

Webinar notes (5 September 2023)

Child Safeguarding and the Law – Reporting to the Child Protection Helpline

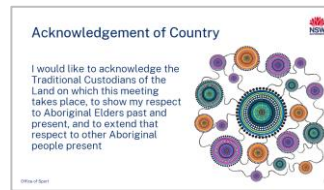
Recording link:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=nkSLHuhisVY

Time (min:s)	Content	Reference
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0:00 Welcome, housekeeping, Acknowledgement of Country, trigger warning (and support resources)

Slides 2, 3



2:17 Introductions & Outline

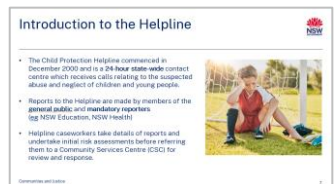
Slides 4, 5



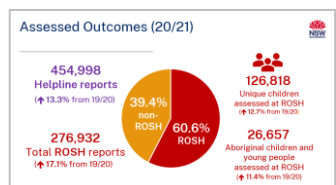
4:44 NSW Child Protection Helpline

Tamara Trembath
Acting Director,
Child Protection Helpline
NSW Communities & Justice

Slides 6...9



Note:
ROSH – acronym for Risk of Significant Harm (covered in more detail further below)



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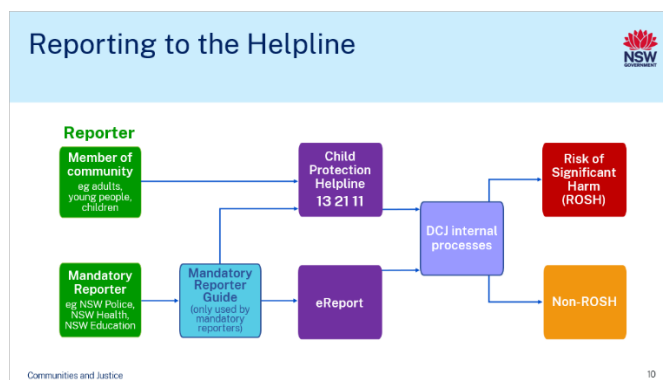
9:18 Reporting to the Helpline

- Making a report, and initial processes
- The Helpline is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week (13 21 11)

NOTE:

Feedback regarding the complexity of full processes initially presented (ie in webinar recording) was appreciated. Consequently, the flowcharts in these follow up materials have been streamlined for improved clarity and comprehension.

Slide 10



Deciding to make a report to the Child Protection Helpline:

www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/Protecting-kids/reporting-child-at-risk/should-i-call

Any member of the community who suspects, on reasonable grounds, that a child or young person is at risk of significant harm should report their concerns to the Child Protection Helpline (13 21 11)

12:25 Mandatory Reporters (& Guide)

Slide 11



More information about mandatory reporters (ie who, what to report, and how): www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/Protecting-kids/mandatory-reporters

MRG introductory video <https://reporter.childstory.nsw.gov.au/s/>



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14:37 Risk of Significant Harm

Slide 12

More information about ROSH (and potentially reporting a child at risk): www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/Protecting-kids/reporting-child-at-risk/should-i-call

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.



Communities and Justice 14

15:35 Identifying abuse

- Definitions/ signs/ symptoms

Slide 13

What is child abuse and neglect? www.facs.nsw.gov.au/families/Protecting-kids/reporting-child-at-risk/harm-and-neglect

Identifying abuse 

Physical Abuse

Sexual Abuse

Grooming

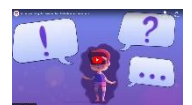
Neglect

Psychological harm

Danger to self and others

Communities and Justice 14

Grooming - video: <https://ocg.nsw.gov.au/resources/about-grooming-information-child-related-organisations>



see also - Understanding Grooming: www.sportintegrity.gov.au/news/integrity-blog/2023-09/understanding-grooming

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22:39 What happens to your report after calling the Helpline?

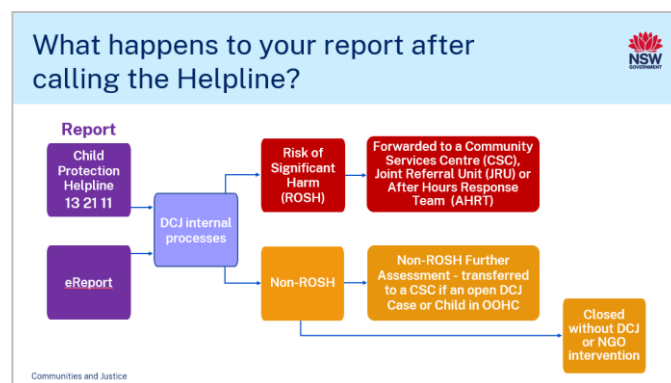
- processes outlined **after** a report has been made

The Joint Child Protection Response Program (JCPRP)
www.facs.nsw.gov.au/providers/children-families/interagency-guidelines/assessing-wellbeing,-safety-and-risk/chapters/joint-child-protection-response-program-jcprp

After Hours Response Team (AHRT)
www.facs.nsw.gov.au/providers/children-families/interagency-guidelines/assessing-wellbeing,-safety-and-risk/chapters/after-hours-response-team-ahrt

Note – the Joint Referral Unit (JRU) determines whether the report meets the criteria for acceptance into the JCPRP

Slides 14...16



Joint Child Protection Response Program (JCPRP)

The JCPRP provides for a multi-disciplinary response to child abuse by:


- NSW Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ)
- the NSW Police Force (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.



28:50 Quality Reporting

Slide 17

Quality reporting
 – 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?

35:50 Marco Blanco joins Tamara...


- Marco underscores the significant role of sport & active recreation sector staff and volunteers in understanding what may be going on in young people's lives
- Importance of also following policies and procedures outlined by your organisation/ peak body
- Summary of recent media report re incidence of abuse, and role of the Helpline
- Tamara underscores important role of all in the community in supporting children/ young people/ families

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48:08	Marco asks Tamara for examples of both good and poor reports made to the Helpline ...	
53:51	Questions Marco & Tamara	
54:07	Audience question Do you think Sporting Organisations will ever be required to be Mandatory Reporters?	<i>Answered within video</i> Also remember... Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility. Changes to the Crimes Act 1900 in August 2019 strengthened the civic responsibilities of all adults in NSW. It is now a criminal offence for adults not to report to police if they 'know, believe or reasonably ought to know that a child abuse offence has been committed'
56:45	Audience question The reporting process seems overly complicated. Why so many steps?	<i>Answered within video</i>
58:28	Additional audience question Regarding mandatory reporters - the quote was 30,000. Is that correct? There are over 70,000 registered nurses in NSW.	<i>Response (in subsequent consultation with our presenters)</i> Remember that many employees in an organisation may have mandatory reporting obligations – BUT it is usually a people manager who acts as the registered mandatory reporter (eg a Head Nurse/ Nursing Manager in a hospital ward, or a Principal in a school)
	Additional audience question Prevention of child abuse is a complex task, so what role can sporting clubs play in prevention? Does it start with implementing the Child Safe Standards?	<i>Response (in subsequent consultation with our presenters)</i> Yes – employees and volunteers in child-related organisations have an important part to play in creating child safe organisations , via implementing the Child Safe Standards which emphasise the importance of adopting multiple strategies to address child safety.

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59:00 Thanks and Conclusion

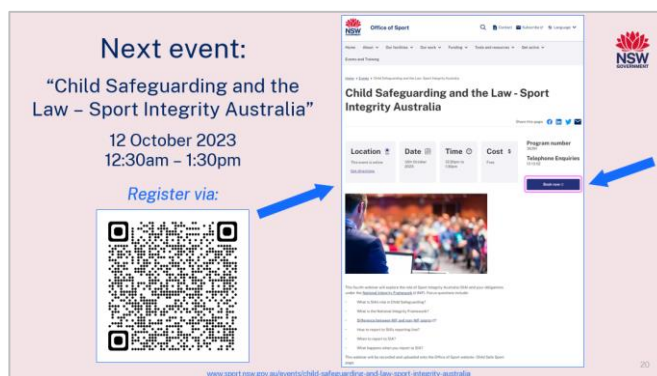
59:40

Next Webinar:

Child Safeguarding and the Law – Sport Integrity Australia

12 October 2023
12:30pm – 1:30pm

[Register here](#)

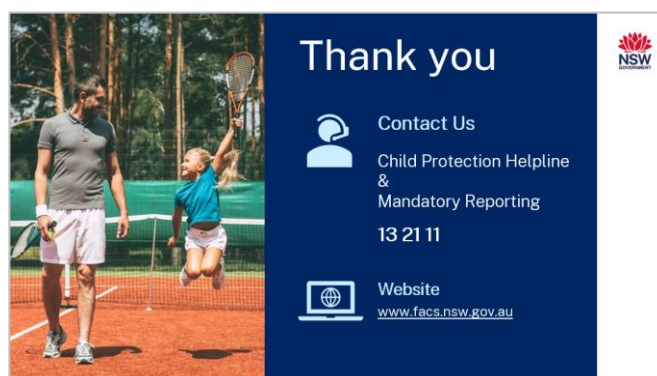


Child Protection Helpline contacts

Child Protection Helpline & Mandatory Reporting
13 21 11

www.facs.nsw.gov.au

Remember - in an emergency, where there are urgent concerns for a child’s health or life, call **000**



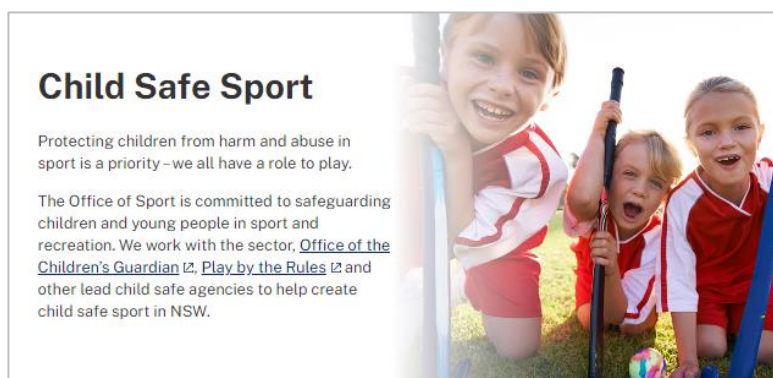
1:00:01 Close

Webinar notes (5 September 2023)

Child Safeguarding and the Law – Reporting to the Child Protection Helpline



Child Safe Sport webpage

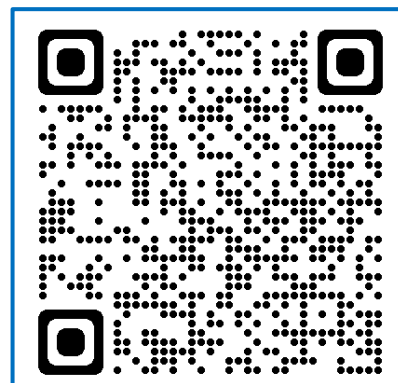
– your “one-stop-shop” gateway to all things Child Safe Sport related!



Child Safe Sport

Protecting children from harm and abuse in sport is a priority – we all have a role to play.

The Office of Sport is committed to safeguarding children and young people in sport and recreation. We work with the sector, [Office of the Children's Guardian](#) , [Play by the Rules](#)  and other lead child safe agencies to help create child safe sport in NSW.



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