

PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR CHILD PROTECTION

NEW SOUTH WALES	QUEENSLAND	SOUTH AUSTRALIA
<p>The Director of the Department of Youth and Community Services (Y.C.S.). (legislative source)</p>	<p>The Director of Children's Services (under new legislation the new name will be Department of Family and Community (D.F.C.D.) Development. (legislative source)</p>	<p>The Minister of the Department for Community Welfare. (D.C.W.) (legislative source)</p>

NOTIFICATION — REQUIREMENTS AND FORMAT

NEW SOUTH WALES	QUEENSLAND	SOUTH AUSTRALIA
<p>Notification may be made by any person, on suspicion, to the Y.A.S. There is exemption from consequent legal liabilities. Prescribed persons, currently medical practitioners, MUST notify. Penalties for failing to notify may be imposed. There are departmental guidelines for police, health, Y.C.S., education personnel, on process and grounds for notification. 24 hours 7-days per week call reception service available at Child Protection Unit and Family Crisis Service locations. During normal office hours these two plus Y.C.S. offices receive notifications are recorded centrally. There is a two-part system: 1. notification index 2. register Transfer from 1) to 2) depends on prescribed conditions. Access to register restricted to bona fide enquiries from specified persons.</p>	<p>Notification may be made by any person, on suspicion, to an authorised person (i.e. D.F.C.D.) or the police, on suspicion. There is exemption from consequent legal liabilities. Medical practitioners and other prescribed persons MUST notify, within 24 hours to D.F.C.D. or police, as well as the Director of Health and General Services, within 7 days. Apart from medical personnel, no prescribed persons have yet been scheduled. Under new legislation all notifications must be included in the Register (see below). 24 hours 7-days per week call reception service at Crisis Care (D.F.C.D.). Within normal office hours, notifications may be made to D.F.C.D., police or an authorised person (apart from D.F.C.D.), medical practitioners must also notify the Director-General as above, and all notifications must be relayed to the Registrar who keeps central register, access is restricted. Format laid down in new legislation.</p>	<p>Notification may be made by any person to D.C.W., on suspicion. There is exemption from legal liabilities. The following MUST notify: medical practitioners, dentists, nurses, psychologists, pharmacists, teachers, teacher aides, kindergarten teachers, police officers, social workers (specific settings), employees of an agency providing health and welfare services to children; list can be extended by regulation. Failure to notify may incur a penalty, under offences against the Community Welfare Act. 24 hours 7-days per week call reception service available at Crisis Care Unit (part of D.C.W.). During normal office hours, calls go to D.C.W. Currently there is a child protection register, due to merge with general register Of D.C.W. cases. Access is restricted to D.C.W. workers.</p>

TASMANIA	VICTORIA	WESTERN AUSTRALIA
<p>The Child Protection Assessment Board (C.P.A.B.) under the Attorney General.</p> <p>(legislative source)</p>	<p>The Director of Community Services Victoria (C.S.V.) for services provided by the Department for Community Services only.</p> <p>(administrative source)</p>	<p>The Minister of Community Welfare Services (C.W.S.).</p> <p>(legislative source)</p>

TASMANIA	VICTORIA	WESTERN AUSTRALIA
<p>Notification may be made, on suspicion, by any person, to an authorised officer (mainly though not exclusively C.P.A.B.). There is exemption from legal liabilities. The following MUST notify: probation officers, child welfare and welfare officers licensees of children's boarding homes or day nurseries, school principals, infant school mistresses, kindergarden teachers, psychologists, medical practioners, registered nurses, education guidance officers. No penalties for failure to notify are mentioned in the legislation. 24 hours 7-days per week call reception available on a voluntary staffing from C.P.A.B. During normal officehours, C.P.A.B. and police receive calls but police must, under their standing orders, forward their calls to C.P.A.B. The Board keeps case records, access is on need-to-know basis.</p>	<p>Notification may be made by any person, on suspicion, to a police officer, or authorised person (i.e. C.S.V.). There is an exemption from consequent legal liabilities. There is no mandatory notification requirement. 24 hours 7-days per week call reception service operated by community policing squad. During normal office hours calls are received by C.S.V. or police. An after hours consultation service for police by C.S.V. is under consideration. Notification records are kept by each of the two notifications receiving agencies; they do not have to exchange information.</p>	<p>There is no specific legal requirement to notify. The community acts on basis of "public education" and may notify either the police or C.W.S. 24 hours 7-days per week call reception service available at crisis care, a "mobile service for people in distress", operated by C.W.S., police also take out-of-normal hours calls! During normal office hours calls to go to police or C.W.S. Notification records are kept by each of the two notifications receiving agencies. The Advisory and Co-ordinating Committee on Child Abuse (A.C.C.C.A.) receives data for statistical purposes.</p>

