

Mandatory Reporting Requirements under the Care and Protection of Children Act PHC Remote Information Sheet

Under the [Care and Protection of Children Act](#):

All people in the NT must report to the [NT Territory Families](#) Central Intake Team (CIT), or the police, if they believe on reasonable grounds that:

- a child under 18 years of age has suffered or is likely to suffer harm or exploitation
- a child under 14 years of age has been or is likely to be a victim of a sexual offence
- a child (16 years of age or older) is in a sexual relationship with a person who has a special care relationship with that young person eg step-parent, guardian, foster parent, teacher, instructor, boss, health professional, priest, correctional services officers etc

In addition to the above, registered health practitioners must report to CIT, or the Police, if they believe on reasonable grounds that a child aged 14 or 15 years has been or is likely to be sexually active with someone where there is more than 2 years difference in age.

Reports must be made as soon as possible after forming that belief, and information about the victim and other relevant information must be provided in the report. The health professional who suspects child abuse / neglect needs to be the person providing the report to the CIT.

Managers must make their staff aware of these laws.

Reports made in good faith will not leave the reporter criminally or civilly liable, and will not breach any professional code of conduct or privacy laws.

There is a risk of being found guilty of a criminal offence for not reporting.

How to make a report: telephone the CIT on **1800 700 250** (24 hours). By telephoning your report the Intake Worker can seek and clarify information directly from you.

You will be asked for information including:

- the child's name, age, address and present location
- the nature of the suspected abuse or neglect
- what you have heard or observed
- information about the immediate danger to the child
- actions taken
- any other information you think may help, eg other agencies involved with the child

Not having all of this information should not stop you from making a report.

Your report should also include any follow up required and your contact details and preferred contact time. You may be contacted by CIT or the Child Abuse Taskforce (CAT) for additional information.

** Sexual offence in the context of child sexual abuse is defined as sexual intercourse, gross indecency, oral/anal sex, sexual relationship, indecent touching or dealing or assault, and making, collection or exposure of indecent material.*