Department of Communities
GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CHILD CARE – REPORTING CHILD ABUSE AND/OR NEGLECT, AND MANDATORY REPORTING OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

Person at a child care service or an education and care service has a child wellbeing concern

Are there indicators of abuse to the child and/or risk of harm and concerns about the parents' ability to care for the child safely, including the protecting them from harm?

NO →

Referral is made to a community service organisation parenting support service:

North East Metro – Shire of Mundaring (Midvale Hub)
North West and Inner Metro – Ngala Community Services
South East Metro – Communicare Inc
South West Metro – Meerlinga Young Children's Services
Gascoyne- Ngala Community Services
Goldfields/Esperance – Anglicare WA
Great Southern – Anglicare WA
Kimberley – Anglicare WA
Peel – Anglicare WA
Mid-West – Ngala Community Services
South West – Anglicare WA
Wheatbelt – Anglicare WA (Wanslea Family Services Lead)
Pilbara – Empowering People in Community
Visit: https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-communities/department-of-communities-grants-programs

YES/UNSURE

Metropolitan

Contact the Department of Communities (Communities) via the Central Intake Team on 1800 273 889 during business hours, or the Crisis Care Unit after hours on 9223 1111. You can also email the Central Intake Team on CPDUTY@communities.wa.gov.au

Country

Contact the Communities local district office to report concerns. After hours, contact Crisis Care on (08) 9223 1111 or country free call 1800 199 008

For further information about reporting concerns visit https://www.wa.gov.au/organisation/department-of-communities/child-protection

An early childhood worker or teacher at an education and care service has formed a belief on reasonable grounds in the course of their work (paid or unpaid) that a child has been the subject of sexual abuse or is subject to ongoing sexual abuse.

A Mandatory Reporter* must lodge a Mandatory Report to the Communities Mandatory Reporting Service – refer to the Communities website to make a report: https://www.wa.gov.au/service/community-services/community-support/mandatory-reporting-of-child-sexual-abuse-wa

The duty officer may clarify information with the referrer, check department records, and contact the person with parental responsibility where appropriate.

The Mandatory Reporting Service makes an initial assessment to determine if Communities has a clear role

Does Communities have a clear role?

NO →

No further action and, or safety issues addressed.

Provision of information and/or referral to services as appropriate – e.g. family support, counselling, Family Support Network.

Education and care service makes a referral to a community service organisation parenting support service (as above)

YES →

Communities undertakes a Child Safety Investigation (CSI) and/or refers to Intensive Family Support.

UNSURE →

Initial Inquiries
The purpose of conducting initial inquiries is to determine whether Communities has a clear ongoing role and if action should be taken to safeguard or promote a child's wellbeing.

This decision is based on clarifying information with relevant stakeholders such as the school, child health nurse, or agencies who are working with the family and referrer or parent.

Does Communities have a clear role?

YES →

*Please refer to Mandatory Reporting of Child Sexual Abuse in WA for current mandatory reporters as per the *Children and Community Services Act 2004.*