

Care and Protection of Children Policy

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Next Review Date:	2024	Policy Owner:	CEO

Policy context: This policy relates to	
Standards or other external requirements	
Legislation or other requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Care and Protection of Children Act 2007 (NT)• Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)
Contractual obligations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contractual agreements with funding bodies• Residential Tenancy Agreements with tenants

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1. Overview

This policy explains how Community Housing Central Australia (CHCA) will work with families where there are concerns about the safety and protection of children.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all tenancies managed by CHCA.

3. Definitions

3.1. Child

A child is a person under 18 years of age or apparently at least 18 years of age if the person's age cannot be proved.

3.2. Mandatory reporters

Mandatory reporters are people who are required by law to report to NT Department of Children and Families if they suspect that a child or young person is at risk of significant harm.

3.3. 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 harm
- Neglect
- Exposure to domestic violence
- Substance abuse by their parents or carers
- Concerns for the mental health of their parents or carers.

4. Guiding principles

We will:

- Make sure that the 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.

5. Rights and responsibilities

5.1. Children

Children 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.

5.2. Our role

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

As a prescribed body, we work in partnership with government and non-government agencies such as the NT Department of Children and Families, NT 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 wellbeing of a child or young person with other prescribed bodies as required and permitted by law.

6. Internal references

7. Related policies

- Domestic and Family Violence Policy
- Privacy Policy