

- 1. Title:** **Mandatory Reporting and Investigation Policy**
- 2. Applies to:** All personnel and volunteers of the Christian Brothers Oceania Province (EREA has its own Mandatory Reporting and Investigation Policy which is applied to all personnel engaged/employed in Province Schools located in the Archdiocese of Sydney and the Dioceses of Broken Bay and Parramatta)
- 3. Geographical Application:** Province wide unless otherwise stated
- 4. Legislation/Regulation:** All applicable legislation/regulation
- 5. Policy Statement:**

Each person working within the Christian Brothers Oceania Province has an important role in the identification and reporting of suspected or actual harm or likely harm to children/students and will provide an immediate response to such matters and co-operate fully and swiftly with the appropriate civil and Church authorities.

This policy and reporting processes apply to Christian Brothers Oceania Province.

- Christian Brothers Oceania Province will ensure that brothers, school principals, leaders, employees and volunteers are informed about current issues in child/student protection and will provide professional development opportunities in this area for brothers, employed staff, volunteers and, where applicable, homestay providers.
- Christian Brothers Oceania Province will ensure that suitable Child/Student Protection Advisors/Contacts in the various ministries, entities and schools are appointed.
- Christian Brothers Oceania Province will comply with the relevant legislation in the various jurisdictions (National, State or Province) in regard to legislated mandatory reporting and investigation.
- Christian Brothers Oceania Province will meet the requirements of the Catholic Church national standards as expressed in such documents as “Towards Healing” for the Australian Church.
- Christian Brothers Oceania Province will monitor and review this policy and reporting processes in compliance with Legislation in the various jurisdictions (National, State or Province) and the requirements of the Catholic Church’s document *Towards Healing*.

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## 5.1 Mandatory Reporting or Notification – Employee Obligation

There are three categories requiring differing types of reporting:

### 5.1.1 Category One: Sexual abuse/likely sexual abuse

If the ‘employee’ receives a disclosure from a child or young person or has reasonable grounds to suspect that there has been sexual abuse or there is likely abuse by another person, the employee is required to report this according to the processes of this policy.

The matter **MUST** be reported to the school principal/regional coordinator who **MUST** notify the civil Child Protection Agency and/or Police. In all such circumstances, the ‘employee’ or school principal/regional coordinator will not conduct any investigation. The relevant civil authority will direct any investigation.

### 5.1.2 Category Two: Other harm or likely harm

If the ‘employee’ has reasonable grounds to suspect harm other than sexual abuse to a child or young person from any source, the matter **MUST** be reported to the school principal/regional coordinator who will initiate the appropriate reporting and investigation pathway. In all such circumstances, the ‘employee’ or school principal/regional coordinator will not conduct any investigation but the school principal/regional coordinator will ensure the Child Protection Officer (CPO) activates such processes.

### 5.1.3 Category Three: Inappropriate conduct

If the ‘employee’ becomes aware of inappropriate behaviour by a staff member, other employee or volunteer towards a child or young person, the matter should be reported to the school principal/regional coordinator who will activate appropriate procedures.

Even when there are not grounds for legal action, Christian Brothers Oceania Province recognises the serious harm that can be caused by any abuse or inappropriate conduct. In any of these categories the school principal/regional coordinator is expected to assess the risk of harm to any child or young person who may be a victim, and initiate steps to remove or minimise that risk. The child or young person, usually with parental support, shall be offered counselling.

The alleged offender, including an ‘employee’, must be accorded natural justice. This includes procedural fairness. This person is presumed innocent until shown otherwise. In the circumstance where the child or young person is at risk of continuing harm, the alleged offender must be advised not to contact the victim. It may also be necessary to stand aside such an ‘employee’ during part/all the investigation. The alleged offender shall be offered Employee Assistance Programme (EAP) counselling.

## 6. Child Protection Process

### What is mandatory reporting?

Legislation which specifies by law to report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect is known as mandatory reporting. The categories of people mandated to report vary across the different national, state and territory jurisdictions.

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For example, within Australia, the legislation governing mandatory reporting differs from state to state. The Philippines, East Timor, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea also have different requirements.

The jurisdictions covered include: Australian Capital Territory; New South Wales; Northern Territory; Queensland; South Australia; Tasmania; Victoria; Western Australia; Philippines; East Timor; New Zealand; Papua New Guinea (Table 1). This spread of jurisdictions makes it difficult to set out a single process or protocol which can apply across the whole of Christian Brothers Oceania Province or even within Australia. With these difficulties in mind, two different scenarios are presented that broadly cover the appropriate reporting responses in dealing with Category One matters.

The first describes a typical mandatory reporting scenario in an Edmund Rice Educational Ministry, while the second scenario describes the scenario of an Edmund Rice Camp, where those working with children and young people are mostly volunteers.

### 6.1 Scenario One – Edmund Rice Educational Ministry

There are four distinct phases involved.

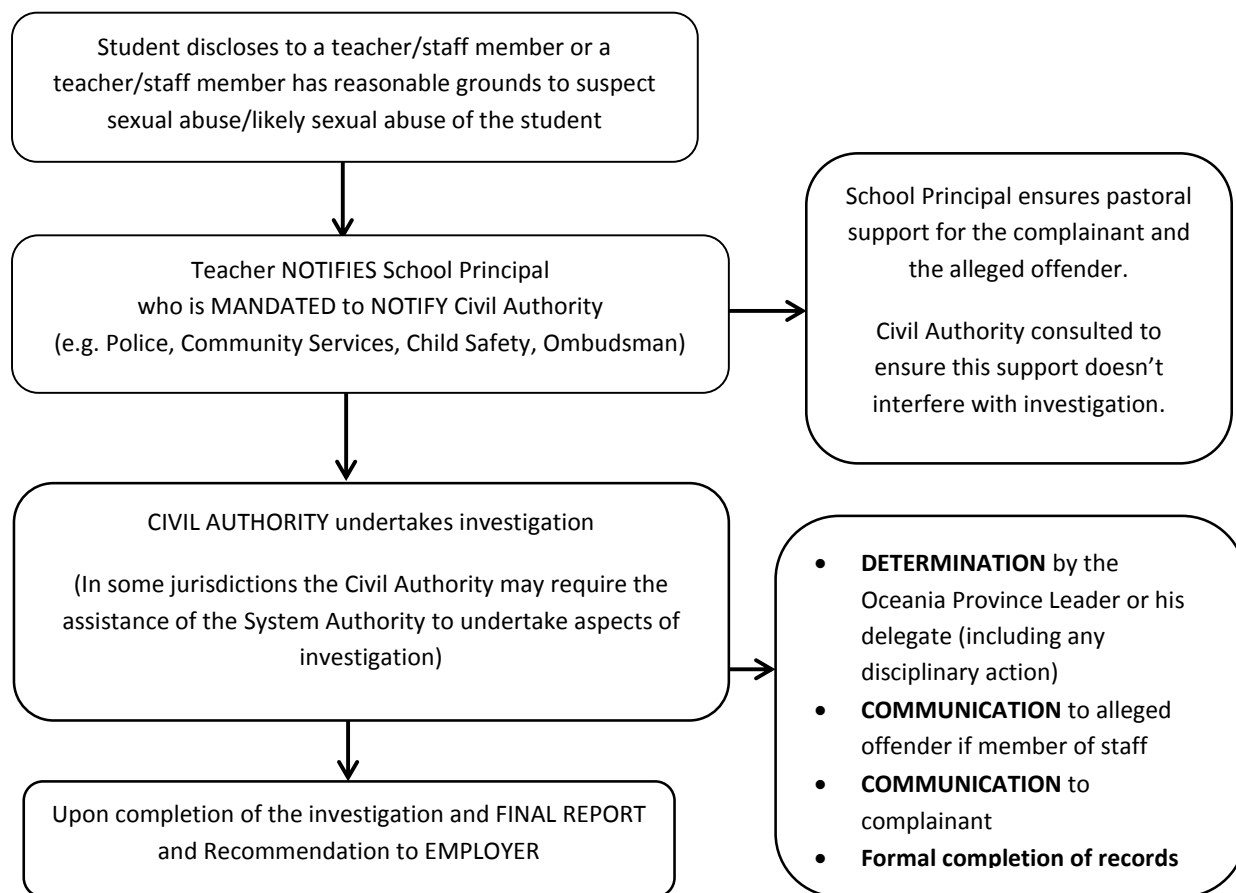
In the first phase it is assumed a student discloses to a teacher that she/he has been sexually abused. The teacher, from this disclosure or from other insights, forms a view that she/he has reasonable grounds to suspect sexual abuse/likely sexual abuse of the student.

In the second phase, that teacher must NOTIFY the school principal who in turn is MANDATED to NOTIFY the Civil Authority. Depending on the state in which this arises, there are different requirements. Commonly the Police and/or Community Services are notified. In at least one state, the Ombudsman must also be notified. While the above process is underway, the school principal needs to ensure that pastoral support is provided to the student. Under no circumstances may the teacher or the school principal undertake any investigation. That responsibility rests with the civil authority.

In the third phase, the Civil Authority (or several Civil Authorities in a joint manner) conducts an investigation. In some states, the Civil Authority will require the System Authority i.e. Christian Brothers Oceania Province to undertake certain aspects of the investigation.

In the fourth phase the investigation results in a report. It is noted that an alleged offender has the right to be presumed innocent until shown otherwise. The Oceania Province Leader or his delegate needs to be provided with relevant information arising from the investigation which may affect the employment status of the individual.

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**Note:** School staff in all states other than in Western Australia and Queensland are legislated to report all forms of child abuse. In Queensland teachers are mandated to report to nominated authorities sexual abuse/likely sexual abuse by any person against a child (under 18 y.o.) attending the school. In Western Australia mandated reporters (doctors, police officers, teachers, nurses and midwives) are required to report to nominated authorities sexual abuse of a child (under 18 y.o.), both in their professional role and outside of their professional role.

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## 6.2 Scenario Two – Edmund Rice Camps/Edmund Rice Ministries Working with Children and Young People

There are four distinct phases involved.

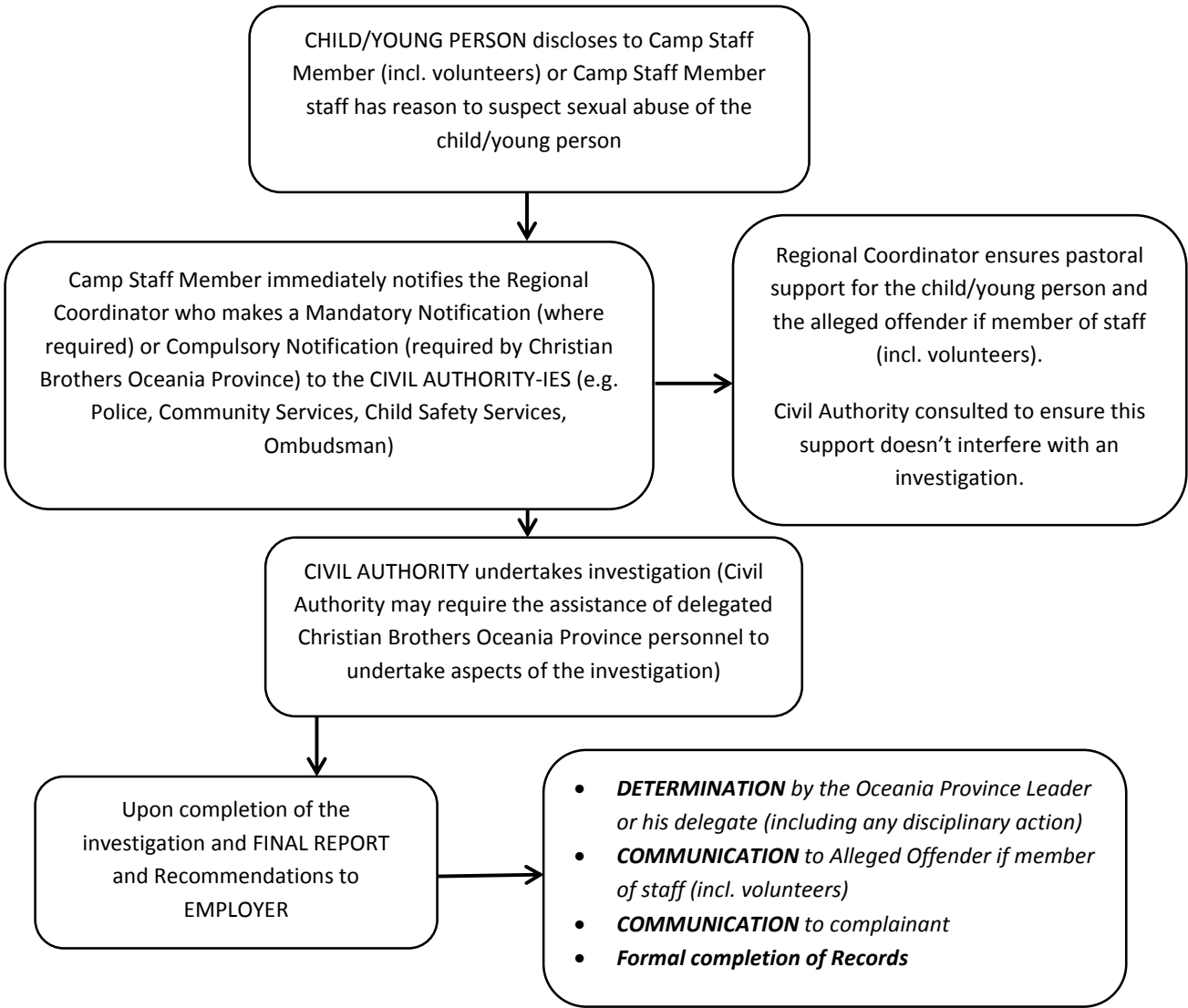
In the first phase it is assumed a child/young person discloses to a “camp staff member” that she/he has been sexually abused. The “camp staff member” from this disclosure or from other insights forms a view that she/he has reasonable grounds to suspect sexual abuse/likely sexual abuse of the child/young person.

In the second phase, that “camp staff member” must NOTIFY the “regional coordinator” who in turn is MANDATED to NOTIFY the Civil Authority. Depending on the state in which this arises, there are different requirements. Commonly the Police and/or Community Services are notified. In at least one state, the Ombudsman must also be notified. While the above process is underway, the “regional coordinator” needs to ensure that pastoral support is provided to the child/young person. Under no circumstances may the “camp staff member” or the “regional coordinator” undertake any investigation. That responsibility rests with the Civil Authority.

In the third phase, the Civil Authority (or several Civil Authorities in a joint manner) conducts an investigation. In some states, the Civil Authority will require the System Authority i.e. Christian Brothers Oceania Province to undertake certain aspects of the investigation.

In the fourth phase the investigation results in a report. It is noted that an alleged offender has the right to be presumed innocent until shown otherwise. The Oceania Province Leader or his delegate needs to be provided with relevant information arising from the investigation which may affect the employment status of the individual.

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**Other comments**

The "camp staff member" will need help from Edmund Rice Camp Executive in completing relevant information on the Notification Form.

The "regional coordinator" will incorporate the above information into the Notification Form.

Christian Brothers Oceania Province appoints one or more Child Protection Officers. In addition the Christian Brothers Oceania Province Leader may outsource certain responsibilities to some specialist child protection person. Where such persons are appointed, they can assist school principals or regional coordinators in their meeting of responsibilities.

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**Note:** With the exception of Western Australia and Queensland, mandated reporters are legislated to report child abuse and neglect. However this varies requiring some jurisdictions to report physical abuse and sexual abuse whilst others are legislated to report all forms of child abuse. In Queensland medical practitioners and nurses and employees/volunteers in child related work in government departments and agencies are mandated reporters of child abuse and neglect. In the State of Western Australia, child care, family day care, outside school hours care, and outside school hours family day care providers are required by law to report allegations of abuse and neglect against staff and volunteers.

### 6.3 Other matters of Abuse generally and/or inappropriate Conduct

#### Category Two: Other harm or likely harm

If any employee reasonably suspects that harm other than sexual abuse has been caused to a student/child, the employee is compulsorily required to report such to the school principal/regional coordinator without delay. An appropriate written report form is available for that purpose. Depending on the jurisdictional requirements, the school principal/regional coordinator may be required to mandatorily report to the civil authorities. Otherwise the school principal/regional coordinator will ensure appropriate investigation.

#### Category Three: Inappropriate conduct

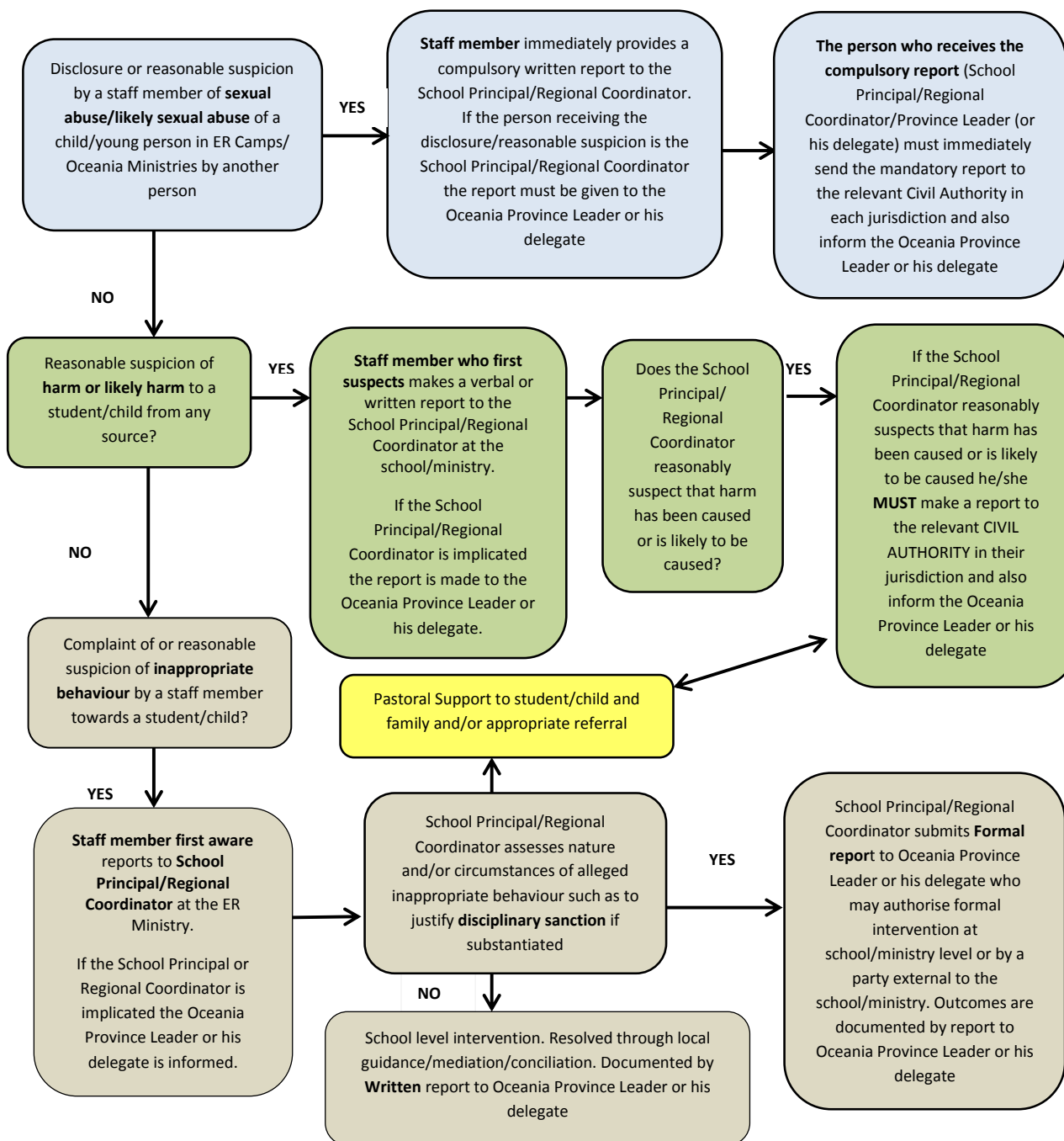
If an employee reasonably suspects that another employee has behaved inappropriately towards a student/child, he/she is required to report such to the school principal/regional coordinator. An appropriate form will be available for that purpose. While such matters are usually not as serious as the above, a prudent course is followed in informing the responsible leader. Where an employee receives a complaint from a student/child, parent or other person, the same reporting requirement exists.

School principals/regional coordinators will receive more detailed information on each of the above categories and be specifically aware of jurisdictional differences. Child protection officers, appointed by Christian Brothers Oceania Province, provide expertise and professional advice in a particular situation.

A Reporting Flow chart follows a means of summarising the information above.

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## REPORTING FLOWCHART SUMMARY – Brothers, paid employees and volunteers



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- 7. Other Relevant Oceania Policies and Guidelines:** Child Protection Policy  
Resource Document re Child Protection Policy and Guidelines  
Code of Conduct – Interacting with Children and Young People Guideline
- 8. Forms:** To be developed

**9. Context:**

Policies and guidelines of the Christian Brothers Oceania Province are the reasonable attempt by the Christian Brothers Oceania Province to interpret the legal and moral requirements applying to the matter they address. Where there is any discrepancy between legislation and any policies or guidelines of the Christian Brothers Oceania Province, the legislation will prevail to the extent of any inconsistency.

The Christian Brothers Oceania Province also reserves a right of discretion in relation to the implementation of policies or guidelines as the Christian Brothers Oceania Province may deem appropriate. The Christian Brothers Oceania Province will act reasonably in applying such discretion. In the event there is any dispute in relation to the use, or otherwise, of such discretion the Province Leader retains the ultimate right to decide on such matter.

The Christian Brothers Oceania Province confirms that its policies and guidelines are not incorporated into any employment agreement/contract, and as such the terms of the Christian Brothers Oceania Province's policies and guidelines do not form terms of employment.

Members of the Christian Brothers Oceania Province community are expected to take reasonable steps to inform themselves of the Christian Brothers Oceania Province's policies and guidelines, and ensure that conduct is appropriate as required by these policies and guidelines. Failure to abide by the Christian Brothers Oceania Province's policies or guidelines may result in the Christian Brothers Oceania Province taking relevant action for misconduct.

**10. Definitions:**

**Child or Young Person** refers to any person under the age of 18 years unless an earlier age of majority is recognised by a country's law.

**Employees** include brothers, paid employees and volunteers.

**Mandatory Reporting** is legislation which specifies by law to report suspected cases of child abuse or neglect to the relevant civil authority. The persons mandated to report include teachers, school principals, counsellors and social workers arising from a disclosure or from other information from a child/young person. The persons to report vary across the different national, state and territory jurisdictions.

Within the Christian Brothers Oceania Province, this policy requires any employee engaged in welfare of children/young people to report to the school principal/regional coordinator in the first instance.

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**Christian Brothers Oceania Province** is an organisational and administrative structure established by the Congregation Leadership Team to facilitate the mission and ministries of the Congregation in Australia, East Timor, New Zealand, The Philippines and Papua New Guinea, and to form and nurture those who constitute its membership.

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**TABLE 1**

**MANDATORY REPORTING OF CHILD ABUSE  
IN AUSTRALIAN STATES AND TERRITORIES (AUGUST 2013)**

**What is Mandatory reporting?**

Legislation which specifies who is required by law to report suspected cases of child abuse and neglect is known as mandatory reporting. The people mandated to report varies across the different States and Territories. The role and scope of child protection activity is primarily prescribed by the school principal child protection Acts in each Australian jurisdiction.

**Who is mandated to report child abuse in Australia?**

Legislation governing mandatory reporting differs from state to state. The following table lists the school principal child protection Acts in each Australian State and Territory and which groups within each State and Territory are mandated to report child abuse at the time of compilation of this table.

JURISDICTION	OBLIGATIONS	LEGISLATION	MANDATORY REPORTING ENACTED
<b>AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY</b>  (Office for Children, Youth and Family Support)	Doctors, dentists, nurses, police officers, teachers, school counsellors, public servants providing services relating to the health or well being of children, licensed child care providers. young people or families, the community advocate, or the official visitor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Children and Young People Act 1999</i> (ACT) (amendments effective 6 March 2005)</li> <li>• <i>Child and Young People's Bill 2007</i> due to be considered by the ACT Legislative Assembly in 2008</li> <li>• <i>Adoption Act 1993</i> (ACT)</li> <li>• <i>Human Rights Act 2004</i> (ACT)</li> <li>• <i>Human Rights Commission Act 2005</i> (ACT)</li> <li>• <i>Public Advocate Act 2005</i> (ACT)</li> <li>• <i>Family Law Act 1975</i> (Cth)</li> </ul>	Mandatory Reporting was introduced into the Australian Capital Territory in 1997  In 2006-07 changes were made to the <i>Children and Young People Act 1999</i> . A requirement for a cultural plan to be developed for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people on orders requiring out-of-home care. Additionally changes to the Act were made regarding the obligation of mandated reporters.

<p><b>NEW SOUTH WALES</b> (Department of Community Services)</p>	<p>Medical practitioners. Extended to include those who, in the course of their professional work or other paid employment, deliver health care, welfare, education, children's services, residential services or law enforcement to children under the age of 16 years. Also mandates those who hold a management position and supervise workers in the above categories, and who have reasonable grounds to suspect a child is at risk of harm. Mandated professionals MUST report physical or sexual abuse as well as medical neglect, physical neglect or psychological harm caused to a child by witnessing domestic violence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Act 1998</i> (NSW). Amendments to the Act effective March 2007 enabled information to be exchanged about an unborn child who is the subject of a pre-natal report.</li> <li>• <i>Child Protection Legislation Amendment Act 2003</i></li> <li>• <i>Children and Young Persons (Care and Protection) Amendment (Parental Responsibility Contracts) Act 2006</i> (NSW)</li> <li>• <i>Child Protection (Offenders Registration) Act 2000</i> (NSW)</li> <li>• <i>Crimes Act 1900</i> (NSW)</li> <li>• <i>Commissioner for Children and Young People Act 1998</i> (NSW)</li> <li>• <i>Crimes Amendment (Child Protection – Physical Mistreatment) Act 2001</i></li> <li>• <i>The Ombudsman Act 1974</i> (NSW)</li> <li>• <i>Family Law Act 1974</i> (Cth)</li> </ul> <p><b>Note: Amendments to the Ombudsman Act 1974 and Commission for Children and Young People Act 1998 ("CCYP Act") commenced on 23 April 2004</b></p>	<p>NSW has had mandatory reporting legislation since 1977 when medical practitioners were mandated.</p> <p>The legislation was extended in 2000.</p>
<p><b>NORTHERN TERRITORY</b> (Family and Children's Services, Department of Health and Community Services)</p>	<p>Any person who believes a child is being or has been abused or neglected is required to notify.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Community Welfare Act 1983</i> (NT) (amended May 2004)</li> </ul>	<p>Mandatory reporting legislation</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Care and Protection of Children Act (NT)</i> assented to 12 December 2007 to commence on date fixed by the Administrator. The new Act replaces the 24 year old <i>Community Welfare Act</i>.</li> <li>• <i>Information Act 2006(NT)</i></li> <li>• <i>Disability Services Act 2004 (NT)</i></li> <li>• <i>Criminal Code Act 2006 (NT)</i></li> <li>• <i>Family Law Act 1975 (Cth)</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>QUEENSLAND</b> (Department of Communities, Child Safety Services) (Police Services)</p>	<p>Medical practitioners and Nurses in Queensland are required by law to notify all suspected cases of physical, psychological, or emotional abuse or neglect, as well as sexual abuse or exploitation. Employees and volunteers in child-related work in government departments and agencies are required to report when they suspect harm to children. School principals and teachers in non-state schools are required by law to report all suspected cases of sexual abuse/likely sexual abuse by any person against a student currently at the school. School principals and teachers in state schools are not mandated by law, but Education Queensland policy requires teachers to report suspected cases to authorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Child Protection Act 1999 (Qld)</i></li> <li>• <i>Child Protection Amendment Act 2001</i></li> <li>• <i>Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000</i></li> <li>• <i>Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian and Another Act Amendment Act2008</i></li> <li>• <i>Education (General Provisions) Act2006</i></li> <li>• <i>Education (General Provisions) Regulation 2006</i></li> <li>• <i>Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Act 2001</i></li> <li>• <i>Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2001</i></li> <li>• <i>Education and Training Legislation Amendment Act 2011</i></li> </ul>	<p>Mandatory reporting introduced under <i>Child Protection Act 1999 (Qld)</i></p> <p><i>Mandatory reporting of likely sexual abuse for school staff members -introduced under the Education Legislation Amendment Act 2012</i></p> <p>The <i>Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian and Another Act Amendment Act 2008</i> amends the – <i>Commission for Children and Young People and Child Guardian Act 2000</i> and the <i>Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000</i> and for wanted purposes.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Education Legislation Amendment Act 2012</i></li> <li>• <i>Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005</i></li> <li>• <i>Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Regulation 2005</i></li> <li>• <i>Public Health Act 2005</i></li> <li>• <i>Adoption of Children Act 1964 (</i></li> <li>• <i>Child Safety Legislation Amendment Act 2005</i></li> <li>• <i>Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act 2004</i></li> <li>• <i>Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Regulation 2004</i></li> <li>• <i>Family Law Act 1975 (Cth)</i></li> </ul>	
<p><b>SOUTH AUSTRALIA</b> (Children, Youth and Family Services; Department for Families and Community Services)</p>	<p>Doctors, pharmacists, nurses, dentists, psychologists, police, community corrections officers, social workers, teachers, family day care providers, employees/volunteers in a government department, agency or instrumentality, or a local government or non-government agency that provides health, welfare, education, child care or residential services wholly or partly for children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Children’s Protection Act 1993 (SA)</i> amended 1 July 2000.</li> <li>• <i>Children’s Protection (Miscellaneous) Amendment Act 2004 (SA)</i> underpins <i>Keeping Them Safe</i>, the South Australian Government’s child protection reform program</li> <li>• <i>Young Offenders Act 1994 (SA)</i></li> <li>• <i>Adoption Act 1988 (SA)</i></li> <li>• <i>Children’s Protection Regulations 2006 (SA)</i></li> <li>• <i>Family Law Act 1975 (Cth)</i></li> <li>• <i>Family and Community Services Act 1972 (SA)</i></li> </ul>	<p>South Australia recently reviewed its mandatory provisions. The <i>Children’s Act Amendment Bill 2005</i> widens mandatory reporting to include a person employing volunteering, in organizations that provide sporting or recreational services that provide wholly or partly to children.</p>

<p><b>TASMANIA</b> (Department of Health and Human Services)</p>	<p>Medical practitioners, nurses, dentists, police officers, psychologists, probation officers, child welfare officers, school principals, teachers, kindergarten teachers, people who manage child care services and people employed by or volunteering in government agencies or organizations funded by the Crown that provide health, welfare, education or care for children.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1997</i> (TAS)</li> <li>• <i>The Family Violence Act 2004</i> (TAS)</li> <li>• <i>Family Law Act 1975</i> (Cth)</li> </ul> <p>Proposed –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Screening for Child-related Work2005</i></li> </ul>	<p>Introduced under <i>Children, Young Persons and their Families Act 1997</i> (TAS)</p>
<p><b>VICTORIA</b> (Children Protection and Juvenile Justice Branch; Department of Human Services)</p>	<p>Professionals are mandated to report suspected cases of physical and sexual abuse. Professionals mandated are doctors, nurses, police, teachers and school principals.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Children, Youth and Families Act 2005</i> (Vic) that commenced operation on 3 April 2007, is detailed legislation targeted at vulnerable children and families</li> <li>• <i>Working with Children Act 2005</i> (Vic)</li> <li>• <i>Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005</i> (Vic) (framework legislation for services for all children that commenced operation in early 2007)</li> <li>• <i>The Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006</i> (Vic)</li> <li>• <i>Family Law Act 1975</i> (Cth)</li> </ul>	<p>Mandatory reporting was legislated in Victoria in 1993 via an amendment to the <i>Children and Young Persons Act 1989</i>.</p>
<p><b>WESTERN AUSTRALIA</b> (Department for Community Development, now the Department for Child Protection)</p>	<p>Doctors, nurses, teachers and police are mandated to report child sexual abuse, court personnel, counsellors and mediators, licensed providers of child care or outside school hours care services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Children and Community Services Act 2004</i> (WA) came into operation on 1 March 2006, with 2006-2007 being the first full year of operation. (this Act replaced <i>Carer's Recognition Act 1947</i>; <i>Welfare and Assistance Act 1961</i> and <i>Community Services Act 1972</i></li> </ul>	<p>The legislation was introduced into State Parliament on 28 November 2007.</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Working with Children (Criminal Record Checking) Act 2004 (WA) Proclaimed in 2006</i></li> <li>• <i>Family Court Act 1997 (WA)</i></li> <li>• <i>Adoption Act 1994 (WA)</i></li> <li>• <i>Family Law Act 1975 (Cth)</i></li> </ul>	
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**PHILIPPINES:** At the time of June 2010 there is no mandatory requirement to report child abuse. There is a *Presidential Decree No. 603 December 10, 1974 – The Child and Youth Welfare Code* that sets out requirements for the care of children.

**EAST TIMOR:** No mandatory requirement to report child abuse -There is a *Constitution of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Child Protection Section 18, 1, 2, 3* covering the special protection of children. Work is being conducted for the protection of children by Save the Children and UNICEF

**NEW ZEALAND:** In New Zealand, it is not mandatory to report partner and child abuse.

#### Child Abuse

Best practice recommends staff who identify or suspect child abuse report their concerns to a statutory agency e.g. the police, or a Child, Youth and Family service. In some District Health Boards this is mandatory.

Health providers have a statutory obligation to disclose information to a Child, Youth and Family service or the police when the information is required to determine whether the child needs care and protection (section 66 of the Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1989)

New Zealand has adapted the Australian documents *Towards Healing and Integrity in Ministry*.

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA:** No mandatory reporting. The diverse structure of Papua New Guinea is complex. NGOs such as Save the Children, Child Wise and UNICEF conduct workshops and training in Child Protection in PNG.

**NOTE:** The Crimes Legislation Amendment (Child Sex Tourism Offences and Related Measures) Bill 2007 was passed.

Child Sexual Abuse is now an Australian crime, even if you're overseas. Travelling to sexually exploit children is a crime. You can be prosecuted in Australia for child sex offences, even if the offence is committed against children overseas.

**THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT HAS INTRODUCED NEW, STRONGER LAWS AGAINST CHILD EXPLOITATION AND CHILD PORNOGRAPHY.**

Penalties include:

- up to 25 years imprisonment for child sex offences committed overseas



- **up to 10 years imprisonment for planning to commit a child sex offence overseas**
- **up to 25 years imprisonment for child pornography offences committed in Australia and overseas.**

**These laws apply to all overseas countries including Philippines, Timor Leste, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.**