



7.19 Child Protection

Scope

This policy sets out, in practical terms, how SGCH will work with families, young people and children where there are child protection concerns. SGCH will:

- Ensure that the safety, welfare and well-being of children and young people are safeguarded.
- Protect children and young people suspected to be at risk of harm by:
 - Recognising the signs of abuse and neglect.
 - Reporting suspected cases to the Department of Community Services
 - Providing appropriate and secure housing assistance to children, young people and their families.

Policy

SGCH works in partnership with government and non-government agencies including the Department of Community Services (DoCS), NSW Health and the Police to promote a safe and nurturing environment.

SGCH supports the principles for child protection intervention which guide government and non government agency decisions, policies and procedures. These include:

- The right to an environment that is free of violence and exploitation.
- Children, young people and families experiencing difficulties have a right to expect assistance appropriate to their physical and psychological needs.
- The right to services that foster their health, developmental needs, self-respect and dignity.
- The right to services that promote independent living.

The safety, welfare and well-being of the child are paramount.

Children and young people will be given the opportunity to appropriately participate in decisions which significantly impact on their lives.

Child protection decisions will take into account the culture, disability, language, religion and sexuality of the child, young person, family or carer.

The identity of the child or young person will be kept confidential and no intervention must go beyond securing their safety, welfare and well being.

Related policy

8.5 Privacy and Confidentiality

7.22 End of Tenancy