

Grooming & Child Safe Behaviour

Grooming is when someone builds an emotional connection with a child to gain their trust for the purposes of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or trafficking. Children and young people can be groomed online or face to face by a stranger or by someone they know – for example a family member, friend or professional.

Examples of grooming behaviour:

- spending special time with a child or young person
- physical attention, cuddling, kissing, lap sitting, tickling
- giving gifts to a child
- showing special favours to one child but not others
- allowing the child to step out of boundaries or rules and/or
- testing and breaking of professional boundaries

Child Safe Behaviour

All personnel are responsible for supporting the safety of children by:

- always treat children and young people with care, respect, compassion and value their ideas and opinions
- always setting clear rules and boundaries about acceptable behaviour
- set clear rules and boundaries for other personnel
- being a positive role model
- explaining boundaries and rules to children and young people in an age appropriate context
- always following Vinnies Safeguarding Children and Young people Policy and Procedure
- reporting concerns about children or young people promptly
- reporting concerns about others interactions with children or young people
- promoting and monitoring the safeguarding of children and young people and participating in a culture where
- all personnel are expected to speak up and ask questions about the safety of others

Unacceptable Behaviour

You must not:

- have unnecessary physical contact – this includes, kissing, cuddling, lap-sitting & tickling
- isolate or separate a child or young person
- develop 'special' relationships with specific children by giving them gifts or special attention
- exchange personal details or information with a child or young person
- contact a child or young person outside of Society business
- physically discipline anyone
- deny a child or young person food or water or access to toilets
- be alone with a child or young person
- do things for a child or young person that are of a personal nature that they can do for themselves, such as going to the toilet or changing clothes
- take photographs or videos of a child or young person without the written consent of a parent or guardian or on a personal device
- use inappropriate language in the presence of children
- express personal views on cultures, race or sexuality in the presence of children
- discriminate against any child, because of age, gender, race, culture, vulnerability, sexuality, ethnicity or disability
- use tobacco products or possess or be under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs at any time while on Society business

The Society recognises that every member, volunteer and employee has an important role in safeguarding children and young people.

Reporting Concerns: childprotection@vinnies.org.au
1800 4 SUPPORT – 1800 478 776

What is child abuse?

Child abuse is any action (or non-action) that hurts a child or puts a child in danger. This includes anything that affects the child's health, wellbeing or development.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse occurs when a person uses power, force or authority to involve a child or young person or adult in any form of sexual activity. This can involve touching or no contact at all. This may take the form of taking sexually explicit photographs or videos of children, forcing children to watch or take part in sexual acts and forcing or coercing children to have sex or engage in sexual acts with other children or adults.

Emotional/ Psychological Abuse

Emotional abuse can include being repeatedly isolated, rejected, continual coldness, excluding and distancing on a child, or putting down, bullying, threatening and calling a child demeaning names. Exposure to domestic violence can include watching or hearing a family member assault or threaten another member of the family, direct involvement or experiencing the aftermath of family violence.

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse occurs when a child suffers significant harm from an injury. The injury may be inflicted intentionally or may be the inadvertent consequence of physical punishment or physically aggressive treatment of a child. Some examples of physical abuse include hitting, punching, burning or shaking a child.

Neglect

The failure to provide for the child or young person's basic needs for life, such as food, clothing, shelter, medical attention, supervision or care to the extent that the child's health and development is, or is likely to be, placed at risk. Includes homelessness and not being enrolled or attending school.

Carer Concerns

This refers to a number of factors that impact on a parent/ carers ability to provide adequate care for their children. This includes unmanaged mental health issues, substance abuse – drug or alcohol issues, homelessness, exposure to domestic violence & illness.

Danger to Self or Others

Refers to a child or young person is harming themselves or other people in the home. It can include self harming, engaging in extreme risk taking behaviour or harming other children or caregivers.

Relinquishing Care

Is when a parent or carer is no longer willing or able to provide care for a child/ young person.

Danger to Unborn Child

This refers to a mother's behaviour and well-being while pregnant and can include concerns around unmanaged mental health or medical issues, substance abuse, family violence, homelessness.