

## WHO SHOULD YOU CONTACT IF YOU WANT TO REPORT A CHILD WHO MIGHT NEED HELP?

If you know or think a child is being mistreated or sexually abused and you know that child protection is there, but for many reasons you do not want to call them. Then do you know a good Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organization who will deal with this and the child. They are there. How long do our babies keep having suffering this. They do not deserve this. It is in our hands now to do something about this.

For advice, or to report your concern, call the following agency in your State/Territory (24 hour services):

ACT	02) 6207 0720	SA	13 16 11
NSW	1800 066 777	TAS	1800 001 219
NT	1800 700 250	VIC	13 12 78
QLD	1800 177 135	WA	1800 199 008

This organisation in your region can also assist you:



## CREDITS

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## WAYS CHILDREN CAN PROTECT THEMSELVES

Children will protect themselves from sexual abuse (which they know on the inside is wrong) if you tell them it is okay to do so. You teach them about fire, water, good foods to find, bad foods. So you must teach them about good touching and bad touching and who can do it and how, and who can't.

Children have a sense when something is wrong. You should teach them to trust that feeling that they have in their tummy or their heart.

We teach our children through words but mainly through action. We now need to teach our babies that they sometimes need to protect themselves from people who say they love them. We must teach them to say no to violence and to have things done to their private places and they must tell people if this happens.

Our children are not taught this is mine and this is yours, they are taught to share but they are taught that some things are private. They know when that privacy is being abused and they should be absolutely supported in the fact that this is wrong.

Our children need to know that somewhere there is a safe place. They cannot just get up and leave unless we are prepared to break that bondage and provide a safe place like a house and teach children to go there no matter what Auntie or Uncle, Mum, Dad or cous say.

So you must teach them about good touching and bad touching and let them know that they should always so no to bad touching.

**SO HOW SAFE ARE YOUR BABIES,  
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY FROM  
FAMILY VIOLENCE, CHILD ABUSE AND  
NEGLECT?**



**HOW SAFE IS  
YOUR FAMILY?**

## FAMILY VIOLENCE, CHILD ABUSE AS WELL AS CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE (RAPE) HAPPENS EVERYWHERE

People who do abuse come from uptown, in the bush or out in the desert. They are young, old and in the middle. They are mostly families, mothers, fathers, aunties, uncles, brothers, sisters and cousins. All are known to the child/ren.



That is why it is so important to know how to protect your children.

And that also why it is so important to be aware of the signs that tell us that kids are experiencing violence or abuse so that we can do something about it.



## PROTECT OUR KIDS

Kids who are in the middle of family violence are more likely to have problems with their behaviour.

They may be scared, show anger, lie, cheat and steal, they may have nightmares, wet the bed, be sick or sicker than usual or get into drinking or drugging, including sniffing.

They may be aggressive to others. Be nasty to animals.

Have sexually transmitted diseases. Have pain or injuries in private areas. Show funny sexual behaviour for their age.

You may wonder what all the bruises are over different parts of their bodies specially the babies.

## FAMILY AND COMMUNITIES

### For family violence

- Tell the children it is not their fault
- Help them to make a safe plan and to talk about it

### For those sexually abused

- Remain calm, and listen to what they are saying always believe them
- Let them know that it was and is not their fault and that it was right to talk about it
- Let them know that you will try to stop the abuse
- Do not make promises you cannot keep
- Do not confront parents or offenders
- Advise the nearest Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Care Agency.

# DO YOU KNOW?

Family violence that happens even around children is very damaging to them

1 in 4 girls and 1 in 9 boys are sexually abused before they turn 18

From babies up to teenagers are abused

Family violence whether done to the kids or they just watch it is very damaging to them

Children who are believed and supported can recover from the abuse

Abuse is abuse of the child and it is never the child's fault

Abusers can be male or female

You may be the only chance for the child/family to stop the cycle