

FACT SHEET for Environment Protection Authority Board members, contractors and consultants

We all have a role to play in ensuring children and young people are safe. That's why we have implemented the Child and Youth Safe Framework. It's for anyone who works with us. Under the *Child and Youth Safe Organisations Act 2023* (the Act), 'workers' also include Board members, contractors and consultants.

The Framework

The Framework was established under the Act, following the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses into Child Sexual Abuse. It places legal obligations on organisations who work with children and young people, including all government agencies, and sets out clear expectations for:

- how we will prioritise and promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people, and
- how we will respond when there are concerns about a worker's behaviour towards children and young people.

There are four elements to the Framework:

- [The Child and Youth Safe Standards](#)
- [The Reportable Conduct Scheme](#)
- [The Independent Regulator](#)
- [Information sharing provisions](#)

The Child and Youth Safe Standards

Ten principles we must put into practice to develop and maintain a culture with child safety and wellbeing at its centre.

Reportable Conduct Scheme

Heads of organisations, including the EPA, are responsible for reporting concerns of conduct related to child abuse involving a worker to the Independent Regulator, who investigates these concerns.

The Independent Regulator

An independent regulatory body that will oversee the Framework to make sure organisations have the support, advice, and education they need to do the right thing.

Information sharing provisions

Specific rules written into the law that mean people and organisations connected to the Framework can share personal information in certain circumstances.

What is reportable conduct

Reportable conduct includes criminal and non-criminal behaviour committed against or in the presence of children.

Broadly speaking, reportable conduct includes:

- significant emotional or psychological harm
- significant neglect
- physical violence
- a sexual offence
- sexual misconduct
- grooming
- relevant offences such as failing to report child abuse.

The scheme covers conduct alleged to have occurred:

- at work
- outside of work
- before the worker commenced at the organisation
- before the scheme commenced.

If you have a concern or complaint about a worker's behaviour, you should report it using the [online form](#) which you can find on our website at: www.epa.tas.gov.au/childsafety

You can find more information on Reportable Conduct at the [Office of the Independent Regulator](#).

If a child or young person is at immediate risk, call 000. For advice, you can contact the Strong Families, Safe Kids, Advice and Referral Line on 1800 000 123.

Your responsibilities

As an EPA worker (which includes you in your role as a Board member, contractor or consultant) you must:

- Actively support and abide by:
 - the [EPA Child and Youth Safety and Wellbeing Policy](#) and
 - the [EPA Reporting and Investigating Reportable Conduct Procedure](#).
- Report all concerns of child harm (whether observed, reasonably suspected, or disclosed).
- Identify and mitigate risks to children and young people's safety and wellbeing.

More information

- Visit the [EPA website](#)
- Visit the [Office of the Independent Regulator website](#)
- Talk to your EPA contact or contract administrator
- Email childsafety@nre.tas.gov.au

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