

Title: Child Abuse – Reporting
Policy No: 49
Responsibility: Director Community Services

Version	Decision Number	Decision Date	History
1	17\1228	25/02/97	Adopted
2	19\4604	12/06/07	Reviewed
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Any staff suspecting a case of child abuse, whether it be physical, emotional, neglect or sexual abuse, is required, by the Community Welfare Act 1983 to report all the facts to the Child and Family Protective Services Office, at Territory Health Services

If a staff member, at either of the activities observes behaviour or injuries such as unusual or long term bruises, welts or suspicious skin damage the following procedure will require to be followed -

PROCEDURE

Where a child makes an allegation, then the allegation must be taken seriously. The staff member should make discreet inquires to assess the situation. If staff are unsure of evidence check with other staff to see if they have also noticed anything unusual.

The staff member must report to either the Council's Children and Community Projects Officer or Recreation Officer and may need to provide written observations or a record of any incidents or comments made by the child to support the allegation.

If the appropriate Council Officer believes that there are reasonable grounds for believing that a case of child abuse exists, then a report must be made to the Child and Family Protective Services Office immediately.

Once a report has been made, Child and Family Protective Services has the statutory responsibility to determine if the matter is required to be investigated further, and will take the necessary action to protect the child.