

Survivors & Mates Support Network: Victims charity saved with half-million-dollar funding

February 8, 2016 - 12:13PM



Eryk Bagshaw

Education Reporter

[View more articles from Eryk Bagshaw](#)

[Follow Eryk on Twitter](#) [Email Eryk](#)



Craig Hughes-Cashmore co-founder and director of Survivors & Mates Support Network. Photo: Ryan Osland

A charity dedicated to supporting adult male survivors of child sexual abuse has been saved after it received a \$517,000 funding boost from the NSW government.

The Survivors & Mates Support Network was formed in 2010 by a group of male survivors of child sexual assault who, when they couldn't find a support group, decided to start their own.

SAMSN now delivers counselling services across the state, connecting that connects survivors with specialist psychologists and social workers and offering support during police investigations and court appearances.

"We have thrived on the simple message of 'mates supporting mates'," said co-founder Shane McNamara, who hopes the boost will enable the charity to expand its operations. The charity also works with NSW Victims Services to help men seeking financial assistance or child sex abuse recognition payments.

The charity's co-founder, Craig Hughes-Cashmore, said he and Mr McNamara were at the end of their tether running the operations on a significantly smaller budget and not enough support staff to meet demand. "We've been lobbying hard for years," he said.

NSW Attorney-General Gabrielle Upton said the network played a critical role for the families of men to heal and recover from the devastating impact of child sexual abuse.

"The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse revealed the impact of abuse on men, who were represented in over 60 per cent of personal sessions," she said.

She said the NSW government was proud to support SAMSN's crucial work to help thousands of men and their families across NSW take the steps to recovery.

"This investment means SAMSN can continue to treat survivors with care and compassion in 2016, and reflects the NSW government's commitment to ensure victims of abuse get the help they need, when they need it."