

Child Protection Roles and Responsibilities - Interagency

Document Number PD2006_104

Publication date 29-Nov-2006

Functional Sub group Clinical/ Patient Services - Baby and child
Clinical/ Patient Services - Incident management

Summary The NSW Interagency Guidelines for Child Protection Intervention 2006 outlines NSW Health's and other government agencies' roles and responsibilities in relation to the safety, health and wellbeing of children and young people and provides practical information to assist workers to identify and respond to children and young people at risk of harm. This includes how to identify child abuse, neglect, domestic violence, sexual abuse, physical abuse and psychological harm; and when and how to make a report to the DoCS Helpline, to provide services to children and young people and to provide information to the Department of Community Services as required under the Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998.

Author Branch Primary Health and Community Partnerships

Branch contact Jessamin Clissold 9391 9662

Applies to Area Health Services/Chief Executive Governed Statutory Health Corporation, Board Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Affiliated Health Organisations - Non Declared, Affiliated Health Organisations - Declared, Community Health Centres, Dental Schools and Clinics, Divisions of General Practice, Government Medical Officers, NSW Ambulance Service, Private Hospitals and Day Procedure Centres, Public Hospitals

Audience All staff

Distributed to Public Health System, Community Health Centres, Dental Schools and Clinics, Divisions of General Practice, Environmental Health Officers of Local Councils, Government Medical Officers, Health Associations Unions, Health Professional Associations and Related Organisations, NSW Ambulance Service, NSW Department of Health, Public Health Units, Public Hospitals, Private Hospitals and Day Procedure Centres, Private Nursing Homes, Tertiary Education Institutes

Review date 29-Nov-2011

Director-General File No.

Status Active

Compliance with this policy directive is mandatory.

NSW HEALTH'S INTERAGENCY CHILD PROTECTION ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The *NSW Interagency Guidelines for Child Protection Interventions 2006* (IAG 2006) is an important document for NSW Health employees. Health workers are strategically placed to identify children and young people who are at risk of harm and to enable effective child protection responses through the exchange of information with the Department of Community Services (DoCS).

NSW Health workers are mandatory reporters of risk of harm to children and young people under *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998*. All health workers who come into contact with children and young people who have experienced abuse and/or neglect, or who are at risk, must make a report to the DoCS Helpline.

Area Health Services and other public health organisations are prescribed bodies under the *Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998* and are required to respond to requests from DoCS for information relating to the safety, welfare and wellbeing of a particular child or young person or a class of children or young persons.

The IAG 2006 outlines NSW Health's and other government agencies' roles and responsibilities in relation to the safety, health and wellbeing of children and young people and provides practical information to assist workers to identify and respond to children and young people at risk of harm. This includes information about:

- how to identify child abuse, neglect, domestic violence, sexual abuse, physical abuse and psychological harm
- when and how to make a report to DoCS Helpline, and
- important contacts including web addresses.

The IAG 2006 can be found at:

http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/pubs/2006/iag_childprotection.html

Other important references relating to NSW Health's child protection roles and responsibilities can be found in:

- PD2005_299 Protecting Children and Young People
- PD2006_084 Identifying and Responding to Domestic Violence
- PD2005_593 NSW Health Privacy Manual (Version2)
- Frontline Procedures for the Protection of Children and Young People (2000).

Robyn Kruk
Director-General