

WHAT IS ABUSE?

Shaping Outcomes staff have a legal duty as mandatory reporters and a moral duty of care to ensure the safety of all children. They are legally obliged to report children when they have reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is at risk of, or is experiencing, significant harm including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, neglect and/or environmental risk.

PHYSICAL

Physical abuse covers physical injury resulting from such actions as: punching, beating, shaking, biting, pulling, burning, or otherwise harming a child.

Physical abuse may also include restraining a child in an unsafe way, using medication that has not been advised or over medicating to restrict the actions of a child and inappropriate kinds of discipline, including withholding food or removing essential equipment.

SEXUAL ABUSE

Sexual abuse occurs when someone forces or entices a child or young person to take part in sexual activity, either directly, as an observer or via the internet.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Emotional abuse is a pattern of behaviour directed at a child or young person whereby their self-esteem is undermined over time. It can be caused by bullying, frequent put downs, isolation, and setting unrealistic expectations making the child feel worthless or inadequate.

NEGLECT

Neglect is the ongoing failure to provide for the young child or young person's basic needs, whether deliberately or unintentionally. This can include not taking precautions to ensure the child's safety.

ENVIRONMENTAL RISK

Environmental risks include unsafe shelter, parental/guardian mental health, substance abuse and domestic violence.

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SHAPINGOUTCOMES

Here to support children thrive, connect & belong

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LOCATIONS

- Ballina
- Byron Bay
- Gold Coast
- Grafton
- Lismore
- Tweed

National Relay Service
1800 555 630 and www.relayservice.gov.au



CHILD PROTECTION

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CHILD PROTECTION

Shaping Outcomes supports the belief that parents want the best for their children. Through this families have the right to make their own decision and are expected to take responsibility for the consequences of those decisions.

Adults and children deserve to live free from harm or abuse of any kind.

Shaping Outcomes also recognises that we have a responsibility to advocate on behalf of children who are not safe because they are not in a position to control the behavior of adults in their lives. This means that in some circumstances we will see it as our responsibility to notify the relevant authorities on behalf of a child's rights relating to wellbeing.

Shaping Outcomes understands the potential conflicts of interest and cannot advocate for families in care and protection case conferences. In this instance we will provide families with appropriate contacts.

Shaping Outcomes has set guidelines and procedures for our response and responsibility to child safety and protection.

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter. Martin Luther King Jnr.



BEST INTERESTS OF THE CHILD

The Family Law Act makes clear references to the notion that both parents are responsible for the care and welfare of their children until they reach the age of 18.

Within arrangements that involve shared responsibilities and cooperation between parents, all decisions are made in the best interest of the child. In deciding what is in the best interest of the child, it is necessary to understand that children immensely benefit from meaningful relationships with their parents.

The need to protect children from physical or psychological harm (from being subjected or exposed to abuse, neglect or family violence) is crucial in child development and safety. Ensuring children receive positive parenting to help them reach their full potential, as well as ensuring parents fulfil their responsibilities for the care, welfare and development of their children are key concepts to the idea of best interests and child protection.

KEEP THEM SAFE

It is imperative that all children are healthy, happy and safe, and grow up belonging in families and communities where they have opportunities to reach their full potential.

Aligning with child safety initiatives, Shaping Outcomes staff are mandatory reporters, ensuring families who need help and services get the right support sooner.

Mandatory reporters in all child care services are given assistance to identify at risk children to enable families to receive early intervention support before problems escalate.

AS MANDATORY REPORTERS WHEN WOULD WE REPORT A CHILD?

