their children, within the family home.

Emphasising the damaging results of sexual abuse, such as 'suicide', 'self-medication', 'relationship breakdowns' and 'chronic mental ill-health', the writer illustrates a graphic picture that labels the crime as destructive and debilitating to the lives of its victims. This may serve as a wake-up-call to parents and educators, propelling them to take further measures to promote higher levels of awareness and ensure children are receiving maximum support. Accordingly, the government may feel responsible for these crimes having gone unnoticed, only rising to the surface now. Australian leaders may thereby recognise their lack of action in promoting community-wide awareness of the

prevalence of child sex abuse at home.

While the editor clearly delineates the sexual abuse of children, the paper consistently refers to the degree of already 'raised awareness' in Australia, inspiring us with hope for a safer and better future. Commenting on the 'support and information readily available to parents, carers and educators', the editorial aims to promote Australia's positive achievements in fighting this crime. Likewise, by including contact information for 'the National Sexual Assault, Domestic and Family Advice Counselling Service', The Age undoubtedly acknowledges that victims of sexual abuse may be suffering a myriad of symptoms following the trauma. In this way, the paper expresses its compassion for these victims and other affected community members, advocating itself as a reliable platform for assistance. As a result, parents may be reassured by the extensive support services in place. Furthermore, the editor highlights experience in dealing with the prior 'prevalence of domestic violence', attempting to gain the general public's trust in the knowledge that more than awareness is needed to ameliorate the problem.

Nonetheless, informing us of the misconduct by 'priests, teachers and others with organisational power', The Age highlights the betrayal of trust conducted by those whom parents allow to supervise and nurture their own children. However, averring that 'we should be under no illusion' as 'the majority of abuse occurs in the home', the writer reveals that there is an abundance of covert and veiled cases that go unreported. This revelation may raise fear and paranoia in both parents and the wider community, as we are exposed to the possibility that those closest to them are in fact placing children in catastrophic danger. Outlining that 'only one in 20 cases of child sexual abuse is estimated to be institutional', the paper bolsters the magnitude of those cases occurring within the home. Enlarged and boxed-off in its own segment, this sentence is repeated, aiming to magnify parents' likely fear and weariness, and propel community members to take immediate action in increasing awareness of the crime, as a necessary step in the process of its elimination. Perhaps those guilty of fuelling these acts may subsequently acknowledge that they require urgent help and rehabilitation.

Reflecting the call-to-action expressed in the title's imperative to 'fight' sexual abuse, the writer stresses that 'so much more needs to be done', insinuating that education and awareness alone are not a long-term solution. Hence, we might be more inclined to find new ways to actively counteract such behaviour. The Age declares that 'an all-round approach and appropriate funding is essential', targeting the government to contribute further financial support, in order to achieve a secure society

for the future children. Conclusively encouraging parents, teachers and carers 'to be vigilant', the paper places ownership on those responsible for children, implying that with everyone's individual efforts to notice and report cases of abuse, we can move forward as a nation to a future of security, in which the next generation can thrive.