

EIKOH SEMINAR AUSTRALIA PTY LTD

CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

Procedure for dealing with risk of significant harm to a child or young person

"Child abuse may be defined as intentional, physical and/or emotional maltreatment of a child by an adult, usually a person responsible for the child's well-being." Feeney/Christensen/Moravcik (1991:391).

Significant harm is defined as: *"a concern about a child or young person that is sufficiently serious to warrant a response by a statutory authority irrespective of a family's consent. It is something that is not minor or trivial and may be reasonably expected to produce a substantial and demonstrably adverse impact on the child or young person's safety, welfare or wellbeing. In addition, it can result from a single act or omission or an accumulation of these".*
(Child Story Reporter Website)

Purpose: The educators at the centre are committed to ensuring the safety and welfare of children at all times, both within and outside the centre. Educators see the importance of educating children to be aware of the value of their bodies and their emotional well being so they will not passively allow themselves to be hurt by others. Educators are also aware that children need to be taught that they have the right to accept or reject physical contact.

Aim:

- For the educators to be aware of the varying forms of child abuse to ensure the protection, health and safety of children at all times.
- For educators to be aware of procedures for reporting suspicions of abuse of a child or risk of significant harm to a child.
- To ensure that all educators, students and volunteers are subject to screening and prohibited persons declarations. Office of the Children's Guardian – www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au

Procedure: We will ensure a safe environment is created for the educators and children by:

- Ensuring that the Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor, Responsible Persons, educators, students and volunteers have completed a Working with Children Check (WWCC) prior to commencing at the centre.
- Ensuring that children are supervised at all times.
- Ensuring that the physical environment is safe by completing relevant safety checks and carry out maintenance as necessary.
- Providing educator training in child protection.
- Ensuring that all educators are aware of the centres' procedures for reporting suspected child abuse and neglect or risk of significant harm and understand their responsibilities under the child protection legislation as stated in Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011.
- Educators see the importance of educating children to be aware of the value of their bodies and emotional well being so they will not passively allow themselves to be hurt by others. Educators are also aware that children need to be taught that they have the right to accept or reject physical contact.
- To ensure that all responsible persons in day to day charge of the centre and nominated supervisor(s) hold current child protection training qualifications.

EDUCATING CHILDREN ABOUT PROTECTIVE BEHAVIOUR

Educators will regularly include child protection issues in the curriculum. For example they will intentionally teach children:

- About acceptable/unacceptable behaviour, and appropriate/inappropriate contact in a manner suitable to their age and level of understanding
- That they have a right to feel safe at all times
- To say 'no' to anything that makes them feel unsafe
- The difference between 'fun' scared that is appropriate risk taking and dangerous scared that is not ok
- To use their own skills to feel safe
- To recognise signs that they do not feel safe and need to be alert and think clearly
- That there is no secret too awful, no story too terrible, that they can't share with someone they trust.
- That educators are available for them if they have any concerns
- To tell educators of any suspicious activities or people
- To recognise and express their feelings verbally and non-verbally
- That they can choose to change the way they are feeling.

Educators believe that:

- Children are capable of the same range of emotions as adults
- Children's emotions are real and need to be accepted by adults
- An adult's response to a child during their early emotional development can be hugely positive or detrimental depending on the adult's reaction
- Children are very in touch with their bodies' reactions to their emotions
- Children who better understand their body's response to an emotion are more able to foresee the outcome of a situation and avoid them or ask for help.

CENTRE PROCEDURE FOR REPORTING SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

How to report risk of significant harm

Reports to the child protection helpline must be made over the phone where the child is at a high or imminent risk of significant harm due to:

- Serious physical injury to a child or young person requiring medical attention.
- Serious neglect to a child or young person of an immediate nature.
- Domestic violence involving serious injury and/or use of a weapon.
- Sexual harm involving serious current concern.
- A high risk prenatal report where the birth is imminent.
- Immediate safety issues.

The report concerns:

- A group of children/ young people other than a sibling group.
- A child or young person who resides outside NSW.
- An alleged person causing harm who has access to the child AND there is concern that the child may experience harm in the foreseeable future.
- Complex information which is more easily communicated verbally than in writing.
- The reporter is unsure how to interpret the MRG outcome and needs to discuss with a Helpline caseworker.
- All educators who work in children's services are mandatory reporters. A mandatory reporter is required by law to make a report to the Child Protection Helpline 132111 if they have current concerns about the safety, welfare or wellbeing of a child.
- If educators have suspicions of a child being at risk of significant harm through any form of abuse or neglect they must inform the Director, Senior Director and/or Approved Provider first, and use the Mandatory Reporter Guide on the Child Story

Reporter website – <https://reporter.childstory.nsw.gov.au> to help determine whether to make a formal report by calling: Child Protection Helpline 132111 or to keep documenting.

- Educators must document any information which may be relevant to the matter.
- Educators should not consult directly with the parents in this matter. This is to be done by the proper authorities.

Mandatory Reporter Guide (MRG)

The MRG is an interactive online guide for mandatory reporters to determine whether their concerns about a child or young person meet the risk of significant harm threshold. It is important to remember that the MRG is not a replacement for professional judgement of professionals but a tool to support your decision making. The MRG is available on the Child Story Reporter website – <https://reporter.childstory.nsw.gov.au>

To complete the MRG

- Step 1 – choose a decision tree.
- Step 2 – answer the questions using the definitions carefully. Remember the tips to using the definitions.
- Step 3 – continue to answer YES or NO to questions based on your reading of the definitions until you reach the MRG Final Decision Point.
- Step 4 – depending on the Final Decision recommended by the MRG, either make a report the child protection helpline or seek additional assistance and support from the Centre Director or Senior Director.

(KTS Training for the Early Childhood Sector Participant's Guide 2010 p.7)

If in doubt report your suspicions to the child protection helpline 132 111.

eReporting

- Child Protection reports can be directly submitted as an eReport through the ChildStory Reporter website (<https://reporter.childstory.nsw.gov.au>). An eReport should only be used if the concern is non-urgent. Mandatory reporter will need to register first to submit an eReport. Once registered, mandatory reporters:
 - * can create eReports after running the MRG (if the MRG outcome is Report to Department of Communities and Justice or Refer to CWU).
 - * will be notified by email when there is a change of status for one of their reports.
 - * can log into the ChildStory Reporter Community website to see the status of any previous reports they have submitted.
(<https://reporter.childstory.nsw.gov.au>)

Sharing information with other organisations in regard to the safety, welfare or wellbeing of a child at the centre

Child Protection Agencies

The following agencies have responsibilities regarding child protection. Our service will liaise with these services and agencies should child protection become an issue at our service.

Child Protection Helpline: Department of Communities and Justice

- Receive, assess and where appropriate investigate reports of children who are at risk of significant harm.
- May plan, conduct and manage Reports in conjunction and other agencies including NSW Police and NSW Health.
- Exchange relevant information with a range of agencies including NSW Police, NSW Health and the Department of Education and Communities.
- Provide, arrange and request care and/or support for children and families.
- Inform reporting agencies of the progress and outcomes of assessments and investigations as permitted by law.

Child Wellbeing Unit

Child Wellbeing Units have been established in the four government agencies with the largest number of child protection reports. These include the Department of Education and Communities and the Department of Communities and Justice. They can be contacted through the Department's switchboard or contact details are available in the resources section of the ChildStory Reporter website.

NSW Reportable Conduct Scheme

The Reportable Contact Scheme has now been transferred to the Office of the Children's Guardian under the new Children's Guardian Act 2019.

The Scheme monitors how organisations investigate and report on certain conduct (known as 'reportable allegations' and 'reportable convictions') made against their employees, volunteers or certain contractors who provide services to children.

When the head of an organisation (called a 'relevant entity') becomes aware of a reportable allegation or a reportable conviction, the head of that entity must notify the Office of the Children's Guardian within Seven (7) business days and conduct an investigation into the allegations. If the final entity report is not ready to submit within 30 calendar days, the head must provide an interim report with information about the progress of the investigation and an expected timeframe for completion.

Under the new Act, the Office of the Children's Guardian will generally oversight the entity's response to the allegation, to ensure the response has been appropriate and transparent and meet the entity's legislative obligations and initiated an own motion investigation. The Children's Guardian may also monitor the progress of an entity's investigation if the Children's Guardian considers it is in the public interest to do so.

- Monitors the investigation of and in some cases investigates reportable allegations made against employees in government and non-government agencies, such as children's services.
- The Office of the Children's Guardian must be notified of all allegations of abuse or neglect of a child by a children's eservices employee.
- A volunteer is also counted as an employee in this situation.

Reportable allegations include any sexual offence, or sexual misconduct, committed against, with or in the presence of a child (including a child pornography offence), any assault, ill treatment or neglect of a child, any behaviour that causes psychological harm to a child.

Employees include:

- Any employee of the agency, whether or not employed in connection with any work or activities of the agency that relates to children,
- Any individual engaged by the agency to provide services to children (including in the capacity as a volunteer) and
- Work experience participants, students on placements, e.g. TAFE, secondary or tertiary students.

The Office of the Children's Guardian needs to be informed of any allegation regardless of the outcome. These matters are only reported to the Child Protection Helpline if they meet the threshold of significant harm.

Visit www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au for fact sheets and any forms required.

The Office of the Children's Guardian

The Office of the Children's Guardian is an independent government agency that works to protect children by promoting and regulating quality, child safe organisations and services. One of its roles is administering the Working with Children Check.

Children's services employees must report findings of sexual misconduct and serious physical assault involving children by a child related worker to the Office of the Children's Guardian. See the Fact Sheet 'Information for reporting bodies' at www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au

Children's Services Employers must report to the Office of the Children's Guardian any reportable allegations and convictions made against an employee and ensure they are investigated by the Approved Provider/owner of the Child Care Service with appropriate actions being taken when the investigation is complete. The Approved Provider/owner of the Child Care Service must notify the Office of the Children's Guardian within 7 days of becoming aware of any reportable allegations or convictions made against an employee in children's services.

Information requested by other organisations in relation to the safety, welfare and wellbeing of a child or young person will only be given upon a written request from another agency or organisation. This request can be emailed through to the centre and information in relation to that child can then be exchanged by the centre's Director. Senior Director and Approved Provider are to be informed of any written requests for information. Any information requested **must** relate to the safety, welfare or wellbeing of a child or young person. Information may be shared if it relates to:

- A child or young person's history or circumstances; and/or
- A parent or other family member; and/or
- People having a significant or relevant relationship with a child or young person; and/or
- The other organisations' dealings with the child or young person, including past support or service arrangements.

(Identify and Respond to children and young people at risk participant's guide 2010 p.27)

Allegations of abuse against staff, educators, volunteers or students

The Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor will:

- Develop and maintain a system of appropriate record keeping for all allegations to ensure detailed documentation is made and stored as required;
- Take all allegations of abuse seriously and clarify what is being alleged with the person who is making the allegation;
- Assess whether or not a child or young person is 'at risk of significant harm' and, if so, make a report to the **Child Protection Helpline**;
- Complete an Incident/Injury/Trauma and Illness (serious/incident record) and notify the Regulatory Authority via the NQA ITS portal within 24 hours of being made aware of the allegation.
- Report the reportable allegation, a reportable conviction, or reportable conduct to the Office of the Children's Guardian;
- Report allegations to the Senior Director and Approved Provider;
- Report reportable allegations and reportable convictions to the Office of the Children's Guardian within 7 days and conduct an investigation. A final entity report is to be submitted to the Office of the Children's Guardian within 30 days;

- Consider whether or not the police need to be informed of the allegation and if so, make a report;
- Ensure confidentiality is maintained at all times and that systems are in place to deal with any breaches of confidentiality;
- Undertake a risk management approach following an allegation to ensure the protection and safety of children, educators and visitors to the service. Based on this risk assessment, decisions will be made in order to manage the risks that have been identified;
- Develop an investigation plan of the matter. Obtain relevant information from a range of sources. This may include a statement from the person who made the allegation; statements from witnesses and a statement from the person against whom the allegation has been made and any other relevant documentation;
 - If the allegation is being investigated by the Department of Communities and Justice or the Police, the service will be guided by their advice as to whether they should independently investigate the allegation;
 - If the investigation is carried out by the service, the information that has been gathered will be assessed and a finding made as to whether the allegation is false, vexatious, misconceived, not reportable conduct, not sustained or sustained. The reasons for the finding will be clearly recorded to ensure that the decision-making has been transparent;
- The educator, volunteer or student will be advised of the outcome of the investigation in writing. Advice will be provided about the investigation finding and any follow up action that may be required. Advice will also be provided about any rights of appeal and the person will be advised that the Office of the Children's Guardian has been notified;
- A final entity report will be submitted to the Office of the Children's Guardian within 30 days with all supporting documentation gathered during the investigation;
- The Department of Communities and Justice will also be informed of the outcome of the investigation.

Informing the Educator, Volunteer/Student

The Approved Provider/Nominated Supervisor will:

- Treat the staff member/educator/volunteer/student with fairness at all times and uphold their employee rights at all times;
- Depending on the nature of the allegation, arrange to inform the person immediately (though be guided by the advice of Department of Communities and Justice or the police);
- Arrange for the person against whom an allegation has been made, to have a support person attend the meeting. This support person must not participate in the discussions throughout the meeting;
- Make accurate documentation of all conversations, and ensure all records are kept confidentially;
- Offer counselling or support to the person subject to the allegation;
- Depending on the nature of the allegation made, the person subject to the allegation may be suspended pending further investigation;

- After all investigations are complete, provide the educator/carer/volunteer with verbal and written notification of the outcome of the investigation.

Rights of all parties

- The decision making process throughout the investigation will be based on the safety and well being of the child/ren and the educator/carers/carer's household members;
- Consideration will be taken in relation to actual or potential 'conflicts of interest' that may be held by the investigator;
- All reportable allegations will be notified to Office of the Children's Guardian. The person, against whom the allegation has been made, will be notified of this and will also be notified of the investigation find and follow up action, including the notification to the Office of the Children's Guardian;
- The person, against whom the allegation has been made, will be notified of any appeal mechanisms if they are not satisfied with the investigation process or the outcome of the investigation;
- The Approved Provider, Nominated Supervisor or other nominated person who conducts the investigation, will ensure that they act without bias, without delay and without conflict of interest; and
- All parties can complain to the Office of the Children's Guardian if they are not satisfied with the conduct of the investigation.

Further information can be obtained from the Office of the Children's Guardian website www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au

Source: Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012
Office of the Children's Guardian
ChildStory Reporter website <https://reporter.childstory.nsw.gov.au>
Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998.
Education and Care Services National Regulations 2011
Children's Guardian Act 2019

Date: October 2020

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TYPES OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT:

Indicators of neglect

Neglect is the failure to provide the basic necessities of life. It is typically regarded as an act of omission or commission, and as such may or may not be intentional. Neglect is potentially serious and can have long-term developmental consequences for children.

In children	In young people	In parents and caregivers
Physical	Physical	Physical
Low weight for age and/or failure to thrive and develop. Poor primary health care (e.g. untreated sores, serious nappy rash, significant dental decay). Poor standards of hygiene (i.e. child consistently unwashed, bad odour). Poor complexion and hair texture.	Poor standards of hygiene and self-care.	May have poor standards of hygiene and self-care.
Social/Psychological	Social/Psychological	Social/Psychological
Child not adequately supervised for their age. Scavenges or steals food; Focus is on basic survival Longs for or indiscriminately seeks adult affection. Displays rocking, sucking, head-banging behaviour. Poor school attendance.	Stays at the homes of friends and acquaintances for prolonged periods, rather than at home. Cannot access adequate self-care resources such as washing facilities and food. Poor school attendance.	Unable/unwilling to provide adequate food, shelter, clothing, medical attention, safe home conditions. Leaves the child without appropriate supervision. Abandons the child. Withholds physical contact or stimulation for prolonged periods. Unable or unwilling to provide psychological nurturing – low-warmth parenting. Has limited understanding of the child's needs Has unrealistic expectations of the child.

Indicators listed for children may also be evident in young people.

Indicators of physical abuse

Physical abuse is harm to a child or young person that is caused by non-accidental actions of a parent or other person responsible for their care. Physical abuse is often a particularly visible form of child maltreatment. Acts such as beating, shaking, biting, deliberate burning with an object, attempted strangulation and female genital mutilation are a range of examples of physical abuse or ill treatment.

Child	Young person	Parents or caregivers
Physical	Physical	Physical
<p>Bruises on face, head or neck, other bruises or marks which may show the shape of the object that caused it.</p> <p>Lacerations and welts.</p> <p>Head injuries where the infant may be drowsy or vomiting, or have glassy eyes, fixed pupils or pooling of blood in the eyes suggesting the possibility of having been shaken.</p> <p>Adult bite marks and scratches, bone fractures, especially in children under three years old.</p> <p>Dislocations, sprains, swelling, burn marks and scalds, multiple injuries or bruises.</p> <p>Child's explanation inconsistent with injury</p> <p>General indicators of female genital mutilation.</p>	<p>Abdominal pain (may be caused by ruptured internal organs).</p> <p>Ingestion of poisonous substances, alcohol or drugs, lacerations, welts bruising, burn marks.</p> <p>Unspecified internal pains.</p> <p>Frequent visits with child to health or other services with unexplained or suspicious injuries, swallowing of non-food substances or internal complaints.</p> <p>Explanation of injury is not consistent with the visible injury.</p>	
Social/Psychological	Social/Psychological	Social/Psychological
<p>Wears clothing that is inappropriate to the weather conditions, to conceal injuries.</p> <p>Fears adults.</p> <p>Is aggressive, lacks empathy.</p>	<p>Aggressive and violent behaviours toward others, particularly younger children.</p> <p>Explosive temper that is out of proportion to precipitating event.</p> <p>Constantly on guard around adults, cowers at sudden movements, unusual deference to adults.</p>	<p>Family history of violence.</p> <p>History of their own maltreatment as a child.</p> <p>Fears injuring their child.</p> <p>Uses excessive discipline.</p>

Indicators listed for children may also be evident in young people.

Indicators of sexual abuse

Sexual abuse is any sexual act or threat to a child or young person that causes them harm, or to be frightened or fearful. It covers non-contact forms of harm, such as flashing, having a child or young person pose or perform in a sexual manner, exposure to sexually explicit material or acts (including pornographic material) and a communication of graphic sexual matters (including by email and SMS). Contact forms of harm can include a range of contact behaviours including kissing, touching or fondling the child or young person in a sexual manner, penetration of the vagina or anus either by digital, penile or any other object or coercing the child to perform any such action themselves or anyone else.

Child	Young person
Physical	Physical
<p>Bleeding from the vagina, external genitalia or anus tears or bruising to the genitalia, anus or perineal regions.</p> <p>Trauma to the breasts, buttocks, lower abdomen or thighs including bite/burn marks.</p> <p>Sexually transmitted disease.</p>	<p>Adolescent pregnancy, and/or reluctance to identify father of child.</p>

Social/Psychological	Social/Psychological
Direct or indirect disclosures. Describes sexual acts with age inappropriate knowledge. Age-inappropriate behaviour and/or persistent sexual behaviour. Self-destructive behaviour, drug misuse, suicide attempts, self mutilation. Runs away from home persistently. Eating disorders. Goes to bed fully clothed. Regression in developmental achievements in younger children. Has contact with a known or suspected paedophile. Unexplained money and gifts.	Poor self esteem. Runs away from home, homelessness. Particularly negative reaction to adults of only one sex. De-sexualisation (e.g. wearing baggy clothes in order to disguise gender). Artwork or creative writing with obsessively sexual themes. Sexually provocative behaviour. Engaging in/talking about violent sexual acts. Knowledge about practice and locations usually associated with prostitution. Risk-taking behaviours – self harm, suicide attempts. Contact with a known or suspected paedophile.

In non-offending parent, caregivers or others	In perpetrator
Social/Psychological Defers to partner. May minimise disclosure.	Social/Psychological Controlling attitude and behaviour to children and/or partner. Inappropriately curtails child's age - appropriate development of independence from the family. Overly critical of adult partner. Defends against accusations by claiming the child or young person is lying. Encourages/tolerates sexualised behaviour between family members. Exposes child or young person to prostitution or pornography or uses a child or young person for pornographic purposes. Intentionally exposes child or young person to the sexual behaviour of others. Committed/been suspected of child sexual abuse or child pornography. Coerces child or young person to engage in sexual behaviour with other children and young people. Verbal threats of sexual abuse. Family denies adolescent pregnancy.

Indicators listed for children may also be evident in young people.

Indicators of psychological harm

Psychological harm is serious harm caused by the psychologically abusive behaviour of a parent or other caregiver. Serious psychological harm can occur where the behaviour of their parent or caregiver damages the confidence and self-esteem of a child or young person, resulting in serious emotional deprivation or trauma.

Serious psychological harm can lead to significant impairment of a child's or young person's social, emotional, cognitive, intellectual development and/or disturbance of a child's or young person's behaviour.

Although it is possible for 'one-off' incidents to cause serious harm, in general it is the frequency, persistence and duration of the parental or carer behaviour that is instrumental in defining the consequences for the child. Additionally, individual child factors can mediate the impact of psychological harm – such as age, intelligence, resilience and the nature of support the child receives from others.

Child	Young Person	Parent or Caregiver
Social/Psychological	Social/Psychological	Social/Psychological
<p>Feels worthless about life and themselves.</p> <p>Unable to value others or show empathy.</p> <p>Lacks trust in people.</p> <p>Lacks interpersonal skills necessary for age appropriate functioning.</p> <p>Extreme attention seeking.</p> <p>Takes extreme risks, is markedly disruptive, bullying or aggressive.</p>	<p>Avoids all adults Is obsessively obsequious to adults.</p> <p>Has difficulty maintaining long- term significant relationships.</p> <p>Is highly self-critical Is depressed, anxious, other mental ill-health indicators</p> <p>Is self-harming.</p> <p>Attempts suicide.</p>	<p>Constantly criticises, belittles, teases a child or young person.</p> <p>Ignores or withholds praise and affection.</p> <p>Excessively criticises a child in comparison to child's peers.</p> <p>Is persistently hostile and verbally abusive, rejects and scapegoats.</p> <p>Makes excessive or unreasonable demands.</p> <p>Believes that a particular child or young person is bad.</p> <p>Uses inappropriate physical or social isolation as punishment.</p> <p>Domestic violence involvement such as where weapons are used, significant threats made.</p>

Indicators listed for children may also be evident in young people

Indicators of domestic violence

Domestic violence is any abusive behaviour used by a person in a relationship to gain and maintain control over their intimate partner. It can include a broad range of abusive and intimidatory behaviour causing fear and physical and/or psychological harm. Domestic violence can be physical assault, sexual assault or psychological abuse. It may also include behaviour such as restricting a partner's or child's social contact and financial deprivation.

Child	Young Person
Physical	Physical
<p>Preterm and low birth weight baby.</p> <p>Slow weight gain in infants.</p> <p>Difficulties with sleeping/eating.</p> <p>Unexplained physical injuries.</p>	<p>Unexplained physical injuries.</p> <p>Eating disorders, such as anorexia and bulimia.</p> <p>Uses alcohol and drugs.</p> <p>Psychosomatic complaints.</p> <p>Higher rates of genital tract infection.</p>
Social/Psychological	Social/Psychological
<p>Defiant at school, particularly with female teachers.</p> <p>Aggressive or violent behaviour.</p> <p>Over-protects mother or fears leaving mother at home.</p> <p>Poor concentration.</p> <p>Constantly fights with peers.</p> <p>Frequently absent from school.</p> <p>Clingy, dependent, sad and secretive.</p> <p>Regressive behaviour.</p> <p>Delayed or problematic language.</p> <p>Development.</p> <p>Stealing.</p>	<p>Depressed.</p> <p>Suicide attempts.</p> <p>Takes extreme risks.</p> <p>Physically and verbally abusive.</p> <p>Abuses siblings, parents, peers.</p> <p>Sexually abusive.</p> <p>Frequently absent from school and poor academic achievement.</p> <p>Disruptive homeless or stays away from home for prolonged time.</p> <p>Socially isolated.</p>

In parents and caregivers – adult victims	In parents and caregivers – adult victims
Physical	Physical
Injuries do not fit the cause/history given. Bite marks. Unwanted pregnancy or sexually transmitted infection through coerced sex/refusal to use contraceptives. Bruising /other injuries, especially if pregnant. Unexplained miscarriage or stillbirth. Nutritional/sleep deprivation or disorders Alcohol and drug abuse. Psychosomatic complaints.	Physical signs of the victim fighting back, such as facial scratches and injuries to hands.
Social/Psychological	Social/Psychological
Anxious, depressed. Suicidal thoughts and attempts. Low self-esteem. Socially isolated. Submissive and withdrawn. Repeat/after hours presentations at emergency departments. Seldom/never makes decisions without referring to partner. Fears reprisal. Frequent absences from work/studies.	Presents as the victim of abuse, discrimination or allegation of abuse. Admits to some violence but minimises its frequency and severity. Visible rough handling of victim/children/pets. Impresses as overly concerned about suspected victim. Threatens to commit acts of violence. Is unable to control angry outbursts. Always speaks for partner/children. Believes he 'owns' partner/children. Describes partner as incompetent or stupid. Holds rigidly to stereotypical gender roles. Jealous of partner, lacks trust in her or anyone else. Does not allow partner or child to access service providers alone.

Indicators listed for children may also be evident in young people.

Indicators of Emotional Abuse

Emotional Abuse in children occurs when an adult harms a child's development by repeatedly treating and speaking to a child in ways that damage the child's ability to feel and express their feelings.

Some examples of Emotional Abuse	Indicators of Emotional Abuse
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constant criticism, belittling, teasing of a child or ignoring or withholding praise and affection • Excessive or unreasonable demands • Persistent hostility, severe verbal abuse, rejection and scape-goating • Belief that a particular child is bad or "evil" • Using inappropriate physical or social isolation as punishment • Exposure to domestic violence 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feeling of worthlessness about them • Inability to value others • Lack of trust in people and expectations • Extreme attention seeking behaviours • Other behavioural disorders (disruptiveness, aggressiveness, bullying)

Indicators listed for children may also be evident in young people.

Reporting Risk of Significant Harm

Name of child or young person: _____

Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Is the child Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander: No Yes, Aboriginal
 Yes, Torres Strait Islander Yes, Both

Child's cultural background: _____

Language(s) spoken: _____

Religion: _____ Other cultural factors: _____

Name and Age of other household children or young people: _____

Address of child and family: _____

Child Care Centre details: _____

Does this child have a disability: Yes No (If yes please describe) _____

Is the child or young person subject of an Apprehended Violence Order?: Yes No
(If yes please describe)

Is the child or young person under the care of the Minister or residing in out-of-home care?
Yes No (If Yes please provide details)

Family Information:

Name of parents/carer and household adults: _____

Age of parents/carer and household adults: _____

Home Phone Number: _____ Mobile Numbers: _____

Parent's cultural background: _____

Language(s) spoken: _____

Religion: _____ Other cultural factors: _____

Information about parental risk factors and how they link to child's risk of harm: _____

Please indicate if any of the following are involved in relation to the Family:

Domestic Violence: Yes No

Alcohol or other drug misuse: Yes No

Unmanaged Mental Illness: Yes No

Intellectual or other disability: Yes No

Protective factors and family strengths: _____

Non-offending carers' capacity to protect child: _____

Any previous suspicious death of a child or young person in the household?: _____

Is the parent/carer pregnant?: _____
Description of family structure (e.g. biological parents, single parent, blended family):

Name, age and gender of siblings: _____

Do siblings live with the child or young person?: Yes No

Reporter Details:

Name: _____

Centre Name: _____

Centre Address: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Centre Email address: _____

Position within centre: _____

Reason for reporting today: _____

Nature of contact with child or family: _____

Nature of ongoing role with child or family (include frequency, duration and type): _____

If report is being made by someone else in the centre, include name of centre worker who sourced the report: _____

Other Information:

Services involved with child/family if known: _____

Principal language of family: _____

Is an Interpreter required: Yes No

Does the parent know of this report: Yes No (If yes include details of their response):

Does the child or young person know of this report: Yes No (If yes include details of their views): _____

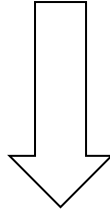
Are there any issues related to worker safety: Yes No (if yes include details):

Outcome of Mandatory Reporter Guide (MRG): _____

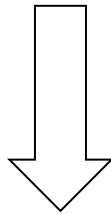
Once a report has been made to the Child Protection Helpline no further report needs to be made unless new information comes to hand. Please attach copy of decision report from the online Mandatory Reporter Guide to this information and keep on file for future reference.

Child Protection Reporting Overview

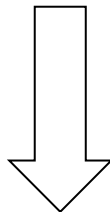
Notifications of Abuse



If you have reasonable suspicion a child is at risk of significant harm you need to contact the **Child Protection Helpline on 132111 (24 hours, 7 days)**



When children are in immediate danger of abuse contact the **POLICE on 000**



Consult Our Child Protection Policy for more information.