

NSW – REPORTING CHILDREN AT RISK OF ABUSE	
What gets reported?	Any reasonable suspicion of neglect or abuse. If you believe that a child is in need of protection, then you should make a report. You don't have to have proof but you will be asked to explain your suspicions.
Where to make a report	You can make a report about a child or young person at risk of harm to the Department of Community Services (DoCS) Helpline, 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, on 132 111.
Who is required to report?	<p><b>Anyone</b> (regardless of whether they are mandatory reporters required to do so by law) who suspects, on reasonable grounds, that a child or young person is at risk of being neglected or physically, sexually or emotionally abused, <u>should</u> report it to DoCS on 132 111.</p> <p>If you believe a child is in immediate danger or in a life-threatening situation, contact the NSW Police immediately by dialling <b>000</b>.</p> <p>In NSW individuals working within sporting or recreation organisations are <b>not</b> mandatory reporters (required by law to report suspicions of a child at risk of harm).</p> <p>However, individuals working within sporting and recreation organisations, may be a mandatory reporters due to another employment position they hold (e.g. a teacher who is a volunteer coach). For more information about mandatory reporting go to the DoCS website.</p>
Where can I get further information or resources?	<p><a href="#">NSW Department of Community Services</a></p> <p><a href="#">Australian Sports Commission</a></p>

## CHILD SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

There are currently no legislative requirements within NSW relating to child-safe environments other than conducting the [Working With Children Checks](#) if you provide child-related employment. Introducing child safe measures will help your organisation manage risks and keep children safe. Child safe strategies include:

- **Understanding** the different types of child abuse.
- **Identifying** potential risks and dangers to children (e.g. going away on camps) and managing those risks.
- **Developing** guidelines and processes that clearly outline how to respond to child protection issues.
- **Choosing** your staff with care.
  - State your commitment to a child safe environment when advertising vacant positions.
  - Seek criminal history checks for employees/volunteers working with children.
  - Conduct referee checks (particularly with previous child-related employers, if possible).
- **Nominating** a child protection officer or Member Protection Information Officer who people can trust and go to with concerns.
- **Ensuring** that all staff (paid and volunteers) understand their mandatory/ethical reporting obligations for suspected child abuse.
- **Ensuring** staff have a clear understanding of acceptable/ unacceptable behaviour and know who to contact to about concerns they may have.
- **Talking** openly about the importance of ensuring the safety of children within your organisation.

[Click here to download the above information](#)

### NSW – CHILD SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

Child Safe Environment strategies are put in place to prevent and minimise opportunities for child abuse within your organisation including preventing offenders from gaining access to your organisation. Child safe environments include ensuring your staff and volunteers understand their child protection obligations and that staff and volunteers know who to go to should they have suspicions a child may be at risk of harm.

Organisations working to create child safe environments and strengthen their environment are committed to and understand the importance of children’s safety.

Who is required under to implement child-safe environments?

There are currently no legislative requirements within NSW relating to child-safe environments other than conducting the [Working With Children Check](#) if you provide child-related

	<p>employment Introducing child safe measures will help your organisation manage risks and keep children safe.</p>
<p>What does establishing a child-safe environment involve?</p>	<p>Basically it requires putting strategies in place to prevent offenders from gaining access to your organisation and reducing opportunities for abuse.</p> <p>These strategies include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Understanding</b> the different types of child abuse.</li> <li>▪ <b>Identifying</b> potential risks and dangers to children (e.g. going away on camps) and managing those risks.</li> <li>▪ <b>Developing</b> guidelines and processes that clearly outline how to respond to child protection issues.</li> <li>▪ <b>Choosing</b> your staff with care. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- State your commitment to a child safe environment when advertising vacant positions.</li> <li>- Seek criminal history checks for employees/volunteers working with children.</li> <li>- Conduct referee checks (particularly with previous child-related employers, if possible).</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>Nominating</b> a child protection officer or Member Protection Information Officer who people can trust and go to with concerns.</li> <li>▪ <b>Ensuring</b> that all staff (paid and volunteers) understand their mandatory/ethical reporting obligations for suspected child abuse.</li> <li>▪ <b>Ensuring</b> staff have a clear understanding of acceptable/unacceptable behaviour and know who to contact to about concerns they may have.</li> <li>• <b>Talking</b> openly about the importance of ensuring the safety of children within your organisation.</li> </ul>
<p>Where can I get further information or resources?</p>	<p><a href="#">NSW Commission for Children and Young People</a>  <a href="#">NSW Sport and Recreation</a>  <a href="#">Australian Sports Commission</a>  <a href="#">Child Wise – "Choosing with Care" 12 Steps to a Child Safe Organisation</a></p>