

Case Study – Jaryd

Jaryd is a 6-year-old Aboriginal boy, who is of Noongar descent. Jaryd is in a foster care placement and has been since 3 years of age due to ongoing concerns of exposure to family and domestic violence (FDV) in his family. Jaryd appears to have a good connection with his foster carers and there have been minimal concerns raised by them. There are some concerns documented in Jaryd's child protection file that he may have been exposed to child sexual abuse prior to entering care; however, these are unconfirmed, and Jaryd has not made any disclosures of child sexual abuse. Jaryd appears to be developing well for his age, with no noted developmental delays. He has built some friendships at school and appears to get along well with his peers. He is connected with his family of origin through regular contact with grandparents, aunts, cousins and occasionally his parents. He has a particularly strong connection with his grandfather, Gerald Wilson. Jaryd likes to play games on the foster family iPad when at home.

Recently, both Jaryd's school teacher and his foster carer have reported some concerns of sexualised behaviour. Jaryd's schoolteacher, Ms Walsh, advised that whilst Jaryd was changing for school swimming in the changing room last week, he was overheard saying to a friend of his "if you show me your penis, I'll show you mine" while laughing. Jaryd was told by the teacher this behaviour was not appropriate, and the behaviour has not been observed again. Jaryd's teacher did also mention that Jaryd and his peers have been overheard in the playground recently making jokes about girls having "boobs" and Jaryd on one occasion "mooned" another child by pulling his pants down and exposing his bottom. It was noted by his teacher that other boys in Jaryd's peer group had also been "mooning" each other that week.

Jaryd's foster carer has also advised that this week she observed Jaryd with his hand down his pants and touching his penis whilst watching TV in the lounge room of the house. She advised a younger foster child (4) was present at the time, but both children appeared to be focused on the TV when she walked in, and it did not appear the younger child was aware of Jaryd touching himself. Jaryd's foster carer also advised Jaryd, and the younger foster child generally get along well and there have been no concerns between the two. Jaryd's foster carer asked Jaryd to take his hands out of his pants while in the lounge room, which he did when asked. Jaryd reportedly did not appear embarrassed or upset when redirected by his carer and she has not observed the behaviour since.

Although Jaryd has responded well to "in-the-moment" redirection at both home and school, no further discussions have been had with Jaryd about his sexual behaviours or his understanding of these. His class is due to commence Protective Behaviours next term.

Jaryd's grandfather, Gerald Wilson, was phoned by Aboriginal Practice Lead, David Turner, to discuss whether any concerning sexual behaviours have come up in contacts or family events. No concerns were reported by Jaryd's grandfather, but he did reiterate that when Jaryd was still living with his parents there was an extended family member sometimes staying in the home who had been convicted of previous child sex offences. However, Gerald did not know of any disclosures Jaryd had made of child sexual abuse or any direct concerns about him having been sexually abused.