



Outside School Care NT

**OSC-NT PS. 6 – Child Protection Policy**

<b>Policy Description</b>	This Policy statement outlines how OSC NT will ensure Nomintaed Supervisors and Staff members are aware of the current Child Protection Policy
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<b>Key Points</b>	<p>Under Regulation 84 <b>Awareness of child protection law</b></p> <p>The approved provider of an education and care service must ensure that the <b>nominated supervisor</b> and <b>staff members</b> at the service who work with children are advised of—</p> <p>(a) the existence and application of the current child protection law; and</p> <p>(b) any obligations that they may have under that law.</p>
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<b>1.0 Overview</b>	<p><i>In the Northern Territory, <b>any person</b> who believes that a child is being, or has been, abused or neglected <u>is required by law to report their concerns</u>. This includes <b>paid employees</b> and volunteers who are involved with the children.</i></p> <p><i>Reports should be made to the 24 hour Centralised Intake Service by using the free-call phone number 1800 700 250. This must be logged to <u>QCENT Immediately</u>.</i></p> <p><i>Remember, you do not need to prove abuse or neglect, you need only report your concerns. <b>The Care and Protection of Children Act</b> provides legal protection against civil or criminal liability for people who make reports in good faith.</i></p> <p><i>The Act also makes it clear that making a report does not breach any requirements of confidentiality or professional ethics.</i></p> <p><i>Every year Northern Territory Families and Children's Child Protection Branch takes over 3000 phone calls from people who are concerned about the care that a child is receiving.</i></p> <p><i>All of these calls are subject to a thorough assessment process. About 1400 of these calls lead to further investigation of the child's circumstances and about half of those investigations confirm that the child concerned has been abused or neglected.</i></p> <p><i>In most cases where abuse or neglect has been confirmed ('substantiated') the child's family will be offered services to help them to improve the way they are caring for their child. In a minority of cases it may be found that a child's parents are unable or unwilling to protect their child from harm and alternative arrangements will need to be made for the care of that child.</i></p> <p>Source: <a href="http://www.childrenandfamilies.nt.gov.au/Child_Protection/">http://www.childrenandfamilies.nt.gov.au/Child_Protection/</a></p>
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<b>2.0 Information sharing</b>	<p>OSC NT will share the following information.</p> <p>The laws in the Information Act do not obstruct information sharing for child safety and wellbeing under the Care and Protection of Children Act.</p> <p>GOOD FAITH PROTECTION The new legislation brings “good faith” protection. A person acting in good faith in:</p> <p>giving information is not civilly or criminally liable, or;</p> <p>in breach of any professional code of conduct.</p> <p>WHAT ARE INFORMATION SHARING AUTHORITIES? The name in the legislation for</p>
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	<p>those who are authorised to share</p> <p>information relating to child safety or wellbeing is “information sharing authorities”. They are also commonly referred to as Authorised Information Sharers.</p> <p>Generally, the person who does the sharing will be authorised because of the job she/he holds or because they are a member of a certain profession.</p> <p>WHO ARE THE INFORMATION SHARING AUTHORITIES?</p> <p>There are many information sharing authorities, including:</p> <p>QCENT</p> <p>Registered foster carers</p> <p>Service providers that receive government funding to provide a service for children or young people</p> <p>School principals and teachers</p> <p>Registered child care services</p> <p>Doctors, nurses, allied health workers and other health professionals</p> <p>Hospitals</p> <p>Police officers</p> <p>Lawyers</p> <p>Public service frontline staff who provide a service for children.</p> <p>WHAT INFORMATION MAY I SHARE?</p> <p>Any information relevant to the safety or wellbeing of a child or young person may be shared.</p>
<p><b>Related Policy and Procedures, Forms and Checklists:</b></p>	<p>Mandatory Reporting Information booklet</p>
<p><b>Specific Information for Parents:</b></p>	
<p>Sources/References:</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="http://www.childrenandfamilies.nt.gov.au/Child_Protection/">http://www.childrenandfamilies.nt.gov.au/Child_Protection/</a></li> <li>2. <a href="http://childrenandfamilies.nt.gov.au/Child_Protection/InformationSharing/Resources/index.aspx">http://childrenandfamilies.nt.gov.au/Child_Protection/InformationSharing/Resources/index.aspx</a></li> <li>3. Education and Care National Amendment Regulations 2017, regulations: 84, 167</li> <li>4. National Quality Standards</li> <li>5. National Education and Care Services Law 2010</li> <li>6. National Quality Framework. <a href="http://www.acecqa.gov.au">www.acecqa.gov.au</a></li> <li>7. National Quality Standards February 2018, standards: 2.3, 2.3.2, 2.3.4</li> </ol>
<p>Version Control/Updates:</p>	<p>Version: 2.0 December 2013</p> <p>To be reviewed and updated by: June 2014</p> <p>Version: 3.0 September 2017</p> <p>To be reviewed and updated by: September 2018</p>

