

Document Name	Document Version Number	Review Date
Child Protection Policy	1.0.0	March 2021
Date Adopted	Minute Number	Status
1 September 2019	5403	New Policy

Purpose

Our service is committed to providing an environment that fosters health, development, spirituality, self-respect and dignity, that is free from violence and exploitation. Under the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998, children and young people must receive the care and protection necessary to ensure their safety, welfare and wellbeing. All educators and volunteers of our service are Mandatory Reporters and are required to report to the Child Protection Helpline (Phone: 132 111) if they have reasonable grounds to suspect a child or young person is at risk of significant harm and have current concerns about the safety, welfare or wellbeing of a child or young person where the concerns arise during or from their work. We are committed to ensuring all educators and staff have a full understanding of their responsibilities as a Mandatory Reporter and are supported in fulfilling these.

Our service is a child safe organisation and embeds the principals of the Child Safe Standards into all practices.

Scope

Approved Provider, Nominated supervisor, educators, casual staff and families

RELATED GUIDELINES, STANDARDS, FRAMEWORKS

National Quality Area Standard 2: Safety :

Standard 2.2 Safety each child is protected. Element 2.2.1 Supervision 2.2.2 Incident and emergency

Element 2.2.3 Child Protection **Definitions**

'Mandatory reporters' means people who deliver the following services, wholly or partly, to children as part of their paid or professional work:

- Health care (e.g. registered medical practitioners, specialists, general practice nurses, midwives, occupational therapists, speech therapists, psychologists, dentists and other allied health professionals working in sole practice or in public or private health practices)
- Welfare (e.g. psychologists, social workers, caseworkers and youth workers) < Education (e.g. teachers, counsellors, principals)
- Children's services (e.g. child care workers, family day carers and home-based carers)
- Residential services (e.g. refuge workers) Child Protection QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY CELA IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY COMMUNITY CHILD CARE CO-OPERATIVE SAMPLE POLICY Reviewed: Sept 2018 Child Protection PAGE 2 QUALITY AREA 2: CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND SAFETY Reviewed: Sept 2018
- Law enforcement (e.g. police) Ref: <https://reporter.childstory.nsw.gov.au/s/article/What-is-Mandatory-Reporting> 'At risk of significant harm' - in relation to a child or young person means that there are current concerns for their safety, welfare or wellbeing because of the presence to a significant extent of any one or more of the following circumstances¹ .
- The child's or young person's basic physical or psychological needs are not being met or at risk of not being met;
- The parents or other caregivers have not arranged and are unable or unwilling to arrange for the child or young person to receive medical care;
- In the case of a child or young person who is required to attend school in accordance with the Education Act 1990 - the parents or other caregivers have not arranged and are unable or unwilling to arrange for the child or young person to receive and education in accordance with that Act;
- The child or young person has been, or is at risk of being, physically or sexually abused or ill-treated;

- The child or young person is living in a household where there have been incidents of domestic violence and, as a consequence, the child or young person is at risk of serious physical or psychological harm;
- A parent or other caregiver has behaved in such a way towards the child or young person that the child or young person has suffered or is at risk of suffering serious psychological harm; or
- The child was the subject of a pre-natal report under section 25 of the Children and Young Persons Care and Protection Act 1998 and the birth mother of the child did not engage successfully with the support services to eliminate, or minimise to the lowest level reasonably practical, the risk factors that gave rise to the report. (Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 No 157, Chapter 3, Part 2, Section 23) 'Reasonable grounds' - means that you suspect a child may be at risk of significant harm based on:
- Your observations of the child, young person or family; or What the child, young person, parent or another person has told you. You are NOT required to confirm your suspicions or have clear proof before making a report. To do so may interfere with evidence or compromise the work of statutory agencies, for example the Police or Community Services.

Policy Content

Support staff through the process of documenting and reporting current concerns of children at risk of significant harm; and < Provide all staff and educators with clear guidelines around documentation and a template to support this.

Confidentiality

The service will handle any allegation of child abuse in a confidential manner.

Links to Policy

Providing a child safe environment
Administration of first aid
Governance and leadership
Delivery and Collection of children

Links to Procedure

Child protection

Links to Forms

Incident, Accident and Trauma form
Interactions with Children

References

NSW Government, Department of Family and Community Services, Resources for Mandatory Reporters, accessed from: www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/Protecting-kids/mandatory-reporters < NSW Government, Department of Premier and Cabinet, Child Wellbeing & Child Protection: NSW Interagency Guidelines, accessed from: www.community.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/336357/reporting_section.pdf

Responsibility

Nominated Supervisor

Document Author

Nominated Supervisor

Relevant Legislation

Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998, s.27; s.245A; s.248(1)(b) Education and Care Services National Law Act (2010) Part 6 Section 166-167; s.174 Education and Care Services National Regulations (2011) Part 4.2, R84 Part 4.7, R168, R175 2 (d) (e) and R176 2 (c).

Associated Records

Nil