

**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

**March 2023:**

Management Committee

Meeting Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup>

@ 7.30pm

# yarrunga

EARLY LEARNING CENTRE

## MARCH NEWSLETTER 2023

In complying with the National Quality Standards, we ensure that a copy of the Law and Regulations can be accessed by families, including those seeking to enrol their child at the service?

To access it go to <https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/view/html/inforce/current/sl-2011-0653>

Dear families,

Could you please pack a hat for your child/ren as Yarrunga only has enough for spares. We do have some to purchase from the Front Office if you would like at \$20 each.

### WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK!

How can we make our newsletter better?

What information would you like us to include?

Call us on: (02) 60217597

Or EMAIL [admin@yarrunga.com.au](mailto:admin@yarrunga.com.au)



Yarrunga can now be followed  
on Facebook and Instagram



### Yarrunga Policies:

Just a reminder to families and for all our new family's information - our policies can be accessed on our website [www.yarrunga.com.au](http://www.yarrunga.com.au) and the password is 2640

Policies/Procedure/Reflection being reviewed this month: Summary of changes to EYLF, Flag Protocol Procedure, Quality Improvement Plan, Revised RAP, the Curriculum Policy, and the Child Protection Policy.



**NO FOOD FROM HOME!** A reminder that we have children attending Yarrunga with severe allergies to dairy, nut, and sesame. Anaphylaxis is a severe and potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. We want to do our best to keep those at risk safe.

Please refrain from bringing food from home.

If you are bringing treats to share for your child's birthday, please check with room educators for allergies prior.



Congratulations to our Yarrunga family that have welcomed a new addition to their family - a baby boy and brother Sam, for Jessie, Miguel, Olivia and Sofia.

## CHILDREN'S T-SHIRTS, JUMPERS & HATS

If you would like to order a t-shirt or shirts or jumpers for your child/ren, order forms will be available in the office - Shirts \$12.00, Jumpers \$25 each. We now have a supply of children's hats for \$20 each. Please see Deb or Karen.

## JUNIOR PRESCHOOL NEWS

Hi from the Junior Room

We have been wanting to pick an Indigenous animal name for our room, so we put up a voting poll for our families to vote we had Wilay-Possum, Garru-Magpie, Gugubarra-Kookaburra. The Guguburras have won the voting so stay tuned for a room name change this will be happening in the other rooms as well. We have been really lucky to receive some new resources in our room three new garbage trucks and 6 new yellow trucks for our outside environment. We also have a new table and chairs for our new veranda space, and we look forward to using them once this space is completed. We have a new bridge for the outside yard near the sandpit we are just waiting to weatherproof it so we can add it to the outside environment. The children have been able to participate in clean up Australia day with their peers and they continue to enjoy gathering as a community to acknowledge country and raise the flags daily and enjoy some songs together.



We have an interest in numbers and colours and this aligns with some of our children's individual goals, we have added pictures of numbers and colours to the wooden arches in our room the children use these with the matchbox cars. This will provide the children with visual prompts to recognise and point to the colours and numbers providing them with early number and mathematical recognition.

Our camping play space has enabled the children to revisit their family holidays and talk about camping and going away. The preschool children and Nursery children have also seemed to enjoy exploring the tent and sandpit play while family grouping.

Nicole, Tash, and Natt  
juniorpreschool@yarrunga.com.au

## NURSERY NEWS

We have had another busy month settling in a couple of new arrivals and seeing our new January children flourish in their new environment.

Outside play has been our favourite this month. We have all been working hard on our coordination and gross motor skills as we navigate the A frames, balance beams that connect the A frames, wooden slide and ladder swing. The painting set up in the Preschool yard has been a hit. Children often work on one piece of art together.

Our children have really enjoyed participating in our morning get together with the rest of our Yarrunga family. We watch and sometimes assist in the raising of our flags, saying our acknowledgement of country and enjoy using the tapping sticks as we sing a couple of songs together.

During the open gate play the nursery/toddler children have had the opportunity to explore both the outside yards and also the other rooms. They have enjoyed building tracks and playing with the trains and have also really enjoyed exploring craft activities.



Emma, Chrissy and Kaitlin.  
[nurserytoddler@yarrunga.com.au](mailto:nurserytoddler@yarrunga.com.au)



## PRESCHOOL ROOM NEWS

February has seen a big focus on numeracy and literacy through the 'Arts':

Noticing lots of imaginary play with repetitive themes educators planned a variety of story-telling experiences to build on what children know and can do. We began with familiar fairy tales including the "Three Little Pigs", "Billy Goats Gruff", "The Very Hungry Caterpillar" and "Goldilocks and The Three Bears". These were used with puppets and felt boards which the children continued playing with in spontaneous play with friends and educators. They made up their own versions of the stories, recreated the stories through sequencing and craft, and used imaginary play to re-enact the main events and story themes. We extended learning and development with sequencing activities which included cutting out story characters and pasting them to create a story with a beginning, middle and end. This proved very popular as children drew on their own interests and strengths to engage with the task at hand. Lines of development have also included matching numbers, patterns and counting grids with glass bead counters; and using a spinner to group, sub-group, count and match animal figurines - number, colour, animal type etc. Interest in measurement also emerged as we measured ourselves, furniture and things in our environment. We are using rulers, tapes measures of all sorts and even string to see how tall, wide, long something is. This is another great way for children to develop mathematical thinking and concept skills. You may have noticed your child beginning to incorporate more Language and culture in their everyday play and interactions at home. Our daily flag raising and Acknowledgment gathering has generated lots of keen participation and interest in Aboriginal music as children have requested different songs over and over again!

Our current favourites are:

- *Yindyamarra.*

Yindyamarra, Yindyamarra,  
Means respect, means respect,  
Sharing, caring, being kind,  
Sharing, caring, being kind,  
Means respect, means respect.



- *Inanay.*
- *I went to visit country.*
- *Walking on country.*

The last three songs are easily accessible on Spotify and You Tube for those who want to follow up at home.

Thank you for sharing interests and resources from home. We are always keen to incorporate your ideas into our play and learning. Craft materials are a never-ending source of open-ended art and problem solving; Meg has commenced some cooking classes with requests for popular lunches such as curried sausages; and we love the spontaneity of experimenting with different interests and sharing special books! On that note we have had a request for some riding skills along the bike path. We are thinking the week of Monday 27<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April. Educators will provide more detail in the next few days.

Alana, Krystine, Maree, Liv  
Preschool@yarrunga.com.au

## **Educational Leader:**

As a service team we are moving forward with our review and familiarization of the New Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF V2.0). This month educators and staff are focusing on the framework's principles which underpin professional practice and how we support children to make progress in relation to the learning outcomes.

It is also important to connect our reflections with Yarrunga's Philosophy and Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) to ensure it is reflective of what is important for our Yarrunga community in the here and now, as well as representative of current best practice.

We will be seeking your input into our review through foyer displays, Facebook polls and email correspondence in the coming weeks.

These are the principles we are reviewing:

- Secure, respectful, and reciprocal relationships
- Partnerships
- Respect for diversity
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives
- Equity, inclusion, and high expectations
- Sustainability
- Critical reflection and ongoing professional learning
- Collaborative leadership and teamwork

**PLEASE HAVE YOUR SAY IN OUR REVIEW**



On Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March Yarrunga children and educators participated in Clean Up Australia Day by collecting rubbish along the bike path and grasslands at the back of our school.

We all had special gloves to keep our hands free from rubbish germs. Putting them on was a great learning activity to begin with! Then it was time to spot and sort the different kinds of rubbish that litter our world.

We recycled plastic bottles, metal cans and cardboard. It wasn't hard to spot the 'grotty' rubbish as it was called because it was so dirty! There was even some friendly competition as children raced each other towards a small glimmer in the distance in anticipation of what they might find.

Thanks to Olivia for initiating such a worthwhile learning experience for our children and educators, and Tash for guiding us on the day. Early Childhood Education for Sustainability begins in with our youngest children in the Nursery / Toddler room.

Krystine

## Grievance Policy

If parents have any concerns or complaints, please follow the attached Grievance Policy

### **1 Informal Resolution of Grievances**

Initially any grievance raised will be approached in an informal manner. (Informal Procedure for Resolution of Grievance). If required, an appointment time with the Centre Director and/or President of the Management Committee Genna Richter (phone 0428109382) to discuss the grievance can be arranged.

### **2 Formal Resolution of Grievances**

2.1 In the event informal processes are unable to be used or informal processes fail to achieve a satisfactory outcome for any of the parties involved in the grievance, the formal process will then be used. Determining whether the grievance will be handled formally is at the discretion of the Director/President of Management Committee based on feedback from the concerned parties at the conclusion of the informal stage (Formal Procedure for Resolution of Grievance).

2.2 **When a formal resolution of grievance is pursued, all interactions must be documented by the Director (Complaint form), signed (by Director and or parties involved), and a copy given to each party concerned.**

2.3 Any allegation that the safety, health or wellbeing of a child has been compromised, or relating to a staff member, the details of action taken in response to a complaint will be recorded and kept in a confidential place.

### **3 Regulatory Authority - ACECQA**

3.1 The Nominated Supervisor or Certified Supervisor will notify (within 24 hours of the complaint being made) ACECQA of a complaint that alleges

- a serious incident has occurred or is occurring while a child is being educated and cared for by Yarrunga.
- the National Law and/or National Regulations have been contravened.

The required Forms to be completed are;

**Notification of Complaints and Incidents (Other than serious Incidents)** as required by the Education & Care Services National Regulations - through the National Quality Agenda IT System (NQA IT System). Log in to access the portal.

A scanned copy of the written complaint will be uploaded prior to submitting the form electronically.

# **Nutrition Snippet**

## **HOW TO PACK A HEALTHY LUNCH BOX**



**A good lunch gives children energy and nutrients to learn, play and grow.**

**But what does a healthy lunch box look like? Find out in our short video.**

**[healthylunchbox.com.au](http://healthylunchbox.com.au)**



**Cancer Council**  
Healthy Lunch Box





# SEXUAL BEHAVIOURS IN CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

A guide to IDENTIFY, UNDERSTAND and RESPOND to sexual behaviours

Knowing how to identify and respond to sexual behaviours in children and young people helps adults to support the development of healthy sexuality and protect young people from harm or abuse.

## 1. IDENTIFY

What is the behaviour? Is it normal, concerning or harmful? Sexual development is influenced by many factors. The environment in which children grow, develop and interact has a significant influence on their knowledge, attitudes and behaviours. When using the traffic lights framework to establish whether the sexual behaviour of children or young people is normal, concerning or harmful, it is necessary to consider the current social, cultural and family context.

The chart on the next page lists specific examples of green, orange and red behaviours at various ages. These are examples only and must be considered in context. Take into account the age and ability level of the child, young person and others involved as well as the location, frequency and nature of the behaviour.

Use the Traffic Lights framework to identify the characteristics of the behaviour and the way it occurs, and then follow steps 2 and 3 to understand and respond. All green, orange and red behaviours require some level of information, support and protective responses.



## WHAT DO YOU THINK? green, orange or red?

Use the traffic lights framework to identify these scenarios

- Henry, aged 8, masturbates in the shower at the end of the day. When his mother asks he will often excuse his pants to the rest of the class.
- Travis, aged 13, sends a text to a friend about his feelings for her. She replies that she likes him but he should wait until he is older.
- Sioux, aged 12, often tries to sit on the lap of her mother's male friend. When she does, she will kiss his cheek and say that it's OK for them to kiss her. Sometimes she'll take a picture for them and say she'll be a porn star.
- Alex, aged 15, spends lots of time chatting to friends on the internet. Recently, Alex made a new friend, 'Tony Boy', online. The more they chat, the more Alex has attracted to 'Tony Boy' and thinks about making a video to watch in private. Alex likes to flirt with him.
- Marley and Adriana, both aged 4, are playing in the caddy house and have both taken their underpants off. They are talking and touching each others' genitals.
- Morgan, aged 7, tells her teacher that she has seen Lucas, aged 15, having sex with his best friend's sister.
- Tilly, aged 16, is overheard telling her close friends about having intercourse and not sex with her boyfriend. He is 17 years old at the same school. She tells them that she enjoys it.

## WHERE TO GET HELP

Talking about concerns helps prevent harm or abuse.

- Parents: 1300 30 1300 [www.parentline.gov.au](http://www.parentline.gov.au)
- Children: 1311 1114 [www.relati0nships.org.au](http://www.relati0nships.org.au)
- Relationships Australia: 1300 364 272 [www.relationships.org.au](http://www.relationships.org.au)
- 1800 Respect Online: 1800 737 732 [www.1800respect.org.au](http://www.1800respect.org.au)
- Child Safety Services (08) 1800 177 135 [www.communities.qld.gov.au/childprotection/protecting-children](http://www.communities.qld.gov.au/childprotection/protecting-children)
- Contact Child Protection or Police Services in your state or territory if a child or adult requires protection from harm.

NSW Health, 2016. *Child Protection and Police Services: Public Information Leaflet 14*. Available at: <http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/ChildProtection/Pages/ChildProtectionandPoliceServices.aspx>.  
Queensland Government, 2016. *Child Protection and Police Services: Public Information Leaflet 14*. Available at: <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/ChildProtection/Pages/ChildProtectionandPoliceServices.aspx>.  
South Australia Government, 2016. *Child Protection and Police Services: Public Information Leaflet 14*. Available at: <http://www.health.sa.gov.au/ChildProtection/Pages/ChildProtectionandPoliceServices.aspx>.  
Tasmania Government, 2016. *Child Protection and Police Services: Public Information Leaflet 14*. Available at: <http://www.health.tas.gov.au/ChildProtection/Pages/ChildProtectionandPoliceServices.aspx>.  
Victoria Government, 2016. *Child Protection and Police Services: Public Information Leaflet 14*. Available at: <http://www.health.vic.gov.au/ChildProtection/Pages/ChildProtectionandPoliceServices.aspx>.  
Western Australia Government, 2016. *Child Protection and Police Services: Public Information Leaflet 14*. Available at: <http://www.health.wa.gov.au/ChildProtection/Pages/ChildProtectionandPoliceServices.aspx>.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

The *Home Connections* sheet on sexual and sibling violence using the Traffic Lights framework, with an outline of a phone 07 2528 0046.



Research conducted by True Relationships & Reproductive Health, a specialist service for young people with sexual and reproductive health issues. The research was funded by the Victorian Government. The research was conducted between 2014 and 2015. The research was conducted by a team of researchers from the Victorian Government and True Relationships & Reproductive Health. The research was funded by the Victorian Government. The research was conducted between 2014 and 2015. The research was conducted by a team of researchers from the Victorian Government and True Relationships & Reproductive Health.

[www.true.org.au](http://www.true.org.au)

## 3. RESPOND

### What you can do to address the child's needs

All behaviour has a function. When adults understand why the behaviour may be occurring, they can respond by helping to meet the needs of the child or young person in effective ways.

Behaviour usually reflects a range of needs. Many strategies may be applied to respond to children with concerning or harmful behaviours. It is also important to address the needs of the people who have an impact on the lives of children or young people: eg family, carers, teachers and support workers.

Strategies for meeting the need should include:

- give accurate facts and information about sexuality
- teach social skills
- support healthy friendships and relationships
- teach about privacy and make home and other environments safer and safer
- make clear rules and reinforce them with praise or consequences
- have consistency between home, family, school, community
- supervise during times of risk
- monitor behaviour and review support strategies
- help access to previous victims or vulnerable others and explain why
- limit time spent with people who bully or who also show concerning sexual behaviour
- remove from situations where risk of harm, exploitation, abuse or neglect is suspected
- check for infections or injuries and get medical attention if needed
- provide information and support to family carers and staff
- get family overviewing or therapy
- refer to other services

**Relationships and sexual education** encourages open and clear communication to provide a foundation for the development of healthy sexual behaviours and attitudes.

- Relationships education may include:
  - body parts
  - gender
  - reproductive health
  - consent
  - sexual abuse issues
  - sexual health checks
  - sexual activity
  - self-esteem and feelings
  - decision-making

Children from 8 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 10 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 12 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 14 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 16 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 18 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 20 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 22 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 24 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 26 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 28 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 30 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 32 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 34 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 36 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 38 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 40 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 42 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 44 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 46 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 48 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 50 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 52 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 54 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 56 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 58 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 60 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 62 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 64 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 66 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 68 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 70 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 72 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 74 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 76 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 78 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 80 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 82 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 84 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 86 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 88 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 90 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 92 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 94 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 96 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 98 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 100 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 102 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 104 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 106 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 108 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 110 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 112 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 114 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 116 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 118 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 120 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 122 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 124 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 126 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 128 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 130 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 132 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 134 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 136 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 138 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 140 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 142 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 144 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 146 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 148 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 150 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 152 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 154 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 156 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 158 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 160 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 162 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 164 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 166 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 168 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 170 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 172 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 174 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 176 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 178 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 180 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 182 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 184 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 186 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 188 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 190 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 192 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 194 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 196 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 198 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 200 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 202 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 204 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 206 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 208 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 210 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 212 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 214 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 216 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 218 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 220 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 222 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 224 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 226 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 228 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 230 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 232 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 234 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 236 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 238 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 240 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 242 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 244 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 246 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 248 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 250 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 252 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 254 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 256 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 258 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 260 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 262 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 264 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 266 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 268 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 270 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 272 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 274 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 276 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 278 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 280 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 282 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 284 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 286 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 288 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.

Children from 290 years old can be charged for sexually abusing others. They will be understood that actions in relation to sexual activity may be a crime.



# FOUR CRITICAL ACTIONS FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

## Responding to Incidents, Disclosures and Suspicions of Child Abuse

PROTECT



It is strongly recommended that **ALL** early childhood service staff follow these **Four Critical Actions** as soon as they witness an incident, or form a reasonable belief that a child has, or is at risk of being abused. This means acting even when you're not sure and have not directly witnessed the abuse (e.g. if another person tells you about the abuse). A reasonable belief is a deliberately low threshold. This enables authorities to investigate and take action.

Following these actions will support you to:

- best protect children in your care
- meet your legal obligations and Duty of Care.\*
- It is also strongly recommended that you use the **Responding to Suspected Child Abuse Template** to keep clear and comprehensive notes. MCH services may opt to use this form, but **must** still utilise their existing information management systems.

### 1 RESPONDING TO AN EMERGENCY

If there is no risk of immediate harm, go to **Action 2**.

If the child is at immediate risk of harm you **must** ensure their safety by:

- separating alleged victim and others involved
- administering first aid
- calling **000 for urgent medical and/or police assistance** to respond to immediate health or safety concerns
- identifying a contact person at the service for future liaison with police

Where necessary you may also need to maintain the integrity of the potential crime scene and preserve evidence.

\* In Victoria there are a range of legal obligations which set out the actions you **must** take if you suspect a child has, or is at risk of being abused. Some of these obligations apply differently across the range of licensed, approved and other early child services and can vary depending on your role within the service. For further information on how these obligations apply to you see the **Identifying and Responding to All Forms of Abuse in Early Childhood Services**.

### 2 REPORTING TO AUTHORITIES

As soon as immediate health and safety concerns are addressed you **must** report all incidents, suspicions and disclosures of child abuse as soon as possible. Failure to report physical and sexual child abuse may amount to a criminal offence.

Q: Where does the source of suspected abuse come from?

#### WITHIN THE SERVICE

**VICTORIA POLICE**  
You **must** report all instances of child abuse which are led by a staff member, contractor or volunteer, or child\* to Victoria Police.

**REPORT TO MANAGEMENT**  
You **must** report to your approved provider or licensee.

**NOTIFY THE REGULATOR**  
Licensed or approved early childhood services\* **must also** report to their Quality Assessment and Regulation Division.  
Notifications may be made at [www.ocecpa.gov.au/national-quality-agenda-it-system](http://www.ocecpa.gov.au/national-quality-agenda-it-system) or by contacting **1300 307 415**.

\* Sexual offending, involving children 10 years and over.  
\* Licensed services operate under the Children's Services Act 1996 and approved services operate under Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010.

#### WITHIN THE FAMILY OR COMMUNITY

**DHHS CHILD PROTECTION**  
You **must** report to DHHS Child Protection if a child is considered to be:

- in need of protection from child abuse
- at risk of being harmed (or has been harmed) and the harm has, or is likely to have a serious impact on the child's safety, stability or development.

**VICTORIA POLICE**  
You **must also** report all instances of suspected sexual abuse (including grooming) to Victoria Police.

If you believe that a child is not subject to abuse, but you still hold **significant concerns** for their wellbeing you **must** still act. This may include making a referral or seeking advice from Child FIRST in circumstances where the family are open to receiving support, or to DHHS Child Protection or Victoria Police.

### 3 CONTACTING PARENTS/CARERS

You **must** consult with DHHS Child Protection or Victoria Police to determine what information can be shared with parents/carers. They may advise:

- **not to contact** parents/carers (e.g. in circumstances where the parents are alleged to have engaged in the abuse, or the child is a mature minor and does not wish for their parent/carer to be contacted)
- **to contact** the parents/carers and provide agreed information as soon as possible (for licensed and approved services it is a requirement that parents/carers are notified within 24 hours if the suspected abuse occurred at the service)

### 4 PROVIDING ONGOING SUPPORT

Your service **should** take reasonable steps to make a child feel safe and supported whilst they are attending the service. Your service should also consider providing support for children impacted by abuse. E.g. referral to wellbeing professionals. MCH nurses should follow the MCH Service Practice Guidelines to determine appropriate support.

You **must** follow the **Four Critical Actions** every time you become aware of a further instance or risk of abuse. This includes reporting new information to authorities.

### CONTACT

<p><b>DHHS CHILD PROTECTION AREA</b></p> <p>North Division <b>1300 664 9777</b> South Division <b>1300 665 795</b> East Division <b>1300 360 391</b> West Division (Rural) <b>1800 075 599</b> West Division (Metro) <b>1300 664 9777</b></p> <p><b>AFTER HOURS</b> After hours, weekends, public holidays <b>13 12 78</b></p> <p><b>CHILD FIRST</b> <a href="http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au">www.dhs.vic.gov.au</a></p> <p><b>VICTORIA POLICE</b> <b>000</b> or your local police station</p>	<p><b>QUALITY ASSESSMENT AND REGULATION DIVISION</b></p> <p><b>NORTH WESTERN</b> Loddon Mallee <b>(03) 5440 3111</b> Northern Metropolitan <b>(03) 8397 0372</b></p> <p><b>SOUTH-EASTERN</b> Gippsland Area <b>(03) 5127 0400</b> Southern Metropolitan <b>(03) 8765 5787</b></p> <p><b>NORTH-EASTERN</b> Eastern Metropolitan <b>1300 651 940</b> Hume <b>(03) 8392 9500</b></p> <p><b>SOUTH-WESTERN</b> Barwon South West <b>(03) 5225 1001</b> Western Metropolitan <b>(03) 8397 0246</b> Grampians <b>(03) 5337 8444</b></p>
---	--

# Changes to Child Care Subsidy

From 10 July 2023, there are changes to the way we work out your Child Care Subsidy entitlement. Child care will be cheaper for most families.

For more information go to [servicesaustralia.gov.au/changes-if-you-get-family-payments](https://servicesaustralia.gov.au/changes-if-you-get-family-payments)

