

Responsibilities Under Child Protection Legislation

The Disability Trust is committed to providing children and young people with an environment that is free from all forms of harm and abuse. We are deeply committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children and young people accessing our services.

Mandatory reporting legislation requires specific people or professionals to report concerns of child abuse to child protection agencies.

All staff of The Disability Trust have an obligation to adhere to the requirements for Mandatory Reporting. This means that it is mandatory for any staff who believe a child is at risk of harm from abuse to notify their supervisor immediately. If a child is believed to be at risk of significant harm, we must ensure that a report has been made to the Community Services Helpline. Other agencies such as the Ombudsman, Police and FaCS may also need to be contacted. The Legislation requires staff to report suspected abuse regardless of proof and staff can make a report without client or family consent.

Harm is defined to include exposure to domestic and family violence, along with other forms of abuse or neglect.

In NSW and ACT the key pieces of Child Protection Legislation are:

- Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998
- Ombudsman Act 1974 [Part 3A].
- Children and Young People Act 2008 (ACT)

If a child is believed to be at risk of significant harm, the head of agency must ensure that a report has been made to the Community Services Helpline. Other agencies such as the Ombudsman, Police and FaCS may also need to be contacted.

Providing Support

When any client of The Disability Trust makes an allegation of abuse our staff will ensure that they are supported. The Trust will make referrals to external supports such as counselling or advocacy as appropriate.

The Disability Trust has comprehensive procedures in place for ensuring that investigations are conducted fairly and without bias. We will ensure that people feel safe when making an allegation of abuse, and do not fear intimidation, negative repercussions or retribution from anybody within the organisation.

More information can be found www.keepthemsafe.nsw.gov.au