

## **Guideline for Reporting Child Abuse in Western Australia**

### **Legislation**

#### **Who is required to report abuse?**

In Western Australia, mandatory reporting requirements do not apply to everyone.

It is a legal requirement in Western Australia for doctors, nurses, midwives, teachers and police officers to report all reasonable beliefs of **child sexual abuse** to the Department for Child Protection.

However, **anyone** who has reasonable grounds for suspecting a child or young person is at risk of being neglected or physically, sexually or emotionally abused, should also report their concerns to the Department for Child Protection.

You should contact the Department for Child Protection immediately if you have a suspicion of neglect or abuse. **You don't have to have proof.**

If you believe a child or young person is in need of **immediate assistance** contact the Western Australia Police on **131 444** or **000** for life threatening emergencies.

#### **When should you report?**

When a mandatory reporter forms a belief, on reasonable grounds, that child sexual abuse has occurred or is occurring; they must make a report to the Department for Child Protection's [Mandatory Reporting Service](#).

A verbal report can be made, but must be followed by a written report (within 24hrs).

The earlier a report is received, the faster action can be taken to protect a child, where this is necessary.

#### **What do I need to do to make a report?**

If you are a mandatory reporter, go to the Department for Child Protection [mandatory reporting website](#) or phone **1800 708 704**.

If you are not a mandatory reporter but you have concerns or suspicions about a child's well being, contact the [Department for Child Protection](#). This website has the phone numbers for the local offices. Notify and provide written detail (within 24hrs) of your concerns to the Event Organiser(s) who should then inform the HEWA Coordinator.