

Guidelines for Responding to Concerns or Disclosures of Abuse

The Australian Mathematics Trust (AMT) does not tolerate abuse of any kind. We all have a responsibility to report our concerns and disclosures of abuse.

If you have a concern or receive a disclosure of child abuse, you are required to report your concern.

You are **not required** to establish or investigate if child abuse has occurred.

If you have any concerns about a student or questions about how to use these guidelines, please contact the AMT CEO as soon as possible.

Reasonable grounds for reporting

You have reasonable grounds to report abuse if:

- A child tells you they have been or are at risk of being abused
- Someone else tells you that they know of a child who has been or is at risk of being abused
- You have concerns that the child may have been or is at risk of being abused based on their physical appearance or behaviour.

Who reports child abuse

The Australian Mathematics Trust (AMT) requires that all workers exercise our ethical responsibility to report our concerns or disclosures, regardless of their role in AMT or jurisdictional legislation.

How to report child abuse (ongoing or historical)

If you have a concern or receive a disclosure of child abuse:

1. Phone/contact the AMT CEO as soon as possible to discuss your concern or disclosure. If your concern is related to the AMT CEO, please contact the Chair of the AMTT Ltd Board.
2. Use the information on *Attachment 1 – Reporting Requirements Across all Australian Jurisdictions* to establish if you need to report a disclosure or contact the AMT CEO.
3. Complete an AMT [Reporting Child Abuse Form](#) and submit it to the CEO of AMT via email (mike.clapper@amt.edu.au) within 24 hours or sooner if possible.

Guidelines for responding to disclosures¹

AMT workers are in a unique position and their relationship with children cannot be underestimated. Their involvement with the child may be providing a safe haven, and perhaps the only place where a child/young person feels comfortable and able to talk to adults. It is therefore possible that a child may approach you to talk about abuse.

If you find yourself in this situation, you can show your care and concern by:

- Listening carefully to what the young person is saying
- Controlling expressions of panic or shock.
- Reassuring the child that disclosing was the right thing to do.
- Indicating what you will do, i.e., that you will advise the AMT and/or Statutory Body
- As soon as you have enough information to form your reasonable opinion, sensitively and respectfully draw the conversation to a close.

¹ Adapted from *Keeping Children & Young People Safe*, 2011, Office for Children, Youth & Family Support, Canberra.

Please do not:

- Express anger or disgust about the alleged abuser.
- Make promises you cannot keep, such as promising that you will not tell anyone or stop the abuse happening.

Seek further details beyond those that the child/young person freely wants to discuss.

Understanding your role

Your role is not to conduct an investigation.

Your role is to nurture and support the child/young person and not engage in discussions around the abuse or investigations.

Please do not share what they have said to you with anyone other than the AMT CEO. In this situation, confidentiality is very important.

Even if abuse is no longer happening, it is still important to report the matter, as the adult may be abusing other children/young people. Also, it may be that the child/young person will need guidance and help in overcoming the effects of the abuse.

Possible trauma from exposure to disclosures of abuse

Each person has a unique response to receiving a disclosure of abuse. There may be some common reactions such as shock, anger, sympathy for the victim and frustration.

However, there may also be more severe reactions which may in some cases have a more invasive impact on a person's ability to function effectively within their AMT role and life in general. In these situations, it may be helpful for them to seek additional counselling support. In this event contact the AMT CEO for referral.

For More Information Contact:

Mike Clapper

Chief Executive Officer

170 Haydon Drive

Bruce ACT 2617

mike.clapper@amt.edu.au

Mobile: 0419 993 893 or

Direct: (02) 6201 2440

Attachment 1 – Reporting requirements across all Australian jurisdictions.

NOTE: Regardless of whether or not a worker is a mandatory reporter in their jurisdiction, AMT requires all workers to report concerns or disclosure of harm to children (or historical abuse reported by adults).

If you have any questions or concerns about a student, contact the AMT CEO as soon as possible to discuss on 0419 993 893 or mike.clapper@amt.edu.au. If your concern is about the AMT CEO, contact the AMT Board Chair.

Jurisdiction	Who needs to report?	What needs to be reported?	Statutory Agency
ACT	Doctors; dentists; nurses; enrolled nurses; midwives; teachers; a person providing education to a child or young person who is registered for home education; police; counsellors of children; workers at child care centres; coordinators or monitors of home-based family day care; public servants who work with children and young people or families; the public advocate; an official visitor; a person who, in the course of the person's employment, has contact with or provides services to children, and is prescribed by regulation.	A belief, on reasonable grounds, that a child or young person has experienced or is experiencing sexual abuse or non-accidental physical injury; and the belief arises from information obtained by the person during the course of, or because of, the person's work (whether paid or unpaid).	Community Services Directorate Child and Youth Protection services: 1300 556 729 / www.communityservices.act.gov.au

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NSW	A person who, in the course of his or her professional work or other paid employment delivers health care, welfare, education, children's services, residential services or law enforcement, wholly or partly, to children; and a person who holds a management position in an organisation, the duties of which include direct responsibility for, or direct supervision of, the provision of health care, welfare, education, children's services, residential services or law enforcement, wholly or partly, to children. From 24 January 2010, mandatory reporters use the Mandatory Reporter Guide to help with decision making.	Reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is at risk of significant harm; and those grounds arise during the course of or from the person's work. Physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional/psychological abuse, neglect & exposure to family violence	Department of Family and Community Services. Child Protection Helpline: 132 111 Mandatory Reporter Guide, visit: https://reporter.childstory.nsw.gov.au/s/
QLD	An authorised officer, employee of the Department of Child Safety, a person employed in a departmental care service or licensed care service; A doctor or registered nurse	Awareness or reasonable suspicion: 1. of harm caused to a child placed in the care of an entity conducting a departmental care service or a licensee 2. of harm caused to a child placed in the care of an entity conducting a departmental care service or a licensee	Department of Child Safety Brisbane: 1300 682 254 Central QLD: 1300 703 762 Far North QLD: 1300 684 062 Ipswich: 1800 316 855 North Coast: 1300 703 921 North QLD: 1300 706 147 South East: 1300 679 849 South West: 1300 683 390 After Hours: (07) 3235 9999 or Freecall: 1800 177 135 www.childsafety.qld.gov.au

SA	Doctors; pharmacists; registered or enrolled nurses; dentists; psychologists; police officers; community corrections officers; social workers; teachers; family day care providers; employees/volunteers in a government department, agency or instrumentality, or a local government or non-government agency that provides health, welfare, education, sporting or recreational, child care or residential services wholly or partly for children; ministers of religion (with the exception of disclosures made in the confessional); employees or volunteers in a religious or spiritual organisations.	Reasonable grounds that a child has been or is being abused or neglected; and the suspicion is formed in the course of the person's work (whether paid or voluntary) or carrying out official duties: Physical abuse Sexual abuse Emotional/ psychological abuse Neglect	Department for Child Protection Child Abuse Reporting Line (CARL): 13 14 78 - 24-hour service. Department for Child Protection: https://www.childprotection.sa.gov.au
TAS	Registered medical practitioners; nurses; dentists, dental therapists or dental hygienists; registered psychologists; police officers; probation officers; principals and teachers in any educational institution; persons who provide child care or a child care service for fee or reward; persons concerned in the management of a child care service licensed under the Child Care Act 2001; any other person who is employed or engaged as an employee for, of, or in, or who is a volunteer in, a government agency that provides health, welfare, education, child care or residential services wholly or partly for children, and an organisation that receives any funding from the Crown for the provision of such	A belief, suspicion, reasonable grounds or knowledge that: 1. a child has been or is being abused or neglected or is an affected child within the meaning of the Family Violence Act 2004; or 2. there is a reasonable likelihood of a child being killed or abused or 3. neglected by a person with whom the child resides 4. Physical abuse Sexual abuse 5. Emotional/psychological abuse Neglect 6. exposure to family violence	Department of Health Child Safety Services: 1300 737 639 Dept. of Human & Health Services: http://www.health.tas.gov.au

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	services; and any other person of a class determined by the Minister by notice in the Gazette to be prescribed persons.		
NT	Any person with reasonable grounds	A belief on reasonable grounds that a child has been or is likely to be: a victim of: physical abuse, sexual abuse emotional/psychological abuse, neglect, exposure to physical violence (e.g., a child witnessing violence between parents at home).	<p>Territory Families</p> <p>Child Abuse Hotline: 1800 700 250</p> <p>NT Government website: https://nt.gov.au/law/crime/report-child-abuse </p>
VIC	Registered medical practitioners, registered nurses, a person registered as a teacher under the Education, Training and Reform Act 2006 or teachers granted permission to teach under that Act, principals of government or non-government schools, and members of the police force.	Belief on reasonable grounds that a child is in need of protection on a ground referred to in Section 162(c) or 162(d), formed in the course of practicing his or her office, position or employment: physical abuse or sexual abuse.	<p>Dept. of Families Fairness and Housing</p> <p>Eastern 1300 360 391 Southern 1300 655 795 Northern 1300 664 977 Western (Rural/Regional) 1800 075 599 Western (Metropolitan) 1300 664 977 After hours - 13 1278 http://services.dffh.vic.gov.au </p>
WA	<p>Court personnel; family counsellors; family dispute resolution practitioners, arbitrators or legal practitioners representing the child's interests.</p> <p>Licensed providers of childcare or outside-school- hours care services.</p> <p>Doctors; nurses and midwives; teachers; and police officers.</p>	Reasonable grounds for suspecting that a child has been abused, or is at risk of being abused; ill-treated, or is at risk of being ill-treated; or exposed or subjected to behaviour that psychologically harms the child. Allegations of abuse, neglect or assault, including sexual assault, of an enrolled child during a care session. Belief on reasonable grounds that child sexual abuse has occurred or is occurring	<p>Department for Child Protection and Family Support</p> <p>Tel. (08) 9222 2555 Country free call: 1800 622 258 a/h: (08) 9223 1111 or 1800 199 008 http://www.dcp.wa.gov.au </p>