

Care and Protection of Children and Young People

Overview

This policy explains how we will work with families where there are concerns about the safety and protection of children or young people.

Scope

This policy applies to all tenancies managed by Muslim Care

Definitions

Child

A child is a person under 16 years of age.

Mandatory reporters

Mandatory reporters are people who are required by law to report to Family and Community Services if they suspect that a child or young person is at risk of significant harm.

Risk of significant harm

A child or young person is 'at risk of significant harm' if there are current concerns for their safety, welfare or well-being because of any of the following:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Psychological abuse
- Neglect
- Exposure to domestic violence
- Substance abuse by their parents/carers
- Concerns for the mental health of their parents/carers

Young person

A young person is a person who is between 16 and 18 years of age.

Guiding principles

We will:

- Make sure that their safety, welfare and well-being of children and young people are protected.
- Refer families and individuals that need help to agencies or services that can support them.
- Protect children and young people suspected to be at risk of significant harm by:
 - Looking for signs of abuse and neglect
 - Reporting suspected cases of significant harm as required by law
 - Giving appropriate and secure housing to children, young people and their families.

We support the principles of the 'Keep them Safe' approach to child protection.

Rights and responsibilities

Children and young people

Children and young people have the right to:

- Be safe
- Be respected and listened to
- Be helped as needed
- Be referred to other people who can help them if needed.

Our role

As a community housing provider, we are prescribed body under relevant laws.

As a prescribed body, we working partnership with government and non-government agencies such as the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS), NSW Health and the Police to promote a safe and nurturing environment for children and young persons.

We will make sure that:

- Our employees who work with customers attend training and regular updates about mandatory reporting and are aware of their role and responsibilities as a mandatory reporter.
- Our employees can refer people to agencies or services that can help families and young people.
- We have systems and procedures to help our employees to make reports, and to help children and young people who are at risk of significant harm.
- We exchange information about the safety, welfare and well-being of a child or young person with other prescribed bodies as required and permitted by law.

Relevant laws, regulations and standards

- Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998 (NSW)
- Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)
- NSW Government: Keep Them Safe

Policy Information

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