



**Fact Sheet 13      October, 2007**

**Frequently used terminology in student protection**

| Common phrases   | Terminology explained   |
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| <b>Child</b>   | A child is ‘an individual under 18 years’ according to the <i>Child Protection Act 1999</i> .   |
| <b>Student</b>   | A student is any person, regardless of age, who is enrolled in a Toowoomba Catholic Education School or College   |
| <b>Harm/abuse</b>  | These terms refer to ‘any detrimental effect of a significant nature on the child’s physical, psychological or emotional wellbeing’.  |
| <b>‘Child in need of protection’ (Child Protection Act 1999)</b> | This term refers to a child or young person who has suffered harm, is suffering harm, or is at an unacceptable risk of suffering harm and does not have a parent/carer able and willing to protect the child from harm.   |
| <b>Parent</b>  | A parent of a child is the child’s mother, father or someone else having or exercising parental responsibility for the child. However, a person standing in the place of a parent of a child on a temporary basis is not a parent of the child. A parent of an Aboriginal child includes a person who, under Aboriginal tradition, is regarded as a parent of the child. A parent of a Torres Strait Islander child includes a person who, under Island custom, is regarded as a parent of the <i>child (Child Protection Act 1999)</i> |
| <b>Notification</b>  | This term refers to the reporting of information to the Department of Child Safety where it is suspected that a child/young person may have experienced harm or be at risk of harm to the extent that statutory intervention may be required. A child protection notification is made to and recorded by the Department of Child Safety (DChS). Refer to Fact Sheet 16 for the information about what happens after a report/notification is made to DChS.  |
| <b>Custody</b>   | This term refers to the right to a child’s daily care and to make decisions about a child’s daily care ( <i>Child Protection Act 1999</i> ).  |
| <b>Guardianship</b>  | This term refers to the right to the child’s daily care and to make decisions about the child’s daily care and their long term development, in the same way as a person having parental responsibility under the Family Law Act ( <i>Child Protection Act 1999</i> ).   |
| <b>Child Safety Service Centres (Department of Child Safety)</b> | Department of Child Safety frontline workers operate from Child Safety Service Centres. These centres incorporate specialist service areas including intake and assessment and alternative care (eg foster care). Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) team co-ordinators and departmental court officers are also based in the service centres. Refer to Fact Sheet 15 for contact details for these centres.  |
| <b>Crisis Care</b>   | This is the after hours service provided by the Department of Child Safety to respond to notifications.   |

**Further information:**

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