



INFORMATION SHEET 2



The Child Protection Guide

INFORMATION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE PROFESSIONALS

The Child Protection Guide is an online tool to support professionals, such as teachers, doctors and nurses, child care workers and others working with children and families, in deciding where to refer or report concerns about a child's safety or wellbeing.

It was developed by government and non-government agencies to ensure that professionals meet their reporting obligations, including reporting serious concerns to Child Safety, while also enabling families in need of support to access services without unnecessary statutory intervention.

The guide supports professionals in their decision making by:

- focusing on critical factors
- clearly identifying the threshold for reporting concerns to Child Safety
- identifying alternative and additional ways to support a family where the concerns do not meet the threshold
- operationalising the *Child Protection Act 1999* to ensure reporting obligations are met
- providing details of local support services
- providing a consistent and objective framework for analysing concerns
- promoting shared principles, language and thresholds across the system.

It is not mandatory to use the Child Protection Guide when making decisions about where to refer or report child protection concerns. The guide is designed to complement critical thinking, and does not preclude or replace any course of action a professional reasonably believes is appropriate.

The Child Protection Guide

Where child protection concerns do not meet the threshold for a report to Child Safety, the guide assists professionals in determining other referral pathways to ensure at-risk families access the support they need.

The Child Protection Guide is not intended to replicate the Child Safety intake process but rather complements and supports existing Child Safety policies, procedures and decision support tools.

How the Child Protection Guide works

The Child Protection Guide asks a series of 'yes or no' questions about the concerns and provides a recommended 'decision point' based on the answers provided. The guide, for example, may recommend that a report is made to Child Safety or, alternatively, that a referral to a Family and Child Connect service or other support service is appropriate.



If a report to Child Safety or a referral to a Family and Child Connect service is recommended, the Child Protection Guide will generate the appropriate online form to be completed.

Where to find the Child Protection Guide

The Child Protection Guide is available on the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services website at www.communities.qld.gov.au/childsafety

Further information

For more information about the Child Protection Guide, call the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services on **3006 8826** or go to www.communities.qld.gov.au/childsafety