

# Guidelines For Responding

The flowchart below provides some guidelines for Clubs and Associations about how to respond to a disclosure or suspicion of child abuse

## CHILD DISCLOSES AN INCIDENT OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT.

### DO

- Listen, stay calm and be positive
- Find a quiet place to talk with the child
- Let the child use their own words to tell you what happened in their own time
- Reassure them that this is not their fault and that telling is the right thing to do
- Believe them
- Promptly and accurately record the discussion in writing.
- Be truthful; explain that other people may need to be told in order to stop what is happening.

Let the child know what you will do next. For example: the information will need to be shared and you will need to seek professional input.

See **Guidelines for Reporting** for the next steps.

### DO NOT

- Seek detailed information, ask leading questions or offer an opinion
- Make promises that you cannot keep
- Challenge or undermine the child
- Confront the alleged offender

Do not discuss the details with any person other than those detailed in **Guidelines for Reporting**.

### REMEMBER

It is not easy to be confronted with this situation, so remind yourself that you are not the expert. You may need to make a phone call to ask the question about what to do next.

#### For non life-threatening incidents contact:

**Department for Child Protection and Family Support:**  
**Business hours:** 08 9222 2555 / 1800 622 258

**After hours / Crisis Care:** 08 9223 1111 / 1800 199 008

**WA Police:** 131 444

#### For self-care:

**Lifeline 24/7 Crisis Support:** 13 11 14

**Crisis Care (Family Helpline):** 08 9223 1111 (metro) or 1800 199 008 (country)

**Kids Helpline:** 1800 551 800

# Guidelines For Reporting



## CHILD REPORTS, YOU OBSERVE OR SUSPECT AN INCIDENT OF CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT.



If you suspect a child is in immediate danger or for emergencies contact WA Police on 000



Report to the Department for Child Protection and Family Support or the WA Police as soon as possible.



Report to the appropriate person at the club who documents details of the incident ensuring State Sporting Association procedures are followed.  
If unsure contact NWA Member Protection Information Officer.



Appropriate Person to Notify Netball WA CEO



The Department for Child Protection and Family Support or the WA police will give advice on the next steps.

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