



TITLE

Children and Young People Protection Policy

POLICY

Although the Network is an organisation that is not mandated by law to report issues relating to the protection of children and young people, it has been decided that there is a moral obligation to do so.

The Network will take all reasonable steps to respond to these issues by way of reporting concerns of a serious nature to ACT Child and Youth Protection Services (or equivalent for other jurisdictions).

In line with the ACT Health Child Protection Policy, abuse of a child or young person means:

- (a) physical abuse; or*
- (b) sexual abuse; or*
- (c) emotional abuse (including psychological abuse) if the child or young person has experienced the abuse or is experiencing the abuse in a way that has caused or is causing significant harm to his or her wellbeing or development;*
or
- (d) emotional abuse (including psychological abuse) if –*
 - (i) the child or young person has seen or heard the physical, sexual or psychological abuse of a person with whom the child or young person has a domestic relationship, the exposure to which has caused or is causing significant harm to the wellbeing or development of the child or young person; or*
 - (ii) if the child or young person has been put at risk of seeing or hearing abuse mentioned in subparagraph (i), the exposure to which would cause significant harm to the wellbeing or development of the child or young person.*

Workers are required by moral obligation to report concerns relating to these guidelines to ACT Child Protection Services (or equivalent). Once reported, the work and the Network bear no further responsibility with relation to the follow up of this report.