

Aboriginal Family Support Services

Together with the community

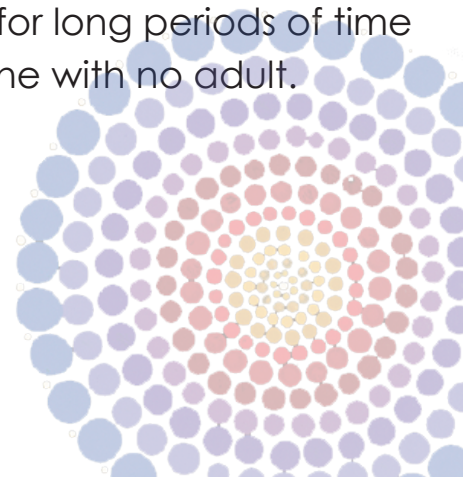
Child Protection Reform – Aboriginal Community Engagement Project

Fact Sheet 1 - Why is Child Protection Involved?

Why is welfare involved with my family?

Some key reasons that welfare becomes involved in your family include:

- Children exposed to family violence and physical violence between adults or adults and children, ongoing yelling and screaming
- Drugs, alcohol or sniffing (petrol, glue, etc) and not being able to look after your children because you are intoxicated
- Allowing known drug users and or drug dealers into your house around your children
- Children not being fed or dressed properly – such as a baby only wearing a nappy in winter or baby underweight and malnourished
- Not taking your baby or child to a Doctor when they are sick and ignoring a doctor's medical advice
- Overcrowding in your house
- Living in unhygienic and dirty conditions
- Your children not going to school on a regular basis and not talking to the school about your child's attendance
- Your children being sexually abused, or the potential for them to be abused, by a child abuser who is known to your family
- Physical abuse of your children including hitting, shoving, shaking, kicking and biting. Tying children up. Locking children in cupboards and rooms for long periods of time
- Leaving young children home alone with no adult.



What can you do?

- Talk to AFSS and get involved with our Aboriginal Community Engagement Project. You can also think about becoming an AFSS foster carer, ensuring we have a large pool of Aboriginal foster carers to care for children who are removed from their families. The more carers we have, the better the options of Aboriginal children being placed with Aboriginal families.
- Contact AFSS in your local area and speak with an AFSS worker.
- You can also contact the AFSS Child Protection Reform – Aboriginal Community Engagement Project:

Brigitte Goepfert (Project Officer – Child Protection Reform)

Address: 134 Waymouth Street Adelaide SA 5000

Phone: 8205 1500

Mobile: 0499 889 720

Email: brigitte.goepfert@afss.com.au

Other useful contacts:

Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement (ALRM)

Phone: 1800 643 222 Website: www.alrm.org.au

Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People

Phone: 8226 3355 Email: CommissionerCYP@sa.gov.au

Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement

Phone: 8226 3500 Email: DPC.CommissionerforAboriginalEngagement@sa.gov.au

Commissioner for Children and Young People

Phone: 8226 3355 Email: CommissionerCYP@sa.gov.au

DCP Central Complaints Unit

Phone: 1800 003 305 Website: www.childprotection.sa.gov.au/department/contact-department/making-complaint

Family Matters

Phone: 8305 4213 Email: joanne@childandfamily-sa.org.au

Office of the Guardian for Children and Young People

Phone: 8226 8570 Email: GCYP@GCYP.sa.gov.au Website: www.gcyp.sa.gov.au

SA Ombudsman

Phone: 1800 182 150 Email: ombudsman@ombudsman.sa.gov.au



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