



Responding to Incidents, Disclosures, and Suspicions of Child Abuse – Four Critical Actions

You Must Take Action

As a volunteer/staff member in your sport you play a critical role protecting children and young people. You must follow the four actions below.

1

Responding

If a child is at risk of immediate harm you must ensure their safety by:

3. Separating alleged victims and others involved.
4. Administering first aid.
5. Calling 000 for urgent medical and/or police assistance to respond to immediate health or safety concerns.
6. Identifying a contact person at for future liaison with Police.

If there is no immediate harm go to Action 2

2

Reporting

Any incident must be documented on the Child Abuse Incident Report Form

Where does the source of suspected abuse come from?

Within the family or community

Report to your jurisdictional child protection body depending on the rules in your jurisdiction.
Report to your local police and internally to the designated contact in your sport.

Within the sport

Report to the police or to the relevant body in your jurisdiction as required. You must also report internally to your designated contact in your sport who then needs to report to Human resources, CEO, Board and contract partners.

3

Contacting

Your sport must consult with the relevant child protection authority or local police to determine the information can be shared with parents/carers.

This can include

1. Not to contact the parents or carers in circumstances where they have alleged to have engaged in the abuse or the child is a mature minor and does not wish their parent/carer to be contacted.
2. To contact the parents/carers and provide agreed information as soon as possible.

4

Supporting

Your sport should provide support for children impact on abuse which could include: the development of a safety plan, direct support and/or a referral to wellbeing

Key Contacts for Child Safety

Paddle Qld: Fiona Coppin,
qc.eo@canoe.org.au

Paddle Qld: Peter Cooke,
qc.president@canoe.org.au

Child Safety on 1800 811 810

Police 000 or your local police station