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Sydney Childcare Worker Faces Child Abuse Charges

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A Sydney childcare worker, David James, faces serious charges for allegedly producing child abuse material at multiple after-school care centers, prompting widespread concern among parents.

A 26-year-old Sydney man, David James, has been charged with producing child abuse material while employed as a childcare worker at several out-of-school-hours care centers in Sydney's northern suburbs and central business district. The Australian Federal Police (AFP) arrested James in September 2024, following the discovery of illicit material on his

devices, as reported by ABC News on July 31, 2025. The charges include nine counts of aggravated use of a child to produce child abuse material, two counts of possessing such material, and one count of refusing police access to his phone, with allegations involving 10 children aged five to six between 2021 and 2024.

Court documents, cited by the Sydney Morning Herald, allege James filmed young boys in bathrooms and engaged in inappropriate behavior in classrooms at an Artarmon daycare and six other facilities. Acting Assistant Commissioner Brett James of the AFP told ABC News that investigators reviewed 42,000 files, totaling 18.9 gigabytes, to identify victims, emphasizing the meticulous effort to protect families. The AFP contacted approximately 1,000 families whose children attended the 58 centers where James worked, assuring those not contacted that no evidence linked their children to the alleged offenses, per the Daily Telegraph.

The case has heightened scrutiny of childcare safety, with New South Wales (NSW) Police confirming James was a former probationary constable who resigned in 2023 without disclosing his childcare employment, as noted in a statement to PEDESTRIAN.TV. This oversight has raised questions about vetting processes for workers with access to children. AFP Acting Assistant Commissioner James told reporters that the alleged material was traced through dark web investigations, highlighting the complexity of the case, per the Times of India.

Parents and the community are reeling, with calls for stricter regulations intensifying. The federal government announced plans for tougher childcare safety laws, including spot checks without warrants, to be discussed at an August 2025 meeting of state and federal attorneys-general, according to ABC News. James remains in custody, with his next court appearance scheduled in three weeks, as the nation grapples with ensuring child safety in care settings.