



TITLE

Child and Young People Protection Policy

POLICY:

Although ACT Mental Health Consumer Network (The Network) is an organisation that is not mandated by law to report issues relating to the protection of children and young people, it believes that there is a moral obligation to do so.

The Network believes that it should take all reasonable steps to respond to these issues by way of reporting concerns of a serious nature to the Child Protection Services.

In line with the ACT Health Child Protection Policy accessed at <http://health.act.gov.au/c/health?a=dlpol&policy=1191302137>, the abuse, neglect or other significant harm of children and young people includes the following:

Child abuse is the term used to describe different types of maltreatment inflicted on a child or young person. It includes non-accidental physical injury, sexual abuse, neglect, emotional abuse, including psychological harm and exposure to domestic violence of children or young people and requires different and specialised responses.

Child abuse is the term used for different types of maltreatment that endangers a child or young person's wellbeing and development. Child abuse can be a single incident or a chronic pattern of behaviour over time which may be intentional or unintentional.

Neglect refers to a failure to provide a child or young person with the basic needs for his or her physical, emotional/psychological and intellectual development and may be chronic or episodic in nature.

Physical abuse is a non-accidental act resulting in an injury to a child or young person by a parent, caregiver or another person who has responsibility for the child or young person. Injury can be caused by a single episode or repeated episodes of physical abuse. The severity of injury can range from minor bruising to death.

Physical punishment of a child or young person is a crime when it falls outside the bounds of 'reasonable chastisement'.

ACT Mental Health Consumer Network staff are required by moral obligation to report concerns relating to these guidelines to Child Protection Services. Once reported, a Network member of staff bears no further responsibility with relation to the follow up of this report.