







# Webinar notes

## Child Safeguarding and the Law – Reporting to Police

28 June 2023

### Recording notes

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=gP0lscKu7uQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gP0lscKu7uQ)

| Time (min:s) | Content  | Reference   |
|--------------|--|---|
| 0:00         | Welcome, housekeeping, Acknowledgement of Country, trigger warning (and support resources)   | <p>Slides 2, 3</p>     |
| 1:19         | Presenter introductions (Marco Blanco, and Peter Yeomans, APM)   | <p>Slide 4</p>    |
| 1:40         | Introduction to the “Child Safeguarding and the Law” series for 2023 (main focus of series – reporting obligations)  |   |
| 3:20         | <p>Session outline –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understanding the Child Abuse Problem</li> <li>2. Reporting to Police</li> <li>3. Preventing Abuse</li> </ol> | <p>Slides 5, 6, 7</p>    |



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|--------------|--|---|
| 4:53         | 4. Police Reporting avenues                          | <p><b>Slide 8</b></p>  <p>Contact your <a href="#">local Police Station</a></p> <p>Police Assistance Line – 131 444 (general enquiries and non-emergency matters)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSW Police - <a href="#">Reporting the Crime</a></li> <li>• NSW Police - <a href="#">Child Abuse Squad</a></li> </ul>                    |
| 5:45         | Webinar switches to “podcast mode”                   | <p><b>Slide 9</b></p>  <p>Marco Blanco (L) and Peter Yeomans (R)</p>  |
| 5:58         | Introduction to Peter Yeomans, and Child Abuse Squad |   |
| 7:00         | Extent of/ understanding the issue                   | <p>Related news article:</p> <p><i>‘It’s in the psyche of some people’: How predators get close to children</i><br/>         Sydney Morning Herald, June 20:<br/> <a href="https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/it-s-in-the-psyche-of-some-people-how-predators-get-close-to-children-20230608-p5df66.html">www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/it-s-in-the-psyche-of-some-people-how-predators-get-close-to-children-20230608-p5df66.html</a></p> |


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|--------------|---|--|
|              |   | A useful <a href="#">video re the distinction between Child Protection and Child Safety</a><br>   |
| 18:30        | Reporting to Police (how, when, who to?)<br>Complaints can be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Allegations</li> <li>• Disclosures</li> <li>• Concerns</li> <li>• Code of conduct breaches</li> </ul> | Contact your <a href="#">local Police Station</a><br>Police Assistance Line – 131 444 (general enquiries and non-emergency matters) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NSW Police - <a href="#">Reporting the Crime</a></li> <li>• NSW Police - <a href="#">Child Abuse Squad</a></li> </ul> |
| 22:48        | Considering initial care, health and welfare of the child (call Ambulance first?)   | <b>Call 000</b>  |
| 24:51        | How to make a report to Police <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If not sure – best to report</li> </ul>   |  |
| 27:50        | Recording incident details (note taking/ record keeping)<br>What did the child say? (document their words asap, but don't investigate)  | <b>IMPORTANT</b> reminder – documented information may be later used for medical and also evidentiary purposes (if the matter proceeds to court)   |

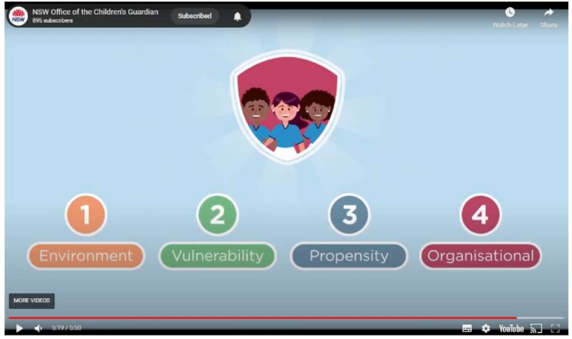

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|--------------|--|---|
| 32:15        | Considerations around contaminating evidence re any criminal investigation   |   |
| 34:50        | Summary of obligations and reporting to Police   | Child Safeguarding and the Law – Reporting to Police - Fact Sheet (attached)  |
| 36:10        | Risk management, situational prevention, policy/procedural protections <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing the effort for inappropriate behaviour</li> <li>Increase risks of perpetrators being caught</li> <li>Make it harder for perpetrators to excuse inappropriate behaviour</li> </ul> | A helpful <a href="#">video introduction to child safety and risk</a><br><br>To learn more about risk you can complete <a href="#">Module 3 of the Child Safe Sport eLearning</a> |
| 46:00        | Importance of supervision of children and appropriate supporting processes   |   |
| 48:00        | Grooming   | An <a href="#">introductory video about grooming</a><br>  |


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| Time<br>(min:s) | Content  | Reference   |
|-----------------|--|---|
| 51:30           | Child-to-child abuse   |   |
| 53:45           | <p><b>Audience question</b></p> <p>At times, families and their children are unwilling to provide a statement to police (or even to the relevant sports organisation) despite the positive steps that have been taken such as allowing witnesses to give evidence remotely etc. Do you have any examples of cases you have been able to prosecute without a statement from the victim?</p> | <p>Answered within video</p>  |
| 55:45           | <p><b>Audience question</b></p> <p>In a community sport setting, I often get asked by our coaches what should they do if they have concerns in relation to a child's family (not just sexual but any abuse). Not necessarily a specific event but general concerns or maybe a string of smaller incidents. Is the advice that they report that to the police?</p>                          | <p>Answered within video</p> <p>These were also posted as a related information: <a href="http://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/Protecting-kids/reporting-child-at-risk">www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/Protecting-kids/reporting-child-at-risk</a></p> <p><a href="#">Child Protection Helpline info</a>: Phone (NSW): 13 21 11. The Helpline is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.</p> |
| 57:50           | Closing remarks  | <p>Slide 10</p>   |



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| Time (min:s) | Content           | Reference   |
|--------------|-------------------|---|
| 59:00        | Upcoming webinars | Slides 11, 12<br> |
| 1:00h<br>18s | <b>END</b>        | Slide 13<br>    |

# Webinar notes

## Child Safeguarding and the Law – Reporting to Police

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### Chat questions (and responses)

| Question (de-identified for privacy)   | Response   |
|--|--|
| <p>You are doing tremendous work for such immensely difficult situations, full commendations to you all. What training and support are you provided to assist in your work and mental health?</p>                                | <p><b>Peter Yeomans</b> (post-recording):<br/>There is a robust process in place to manage Officer's mental health, which also includes regular psychological assessments.</p>   |
| <p>What about where 12-13 year olds are abusing a peer including sexual abuse. Are those children able to be charged?</p>  | <p><b>Peter Yeomans</b> (post-recording):<br/>Yes, 12 to 13 yr olds can be charged (the age of criminal responsibility is over 10 yrs)</p>   |
| <p>Should we be escorting kids under our care to toilets etc? up to what age?</p>  | <p><b>Webinar participant</b><br/>I don't think there is an age limit to this. Sexual abuse can happen to anyone at any age unfortunately.</p> <p><b>OoS Sport Integrity Unit</b><br/>Some points to consider:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "2 deep" (ie including one other) supervision, escort but ensure child's privacy (balance between supervision and privacy). Escort to change rooms and back - but allow privacy</li> <li>• Age - guided by your policies and risk assessments.</li> </ul>                                      |
| <p>"Pools" have been mentioned a lot. Is there a higher incident rate at pools vs playgrounds etc?</p>   | <p><b>Peter Yeomans</b> (post-recording):<br/>Pools are one of many areas where child abuse can occur. Mentioning pools was by way of example and not meant to suggest a level of higher incidence.</p>  |
| <p>[edited]<br/>You've mentioned police keeping records of people that are charged with relevant offences, what sort of records are kept in circumstances where the complainant does not want to provide a statement at all.</p> | <p><b>Peter Yeomans</b> (post-recording)<br/>Some parts of this question could be answered/ addressed in multiple ways (depending on circumstances). Main point mentioned/underscored in the discussion was the importance of keeping contemporaneous notes when an incident is first reported/recorded (ref 27:50 in the recording). Any notes which have evidentiary value will be retained by Police and may be used in any future proceedings (remembering that in many instances victims do not always wish to proceed with charges immediately).</p> |

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## Child Safeguarding and the Law – Reporting to Police

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### Full links as posted in the Chat:

(Note - these have also been summarised and incorporated into the “Recording notes” table above)

- Search for your local Police Station:  
[www.police.nsw.gov.au/about\\_us/regions\\_commands\\_districts/police\\_station\\_search](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/about_us/regions_commands_districts/police_station_search)
- Relevant news article:  
*‘It’s in the psyche of some people’: How predators get close to children* Sydney Morning Herald, June 20  
[www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/it-s-in-the-psyche-of-some-people-how-predators-get-close-to-children-20230608-p5df66.html](http://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/it-s-in-the-psyche-of-some-people-how-predators-get-close-to-children-20230608-p5df66.html)
- We're all working to make our situations Child Safe (so we then don't get to the terrible situation where Child Protection is required). Here's a useful video re this distinction:  
<https://ocg.nsw.gov.au/resources/child-protection-or-child-safe>
- A helpful video as an introduction to risk:  
<https://ocg.nsw.gov.au/resources/understanding-risk>
- To learn more about risk you can complete Module 3 of the Child Safe Sport eLearning:  
<https://ocg.nsw.gov.au/training-and-resources/elearning>
- An introductory video re grooming:  
<https://ocg.nsw.gov.au/resources/about-grooming-information-child-related-organisations>
- **NSW Police Force links**
  - Reporting the Crime:  
[www.police.nsw.gov.au/crime/are\\_you\\_a\\_victim\\_of\\_crime/victims\\_of\\_crime/reporting\\_the\\_crime](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/crime/are_you_a_victim_of_crime/victims_of_crime/reporting_the_crime)
  - Child Abuse Squad:  
[www.police.nsw.gov.au/crime/child\\_abuse\\_and\\_sex\\_crimes/child\\_abuse](http://www.police.nsw.gov.au/crime/child_abuse_and_sex_crimes/child_abuse)