

CONCERNED ABOUT A CHILD, YOUNG PERSON OR VULNERABLE ADULT?

A **'Concern'** means having any information that indicates a child (0-15 years), young person (16-17 years) or vulnerable adult (65+, or living in residential care, or living with a disability or mental health issue) may be at risk of harm, abuse, or neglect. This includes when you are working with adults or families that have relationships with, or care of children and pregnant women.

A **concern** includes information that:

- You have personally seen or heard i.e. a person we assist tells you something or you witness something when meeting with a family, such as no food in the house.
- Another person e.g. child, young person, parent or third party has seen, heard or experienced something and told you, such as a child telling you they are often left alone for long periods.
- Other information that indicates child, young person or vulnerable adult may be at risk of harm.

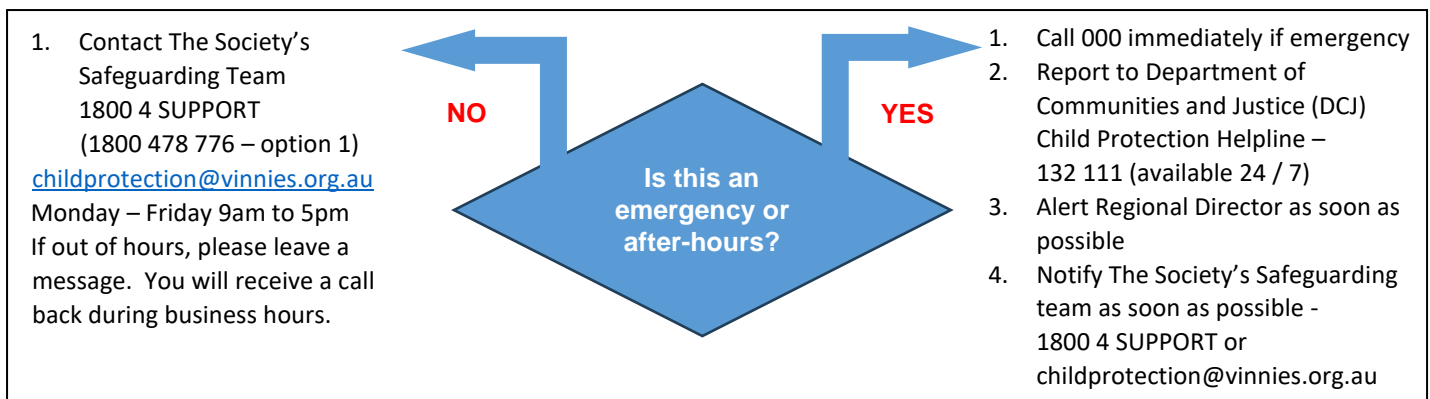
It does not mean that this concern is proven or that action will always be required but wherever a concern arises the situation must be assessed by an appropriately trained person. For Vinnies members this means notifying the Safeguarding team.

All members, volunteers, or employees must report:

1. Any concerns about the safety or well-being of a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
2. Any concerns about the behaviour of Society Personnel (Members, volunteers, or employees).
3. Any breach of the Safeguarding Child and Young People Policy, Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy or Code of Conduct.

Concerns relating to the **safety, welfare, and well-being of children, young people or vulnerable adults** may relate to any number of concerns listed on the other side of this document.

WHAT DO I DO IF I HAVE CONCERNS?
















WHY DO I HAVE TO REPORT?

- It is a policy and legal requirement for both you, and Vinnies
- To give every family every opportunity to provide the best possible environment for their children.
- To provide support before statutory intervention may be needed.
- To provide additional supports, information, referrals and possible access to additional funding.
- Help the family up, and help break the cycle they may be in.
- To protect the most vulnerable people in our society – our children, young people and vulnerable adults.
- To be a voice for the Voiceless, in line with our Vincentian values.

CONCERNS ABOUT REPORTING:

- In Australia there is a cultural resentment regarding 'dobbing' someone in. We just don't like it. Making a Safeguarding report regarding a concern, or taking action to protect someone, is not 'dobbing'. It is keeping the most vulnerable people in our society – our children, young people and vulnerable adults – safe from harm, abuse and/or neglect.
- By reporting concerns, we actively contribute to protecting vulnerable individuals from harm, abuse, and neglect. This proactive approach is essential in fostering a secure environment for those who may not be able to advocate for themselves.

Some concerns that you may see or hear about in your work as a member that should be reported to 1800 4SUPPORT:

<p>Homelessness</p>  <p>A family is homeless or whose accommodation is unsafe</p>	<p>Neglect</p>  <p>Leaving children unsupervised or in the care of an unsafe/ unsuitable person</p>	<p>Educational Neglect</p>  <p>Child/ young person is not enrolled/ attending regularly, is disengaged or persistently truanting from school)</p>	<p>Unborn child</p>  <p>Any concern we have about the safety and well-being of mum and child or the child at birth.</p>
<p>Exposure to Domestic Violence</p>  <p>Exposing children to unsafe situation (eg. domestic violence, illegal activity)</p>	<p>Carer Concern – Substance Abuse</p>  <p>Drug or alcohol use impacting on ability of parent/carer to look after children</p>	<p>Carer Concern – Mental Health</p>  <p>Parent/carer experiencing unmanaged mental health concerns impacting on their parenting</p>	
<p>Sexual Abuse</p>  <p>You suspect, or someone tells you that they or their children have been sexually abused</p>	<p>Physical Abuse</p>  <p>You suspect, or someone tells you that they or their children have been physically abused.</p>	<p>Emotional/Psychological Abuse</p>  <p>You suspect, or someone tells you that they or their children have been emotionally/ psychologically abused</p>	
<p>Danger to Self or others</p>  <p>Child/ young person is harming themselves or others, including extreme risk taking, underage sexual activity, self harm or suicidal ideations)</p>	<p>Financial</p>  <p>Families who consistently are unable to afford food, rent or other basics</p>	<p>Abuse/neglect of Vulnerable Adult</p>  <p>Any potential abuse or neglect of vulnerable adults including 65years+, living with a disability or mental health issues.</p>	