

# Child Protection Policy



<b>Policy Relevant to:</b>	All educators and Team members
<b>Last Reviewed:</b>	June 2023
<b>Next Review:</b>	September 2025
<b>NQF</b>	84, 86, 87, 147, 155, 168, 175, 176, S162(A), S165, S167
<b>NQS</b>	2.2; 2.2.1; 2.2.2; 2.2.3
<b>National Law:</b>	167 <a href="#">Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997</a> <a href="#">Tasmanian Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013</a> <a href="#">Family Violence Act 2004</a> <a href="#">Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023</a>

## Rationale

Adventure Patch is committed to providing a child safe environment where children's safety and wellbeing is supported and children feel respected, valued and encouraged to reach their full potential.

Adventure Patch will embed the *Child and Youth Safe Standards* to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people; prevent abuse and harm to children and young people; respect and uphold the rights of children and young people and embed strategies in our day-to-day practice. We commit to the Universal Principle for Aboriginal Cultural Safety.

We will ensure all employees and volunteers understand the meaning, importance and benefits of providing a child safe environment and critically, understand their obligations and requirements as Mandatory Reporters.

Adventure Patch believes that:

- Children are capable of the same range of emotions as adults.
- Children's emotions are real and need to be accepted by adults.
- A reaction given to a child from an adult in a child's early stages of emotional development can be positive or detrimental depending on the adult's behaviour.
- Children, who preserve, enhance and better understand their body's response to an emotion is more able to protect the outcome from a situation and evade them or ask for help.

All children have the right to be emotionally and physically safe at all times. What happens to children when they are young may affect their whole lives.

## Purpose

All educators, co-ordinators, team members and students are committed to identifying possible risk and significant risk of harm to children and young people at Adventure Patch services. Adventure Patch understands its duty of care responsibilities to protect children from all types of abuse and adhere to its legislative obligations at all times.

We aim to implement effective strategies to assist in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all children. AP will act in the best interest of the child, assisting them to develop to their full potential in a secure and caring environment.

This policy applies to children, families, team members, educators, management and visitors to services.

Regulation 84 requires that the approved provider must ensure the nominated supervisors and team members at a service who work with children are advised of the existence and application of the current child protection law in the relevant jurisdiction and any obligations they may have under law.

There are a range of ways in which an Approved Provider may demonstrate they meet this requirement and it may include a training program, if the delivery and assessment is contextualised to included Tasmanian Child Protection requirements under the [Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 2013](#).

It is the expectation of Adventure Patch educators and team members that they have undertaken training in child protection. Educators will undertake this training as part of their formal training.

### **What is Abuse?**

Child abuse is any action towards a child or young person that harms or puts at risk their physical, psychological or emotional health or development. Child abuse can be a single incident or can be a number of different incidents that take place over time.

Type of child abuse:

1. Physical Abuse
2. Sexual Abuse
3. Emotional Abuse
4. Neglect
5. Psychological
6. Domestic violence

### **Indicators of abuse**

There are common physical and behavioural signs that may indicate abuse or neglect. The presence of one these signs does not necessarily mean abuse or neglect. Behavioural or physical signs assist in recognising harm to children are known indicators. The following is a guide only. One indicator on its own may not imply abuse or neglect. However, a single indicator can be as important as the presence of several indicators.

Each indicator needs to be deliberated in the perspective of other indicators and the child's circumstances. A child's behaviour is likely to be affected if he/she is under stress. There can be many causes of stress and it is important to find out specifically what is causing the stress. Abuse and neglect can be single incidents or ongoing and may be intentional or unintentional.

General indicators of abuse and neglect may include:

- Marked delay between injury and seeking medical assistance.
- History of injury.
- The child gives some indication that the injury did not occur as stated.
- The child tells you someone has hurt him/her.
- The child tells you about someone he/she knows who has been hurt.
- Someone (relative, friend, acquaintance, sibling) tells you that the child may have been abused.



## Mandatory reporting

Mandatory reporting is the legislative requirement for selected classes of people to report suspected child abuse and neglect to government authorities. In Tasmania (TAS), mandatory reporting is regulated by the *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997*.

**Mandatory reporters** in Tasmania include:

- a person registered under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Tasmania) in the psychology profession
- a principal and a teacher in any educational institution (including a kindergarten)
- a person who provides childcare, or a childcare service, for fee or reward
- a person concerned in the management of an approved education and care service, within the meaning of the Education and Care Services National Law (Tasmania), or a childcare service licensed under the Child Care Act 2001
- any other person who is employed or engaged as an employee for, of or in, or who is a volunteer in –
- a Government Agency that provides health, welfare, education, childcare or residential services wholly or partly for children
- an organisation that receives any funding from the Crown for the provision of such services.

## Reporting

Adventure Patch educators or persons involved in our organisation are legally mandated to report any knowledge, beliefs or suspicions that a child has suffered or is at risk of abuse and neglect to: Child Safety Services – Strong Families Safe Kids Advice & Referral Line – 1800 000 123

[www.strongfamiliesafekids.tas.gov.au](http://www.strongfamiliesafekids.tas.gov.au)

The requirement to notify, overrides any confidentiality requirements that may otherwise govern an educator's behaviour in this regard.

In Tasmania the safety of children and young people is covered by *Children, Young Persons and the Families Act 1997*, amended in December 2013.

## Related Policies

<p>Child Protection Policy Code of Conduct Policy Interaction with Children Policy Recruitment Policy</p>	<p>Staffing Arrangements Policy Supervision Policy Privacy and Confidentiality Policy Work Health and Safety Policy</p>
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## Resources for indicators of Abuse or Neglect

Australian Government Child Family Community Australia What is Child Abuse?

<https://aifs.gov.au/cfca/publications/what-child-abuse-and-neglect>



NAPCAN- <https://www.napcan.org.au/napcan-brochures/>

CHILD SAFE ORGANISATIONS- <https://childsafe.humanrights.gov.au>

[Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework- Tasmania](#)

[Child Safety Service Tasmania](#)

### Source

Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority. (2014).

Australian Government Department of Education. [Belonging, Being and Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia.V2.0, 2022](#)

Australian Government Australian Institute of Family Studies. (2018). [Australian child protection legislation](#)

Australian Government: Australian Institute of Family Studies. (2017). [Mandatory reporting of child abuse and neglect Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1997](#)

[Department for Education, Children and Young People](#)

Department of Justice. (2023). [Introducing Tasmania’s Child and Youth Safe Organisation Framework.](#)

Early Childhood Australia Code of Ethics. (2016).

Education and Care Services National Law Act 2010. (Amended 2023).

[Education and Care Services National Regulations.](#) (Amended 2023).

[Freedom of Information Act 1991](#)

Guide to the National Quality Framework. (2017). (Amended 2023).

Revised National Quality Standard. (2018).


Service Tasmania. [Work with Vulnerable People.](#)

[Tasmanian Registration to Work with Vulnerable People Act 2013](#)

### Review History

Policy Reviewed By:	Service Managers	Executive Team	June 2023
POLICY REVIEWED	June 2023	NEXT REVIEW DATE	September 2025
Modifications	Additional amendments – October 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• additional information added re: Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework</li> <li>• Policy maintenance - no major changes to policy</li> <li>• Checked and updated hyperlinks</li> <li>• Added source list.</li> <li>• Added related policies</li> </ul>		
POLICY REVIEWED	PREVIOUS MODIFICATIONS		NEXT REVIEW DATE

### Signed

CEO:	
Manager:	S. Norris

