

Child safety and abuse

This fact sheet has been developed for members of the Glen Eira community to recognise, seek support and take action against child abuse.

The rights of children and young people

Just like adults, children and young people have rights. Due to their vulnerability children and young people also have rights such as protection from exploitation and abuse and a say in decisions that affect them.

A child or young person is any individual under the age of 18 years.

What is child abuse?

The abuse of children and young people can take many forms and occur in a wide variety of settings.

Child abuse can lead to a wide range of adverse consequences for children and young people which continue to impact well into adulthood. Forms of child abuse include:

- physical violence — against, with or in the presence of a child/person;
- sexual abuse;
- sexual misconduct — against or in the presence of a child/young person;
- psychological/emotional harm;
- neglect — not meeting obligations to keep a child safe and well; and
- family violence — against, with or in the presence of a child/young person.

Conduct determined to be grooming a child or young person and/or their family or carers for the purpose of preparing that child or young person for sexual activity at a later date may also result in a criminal penalty.

Children and young people have the right to feel safe and be safe all of the time.

What can I do as a community member?

All community members have a role to play in keeping children and young people safe.

As a community member you should always speak up and report concerns or suspicions that any form of child abuse may be occurring.

Legislation in Victoria requires adults who have a reasonable belief that an adult has committed a sexual offence against a child (under age 16) to report the information to Victoria Police. Failure to disclose a reasonable belief may result in criminal penalty. See organisation contact details overleaf.

Emergencies

If you are witnessing an incident or believe that a child or young person is in immediate danger:

Call 000 for urgent police and medical assistance.

Other concerns

If you are concerned about a child or young person's wellbeing but do not believe they are subject to abuse eg. risk taking behaviour etc. you can contact any one of the organisations listed overleaf.

If you believe a child or young person is in immediate danger **call 000 for urgent police or medical assistance.**





Where can I get help?

If you believe a child or young person is in immediate danger, call the police on 000 (triple zero).

Please note: contact details correct at the time of publication — April 2020.

24 hour emergency and crisis services

Victoria Police	000 131 444 (non urgent crimes and events)	www.police.vic.gov.au
Child Protection — DHHS Reporting child abuse	13 12 78	https://services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/reporting-child-abuse
Caulfield Police Station (24hrs)	9524 9500	www.police.vic.gov.au
1800 Respect National sexual assault, domestic and family violence counselling service	1800 737 732	www.1800respect.org.au
Kids Helpline Free, private and confidential 24/7 phone and online counselling service for young people aged five to 25	1800 551 800	www.kidshelpline.com.au
Lifeline 24 hour crisis support and suicide prevention services	13 11 44	www.lifeline.org.au
South Eastern CASA Support services for victims/survivors of sexual assault and family violence	03 9594 2289 1800 806 292	www.secasa.com.au

Support and information services

The Orange Door Additional support for the care of children/young people and family violence	1800 319 353	www.orangedoor.vic.gov.au
Child Protection — DHHS Southern Division Reporting child abuse	1300 655 795 (Business hours)	https://services.dhhs.vic.gov.au/reporting-child-abuse



GLEN EIRA
CITY COUNCIL

Bentleigh, Bentleigh East, Brighton East, Carnegie, Caulfield, Elsternwick, Gardenvale, Glen Huntly, McKinnon, Murrumbeena, Ormond, St Kilda East

