



Wynter Street Taree  
PO Box 270 Taree NSW 2430  
Ph: 02 6552 5088  
Email: [tareechildcareservices@ccstd.com.au](mailto:tareechildcareservices@ccstd.com.au)

## **1.9 Child Care Services Taree & Districts Inc.**

### **Child Protection**

**Under the NSW Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1988 Child Care Services Taree & Districts Inc. is a mandatory reporter. This means that where workers, staff or volunteers believe that there is a risk of significant harm to a child's or young person's safety, welfare or wellbeing, these concerns must be reported to the Department of Family and Community Services.**

**People with disability have the same right as other members of Australian society to have respect for their worth and dignity and to live free from abuse, neglect and exploitation. Positive personal and social development of people with disability, including children and young people, is promoted.**

#### **Definitions:**

##### **Mandatory Reporter**

Mandatory reporters are required by law to report suspected child abuse and neglect to government authorities. Mandatory reporters are people who deliver the following services, wholly or partly, to children as part of their paid or professional work:

- **Health care** — registered medical practitioners, specialists, enrolled and registered nurses, registered midwives, occupational therapists, speech pathologists, psychologists, dentists and other allied health professionals working in sole practice or in public or private health practices.
- **Welfare** — registered psychologists, social workers, caseworkers and youth workers.
- **Education** — teachers, counsellors, principals.
- **Children's services** — child care workers, family day carers and home-based carers.
- **Residential services** — refuge workers, community housing providers.
- **Law enforcement** — police

#### **The Purpose of the Policy:**

Child Care Services Taree & Districts Inc. believe that the best interests of the child are paramount, and full consideration should be given to the need to:

- protect the child from harm; and
- promote the child's development; and
- strengthen, preserve and promote positive relationships between the child and the child's parents, family members and other people who are significant in the life of the child

All workers have a responsibility to report risk of harm concerns about children and young people, within their roles, and to provide support to children and young people.

#### **Process**

CCSTD believe that training workers is an essential responsibility towards child protection. Reporting risk of harm concerns and supporting children and young people is a mandatory practice of our service. We will;

- Ensure all employees and support workers have completed child protection as part of induction and is refreshed annually.
- Ensure all employees and support workers are aware of the indicators of abuse and neglect of children and young people.

- Ensure all employees and support workers are aware of their obligation to advise the workplace manager of concerns about the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and young people that arise during the course of their work.
- Ensure that all workers are aware of their mandatory obligation to report suspected risk of significant harm and of the procedures for doing so. Use appropriate tools to inform decision making, such as the online Mandatory Reporter Guide, professional judgment or specialist advice, where there are concerns about risk of harm.
- Determine whether concerns about the safety, welfare or wellbeing of children or young people constitute risk of significant harm and, if they do, report these to Family and Community Services.
- Contact the Child Wellbeing Unit about the safety, welfare and wellbeing of children and young people where:
  1. There are concerns about risk of harm, that do not meet the threshold of significant harm but are not trivial
  2. The Mandatory Reporter Guide indicates this should be done.
  3. A case has been reported to Family and Community Services and did not meet the risk of significant harm threshold.
  4. There is an observable pattern of cumulative harm that does not meet the threshold of significant harm.
- Take reasonable steps to coordinate decision making and coordinate services to children and young people and their families with other local service providers, if required.
- Collaborate with other agencies for the care and protection of children and young people in ways that strengthen and support the family and in a manner that respects the functions and expertise of each service provider.
- Exchange relevant information to progress assessments, investigations and case management as permitted by law.
- Respond to a request for a service from Family and Community Services provided that the request is consistent with departmental responsibilities and policies.

### **Relevant Legislation and Standards**

- NDIS Practice Standards
- NDIS Code of Conduct
- NSW Disability Service Standards (NSW DSS)
- NDIS Terms of Business
- Freedom of Information Act 1982
- Privacy and Personal Information Act 1988 (NSW)
- The Disability Inclusion Act 2014 (NSW) and Disability Inclusion Regulation 2014 (NSW)
- Mental Health Act 2007 (NSW)
- Ombudsman Act 1974 (NSW)
- NDIA National Quality and Safeguards Policy 2018
- Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998