

Child Protection Policy Direction

Purpose

To ensure Anglicare Southern Queensland (Anglicare) meets the obligations and standards of care in a professional, prompt and sensitive manner where children and young people are at risk of child protection or wellbeing concerns or where child protection or wellbeing concerns are observed or disclosed.

Direction

Employees will maintain transparent relationships informing parents, guardians and where appropriate, children and young people of the organisations mandatory responsibilities regarding child protection at the commencement of service delivery.

Anglicare will support, communicate and sensitively engage actions on behalf of all persons affected by child protection or wellbeing concerns.

Anglicare ensures the responsibility of reporting child protection or wellbeing concerns is clearly defined and there are clear lines of accountability for reporting requirements within Anglicare.

All employees are accountable for the delivery of safe high-quality care and for working in accordance with the Child Protection Act 1999 (Qld) and the Criminal Code Act 1899 (Qld). Anglicare is committed to the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations contained in the Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy Position.

Requirements

Relationship management

Where appropriate and safe to do so, Anglicare will inform parents/caregivers, families and guardians of circumstances which pose a risk to the health, safety or wellbeing of children, including proposed action and supports available to them.

Anglicare will respect the rights of children and young people, providing them with opportunities to express views and engage in decision making processes. Employees will inform children and young people of the supports and options available and the outcomes of decisions.

Sharing information

In line with provisions and requirements of the Child Protection Act, The Privacy Act, and the Criminal Code Act, Anglicare will access and share accurate, relevant information to support risk assessment, decision making and to identify and deliver appropriate services.

Anglicare employees will inform parents/caregivers, guardians, children and young people of the limitations of confidentiality due to legal obligations to maintain the safety of children and the community.

Responding to children and young people

Employees will consult with external health providers and where appropriate, family and community members to understand the wider social and cultural context of individuals to determine the most appropriate course of action in the delivery of service.

Anglicare will provide culturally appropriate service responses to support families, children and young people with diverse needs.

Prevention and early intervention

Anglicare will apply integrated and multidisciplinary prevention and intervention strategies to support the needs of children and young people.

Where wellbeing concerns are identified or disclosed, evidence-based practice and continuous improvements strategies will be implemented to minimise the risk of significant harm.

Employees must be aware of their individual responsibilities regarding wellbeing concerns and must respond in accordance with legislation, roles and responsibilities and policy and procedure.

Reporting significant harm and/or risks of significant harm

Employees must be aware of their individual responsibilities concerning reporting significant harm and/or risks of significant harm.

Where significant harm and/or risks of significant harm are identified or disclosed, employees must respond in accordance with Criminal Code Act, roles and responsibilities and policy and procedure.

Mandatory reporters will undertake reporting processes in line with the **Child Protection Act** and the **Criminal Code Act**.

Definitions

Term	Definition
Child protection	Refers to concerns that reach the threshold for a report of risk of significant harm.
Mandatory reporters	<p>The Act requires certain professionals referred to as ‘mandatory reporters’ who undertake paid work in the delivery of services to children and young people including health care, welfare, education, children and residential services to report child protection concerns to Child Protection services.</p> <p>Mandatory reporters include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teachers • Doctors • Registered nurses • Police officers with child protection responsibilities • A person performing a child advocate function under the Public Guardian Act 2014 • Early childhood education and care professionals • Child Safety employees and employees of licensed care services • Foster and kinship carers.
Risk of significant harm	<p>Relates to the following harm circumstances:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neglect • Physical abuse • Sexual abuse or exploitation • Emotional abuse • Serious physical or psychological harm resulting from exposure to domestic violence • Serious psychological harm • Foster and kinship carers.
Wellbeing concerns	Are below the risk of significant harm threshold however still have a harmful impact on children and may escalate to create a risk of significant harm.

Related documents

Term	Definition
Legislation/standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection Act 1999 (Qld) • Criminal Code Act 1899 (Qld) • Public Guardian Act 2014 (Qld) • Public Health Act 2005 (Qld) • Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 (Qld) • Youth Justice Act 1992 (Qld)
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charter of Rights for Children in Care • Standards of Care: Statement of Standards • National Principles for Child Safe Organisations