# Child Safeguarding and the Law -

Reporting to the Child Protection Helpline





























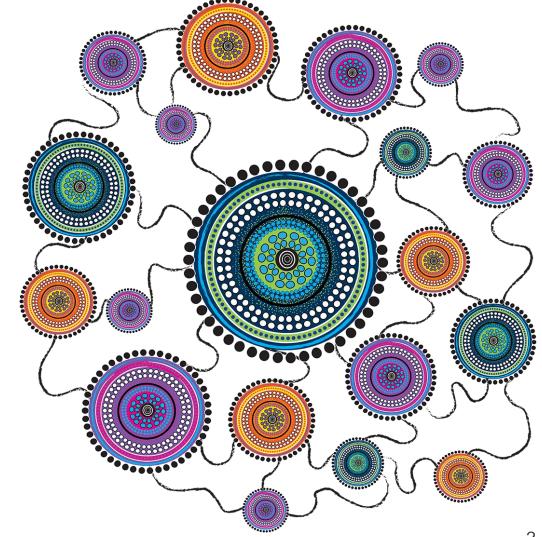






### Acknowledgement of Country

I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the Land on which this meeting takes place, to show my respect to Aboriginal Elders past and present, and to extend that respect to other Aboriginal people present



# The content covered may be distressing for some participants



If you require support, please contact ...







1800 737 732









#### Introductions...

- Marco Blanco
   CEO
   Child Safeguard
  - Marco is an industry leader, expert and authority in child safeguarding, and is a regular keynote speaker at National and State conferences
- Tamara Trembath
   A/Director, Child Protection Helpline
   NSW Communities and Justice
  - Tamara has worked for Department of Communities & Justice for over 18 years. She has led large Child Protection and Out Of Home Care teams and has a strong commitment to Child Safety. She is particularly passionate about vulnerable children and young people in the community having improved life experiences to live their best possible life.





#### Webinar Outline

- Child Protection Helpline
   Introduction and key statistics
- How to report to the Child Protection Helpline
- What is Risk of Significant Harm? (ROSH)
- What happens after a report is made?
- Joint Child Protection Response Program (JCPRP)
- After Hours Response Team (AHRT)
- Tips for quality reporting
- Q & A







# NSW Child Protection Helpline

#### Tamara Trembath

A/Director, Child Protection Helpline NSW Communities & Justice



#### Introduction to the Helpline



- The Child Protection Helpline commenced in December 2000 and is a 24-hour state-wide contact centre which receives calls relating to the suspected abuse and neglect of children and young people.
- Reports to the Helpline are made by members of the general public and mandatory reporters (eg NSW Education, NSW Health)
- Helpline caseworkers take details of reports and undertake initial risk assessments before referring them to a Community Services Centre (CSC) for review and response.





## Helpline Statistics

- Over 30,000 registered mandatory reporters.
- 219,777 children/young people assessed as being at ROSH from June 2021-June 2022.
- In the last 8 years the number of children at ROSH has almost doubled.
- Approximately 230 caseworkers complete 600-800 assessments per day.





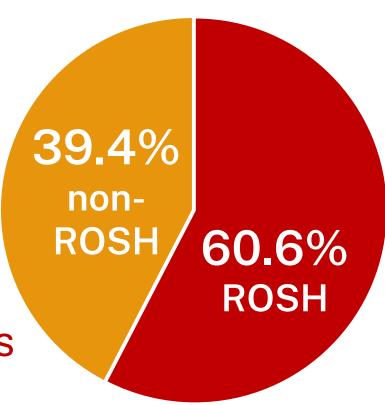
#### Assessed Outcomes (20/21)

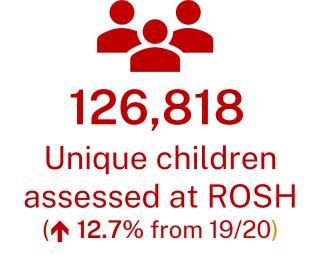




(**13.3**% from 19/20)

276,932
Total ROSH reports
(↑ 17.1% from 19/20)

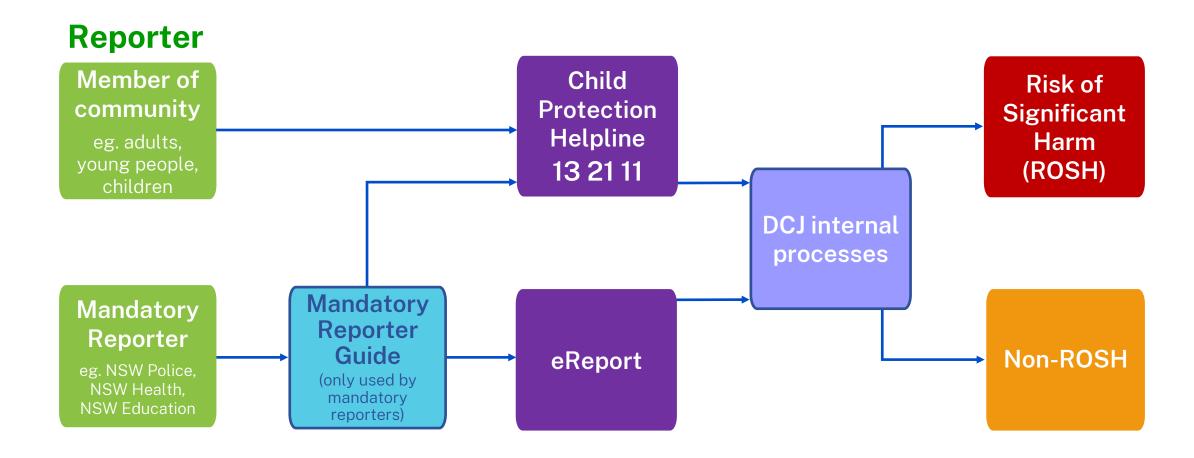




26,657
Aboriginal children and young people assessed at ROSH
(11.4% from 19/20)

## Reporting to the Helpline





#### Mandatory Reporter Guide (MRG)



• The MRG is used by Mandatory Reporters (eg. Police, NSW Health, NSW Education)



The MRG determines if a report to the Helpline is needed



The MRG helps
Mandatory
Reporters
understand what
information is
needed



The MRG helps
Mandatory
Reporters
understand the
threshold of
suspected ROSH
and IROSH

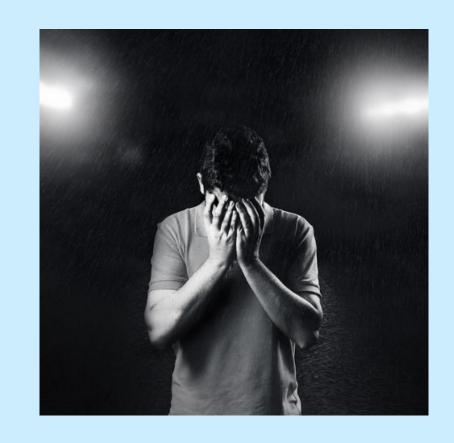


The MRG guides
Mandatory
Reporters to what
they should
do next

### What is Risk of Significant Harm? (ROSH)



- Significant harm serious enough to need a response by a statutory authority irrespective of the family's consent
- Likely to result in a substantial and demonstrably adverse impact on the child or young person's safety, welfare and wellbeing
- It may be the result of a single incident or accumulation of these.



## Identifying abuse



Physical Abuse

Sexual Abuse

Grooming

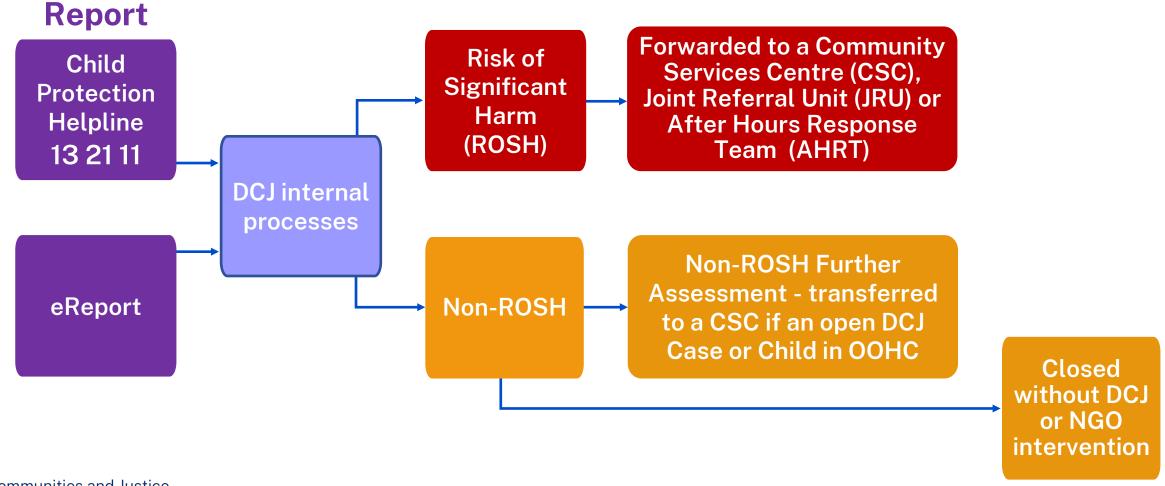
Neglect

Psychological harm

Danger to self and others

## What happens to your report after calling the Helpline?





# Joint Child Protection Response Program (JCPRP)



The JCPRP provides for a multidisciplinary response to child abuse by:

- NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ)
- the NSW Police Force (ie Child Abuse Squad)
- NSW Health



#### After Hours Response Team (AHRT)



The AHRT operates from 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday, and at any time during weekends and public holidays.

 Provides support with food/ provisions, accommodation, urgent child protection assessments and assisting non metro business units after hours.



## Quality reporting

#### NSW GOVERNMENT

#### keeping children safe and supported



- Identifying details
- Incident details
- Impact on the child or young person
- Supports and strengths
- Simple language
- Don't assume that we already know information
- Direct quotes
- Clarifying information for meaning or detail
- What do you think needs to be in place that isn't in place?

# Questions?







## Thank you





**Contact Us** 

Child Protection Helpline & Mandatory Reporting

13 21 11



Website

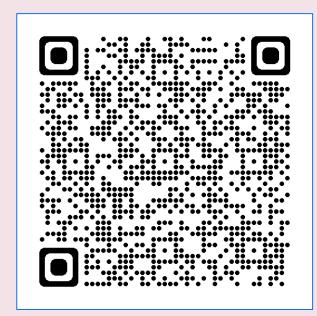
www.facs.nsw.gov.au

#### Next event:

"Child Safeguarding and the Law – Sport Integrity Australia"

> 12 October 2023 12:30am – 1:30pm

#### Register via:







## Thank You



Any questions, please contact: sportsintegrity@sport.nsw.gov.au

#### Child Safe Sport webpage



sport.nsw.gov.au/running-your-club/safe-and-fair-clubs/child-safe-sport