

ATTACHMENT 4: RESPONDING TO SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE: TEMPLATE FOR ALL VICTORIAN EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES

This template has been adapted from the Department of Education and Training; Responding to Suspected Child abuse: Template for all Victorian Early Childhood Services

Under the National Quality Framework, the approved provider of an education and care service must ensure that an incident, injury, trauma and illness record is kept (*Regulation 87*). This template aligns with this requirement and it is strongly recommended that all early childhood service staff utilise this template for incidents, disclosures and suspicions of child abuse.

Completing this template should not impact on reporting times. If a child is in immediate danger staff should immediately contact Victoria Police on 000.

When completing this template, the aim should be to provide as much factual information as possible. This information will be critical and may be sought at a later date if the matter is the subject of Court proceedings.

Staff member leading the response

Name:

Occupation:

Service address:

Relationship to the child:

CRITICAL ACTION 1: IMMEDIATE RESPONSE TO AN INCIDENT

Responding to an emergency

Did the child require first aid? If YES, provide Details?

Who administered First aid? (Name and Title)

Did the child require further immediate medical assistance?

Current location and safety status: e.g. are all impacted children safe and not in any immediate danger? If a child is in immediate danger staff should report immediately to Victoria police on 000

INFORMATION OF THE ALLEGED VICTIM

Child's personal details

Name:

Gender:

Relationship to service: (eg 2 days, 3 year old kinder)

Date of Birth:

Residential Address:

Parent/Carer Name:

Parent/Carer contact number:

Language(s) spoken by child:

Disabilities, mental or physical health issues:

Child's background

Cultural status and religious background:

Previous history or indicators of suspected abuse:
Family background
Family composition (if know): <i>List parenting or carer arrangements and siblings' names and ages</i>
Any other people living with their child (if known):

Family background
Disability, mental or physical health issues in family (if known):
Likely reaction to report being made (if known):

DETAILS OF THE INCIDENT DISCLOSURE OF SUSPICION

Grounds for your belief that a child has been or is at risk of abuse
Indicators or instances which led you to believe that a child/children are subject to child abuse or at risk of abuse: <i>Detail any disclosures or incidents or suspicion including names times and dates documenting a child's exact words as far as possible include specific detail here on what led you to form a reasonable belief that a child has been or is in risk of being abused</i>
Any physical indicators of abuse:
Any behavioural indicators of abuse:
Any pattern of behaviour or prior concern leading up to an incident, disclosure or suspicion:

Details of person alleged to have committed they abuse if known	
Name:	
Gender:	Date of birth (if known):
Relationship to child:	
Address:	
Contact details:	

CRITICAL ACTION 2: REPORTING

Reporting to authorities	
Tick the authority you have reported to: <input type="checkbox"/> Victoria police <input type="checkbox"/> Child first <input type="checkbox"/> DFFH child protection <input type="checkbox"/> Decision not to report If you have decided not to report list your reasons here also include any follow up actions undertaken by you below:	
Provide your report:	
Date:	Time:
Authority:	
Name of the person spoken to:	
Outcomes from the report:	

Reporting internally

Provide details of your discussion with approved provider

Time:	Date:
Name:	
Discussion outcomes:	
Notification to the regulator: All approved providers must notify the quality assessment and regulatory division if there is an incident at the service and/or the health safety or wellbeing of a child has been compromised while attending the service.	
Time:	Date:
Names:	
Discussion outcomes:	

CRITICAL ACTION 3: CONTACTING PARENTS/CARERS

Actions taken (alleged victim)

Provide details of your discussion with parents/cares (if appropriate): You must consult with Victoria police and/or DFFH child protection to determine if it is deemed appropriate, parents must be contacted as soon as possible (within 24 hours of the incident, disclosure or suspicion)

Have you sought advice from DFFH child protection or Victoria police? yes no

Is it appropriate to contact parent/carer: yes no

List reasons if it is not appropriate to contact parent/carer:

If contacting parent/carer, provide the following details:

Name of staff member making the call:
Name of parent/carer receiving the call:
Discussion outcomes:

CRITICAL ACTION 4: PROVIDING ONGOING SUPPORT

Planned actions: Include details on what follow-up actions have occurred to support that child for example referral to specialised services:

Follow up actions:
Support:
Referrals:

PROCESS OF REVIEW

Complete this section between four to six weeks after an incident, suspicion or disclosure of abuse in conjunction with the approved provider. This will support you and your service to continue to protect children in your care and to reflect on your process and then need for any follow up action.

Safety and wellbeing

Current safety and wellbeing of the child

Is the child safe from abuse and harm? yes no

If not consider the need to make a further report

Does a child have any wellbeing issues that are not currently being addressed? yes no

If so, consider how these can be addressed and captured within a child support plan

Current wellbeing of other children who may be impacted by the abuser

Are there any other children who may be impacted by the abuser? yes no

If so, have their wellbeing needs been met? yes no

Current wellbeing of impact staff members

Does the staff member who made the report/witnessed the incident, formed a suspicion or received a disclosure require any support? yes no
If so, has this been received? yes no

Review of actions taken

Have the staff followed the four critical actions for early childhood services: responding to incidents disclosure for suspicion of child abuse?

Was an appropriate decision made in relation to when to act?

yes no

Could the suspected abuse have been detected earlier?

yes no

Action 1

Did the stop take appropriate actions in an emergency?

yes no

Action 2

Was a report made to the appropriate authorities and internally?

yes no

Were subsequent reports made if necessary?

yes no

Action 3

Did the service contact the parent carers as soon as possible?

yes no

Have the parents continued to engage if appropriate?

yes no

Action 4

Has the service provided adequate ongoing support for the child?

yes no

Have any complaints been received?

yes no

Have the complaints been resolved?

yes no