

Child sexual abuse and exploitation is any act of inappropriately exposing or subjecting a child (under the age of 18) to sexual activity, contact or behaviour by an adult or by another child, for the purpose of gratification (sexual or otherwise).

Sexual abuse can be physical, verbal or emotional in nature. It can include non-contact and contact activities. Examples include kissing, holding or otherwise touching a child in a sexual manner, exposing a sexual body part to a child, having sexual relations with a child under 16 years of age, using sexually explicit language, which is not age or developmentally appropriate when communicating with a child, penetration of the vagina or anus by penis, finger or any other object, oral sex, rape, incest, having a child pose or perform in a sexual manner, forcing a child to watch a sexual act or pornographic material or child prostitution. Sexual abuse may also be suspected based on a child displaying sexualised behaviour which is considered outside the range of age-appropriate sexualised behaviours (The Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs, 2022).

In many States and Territories, it is an offence for any adult not to report sexual offending against a child by another adult to police. This means all adults have the responsibility to report sexual abuse against children.

WHEN TO REPORT CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

- If you have concerns that sexual abuse may be occurring or has previously occurred.
- If sexual behaviour problems/harmful sexual behaviours have been observed or disclosed.
- If you have a suspicion or concerns that a child or adult may be at risk of harm to themselves and/or others.
- A child or vulnerable person has disclosed that they are being or have been previously sexually abused.
- If you have received an allegation of sexual abuse regarding a child or vulnerable person.
- If you believe on reasonable grounds that a child or vulnerable person is in need of protection.
- If an adult discloses or you receive a disclosure that they have previously been a victim of child sexual abuse or exploited. A reasonable excuse not to report a historical disclosure includes if you have received information about the victim who is now an adult, and you reasonably believe they do not want to reveal it to the police and there is no current risk of harm to children.

**ALWAYS PHONE TRIPLE ZERO (000)
IF YOU BELIEVE A CHILD IS IN
IMMEDIATE DANGER OR A LIFE
THREATENING SITUATION.**

WHO TO REPORT TO (STATES AND TERRITORIES)

QLD: Department of Children, Youth Justice & Multicultural Affairs
cyjma.qld.gov.au

Business Hours: Contact the relevant Regional Intake Service found on the above website.

After Hours Service Centre: 1800 177 135

NSW: Department of Communities & Justice

facs.nsw.gov.au/families/Protecting-kids/reporting-child-at-risk

Child Protection Helpline: 132 111

ACT: Child & Youth Protection Services

communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs

Reporting Line: 1300 556 729

VIC: Department of Families, Fairness & Housing

services.dffh.vic.gov.au/families-and-children

After Hours Child Protection Emergency Service: 13 12 78

TAS: Department of Communities Tasmania

communities.tas.gov.au

Advice and Referral Line: 1800 000 123

SA: Department for Child Protection

childprotection.sa.gov.au/reporting-child-abuse

Child Abuse Report Line: 131 478.

WA: Department of Communities, Child Protection & Family Support

wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-communities/child-protection

Central Intake Team: 1800 273 889

NT: Territory Families, Housing & Communities

tfhc.nt.gov.au

Child Protection Reporting Line: 1800 700 250

**NEED SUPPORT OR MORE INFORMATION?
Bravehearts Information and Support Line
FREECALL 1800 272 831 (Mon to Fri 8:30am - 4:30pm AEST)
bravehearts.org.au**