

STUDENT



PROTECTION

SCHOOL CONTACTS
ANNUAL IN-SERVICE
TERM 2, 2009

Prayer for the group gathered here today....

Look kindly Lord

On this group that trusts in you.

During this gathering as we discuss and reflect

On important issues

Help us to hear the voice of your spirit

And receive your Word in faith.

Give us wisdom in discernment,

Prudence in judgement

Firmness in decision

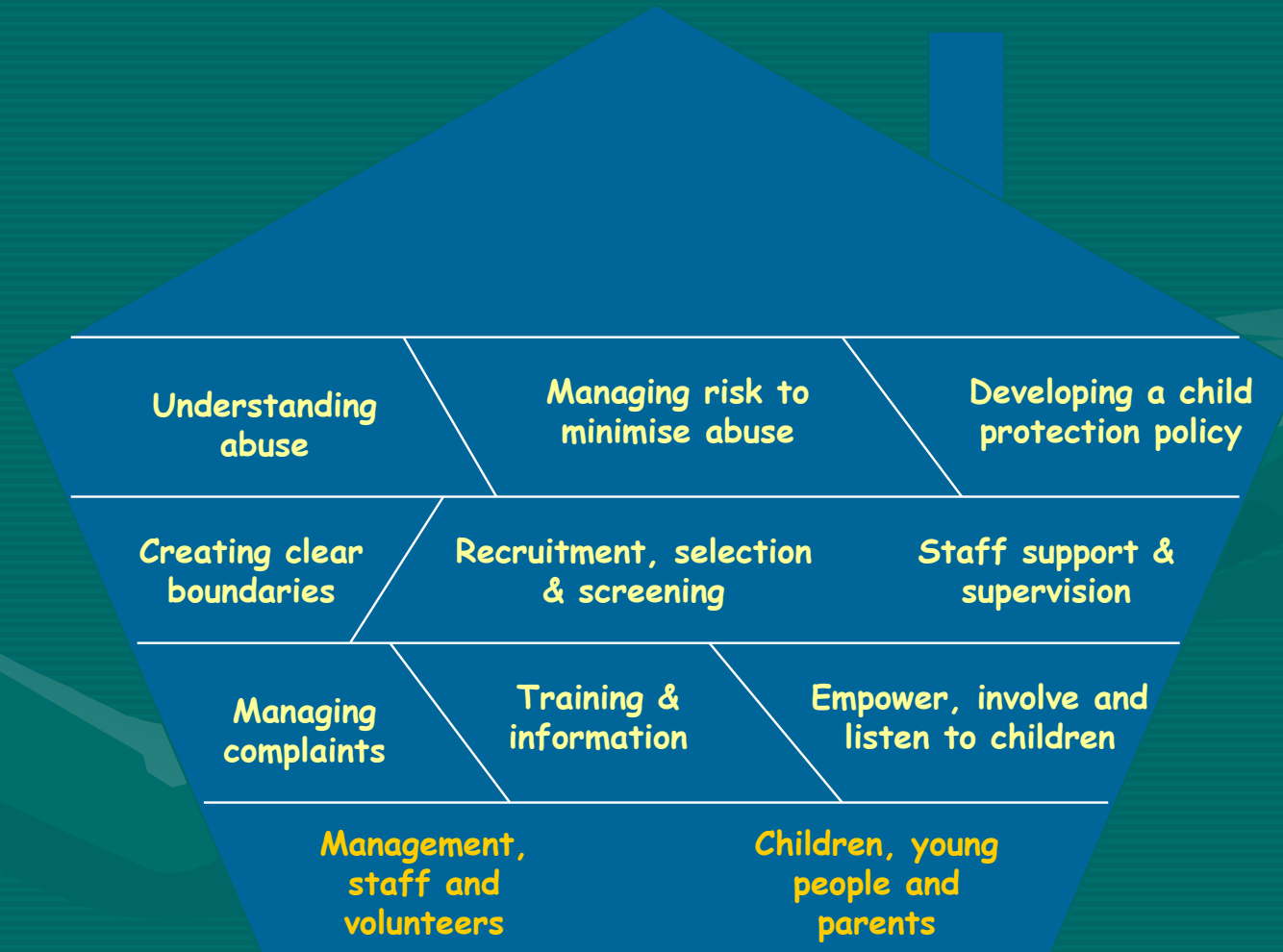
And wisdom in planning.

May diversity of views come together in
common goals.

May we always act with due concern
For both the present and the future,
Respecting our traditions
But attentive to the signs of the time.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A Child Safe Organisation



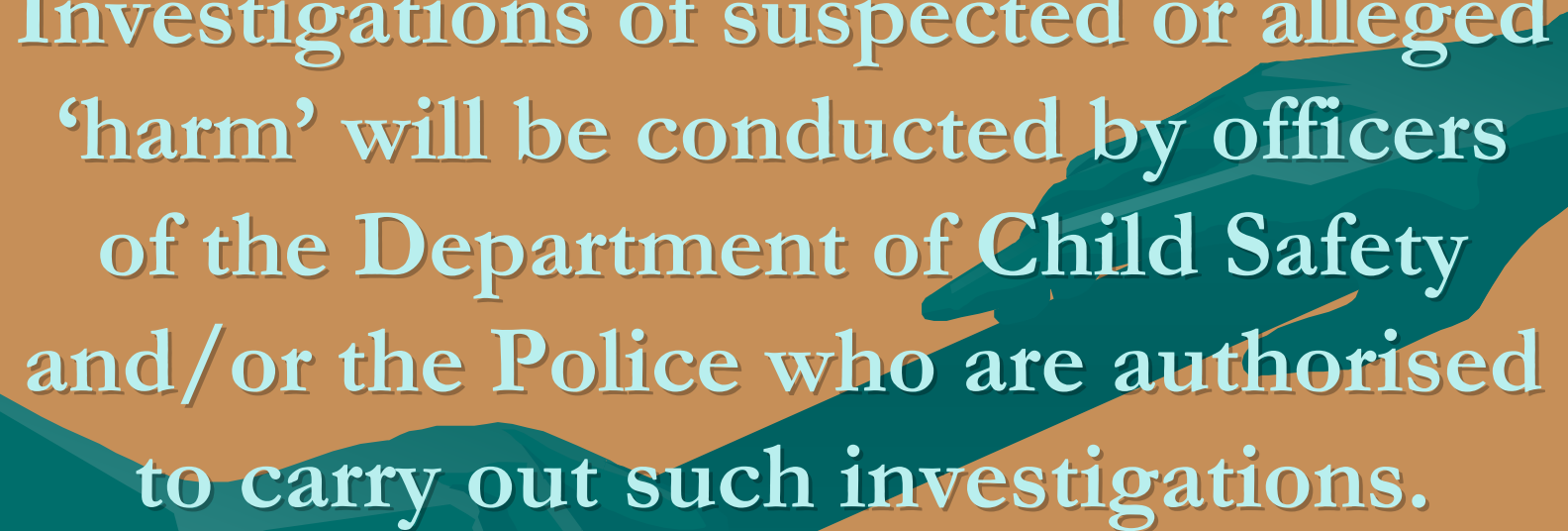
AGENDA:

1. What is my role and what are my duties as a Student Protection Contact in my school?
2. How are the Student Protection focuses for 2009 being implemented in my school?
 - Staff Code of Conduct
 - Parent Education
 - Protective Behaviours
 - Record keeping
3. Review Student Protection Update No.2 29.5.2009
4. Scenarios & discussion of school issues.

1. ROLE and DUTIES OF THE SCHOOL CONTACT (Sec. 3 p.6-9)

You are nominated by your Principal and endorsed by your Student Protection Officer to:

- Inform people of who you and the SPO are;
- Assist your parents and students when concerns or disclosures of 'harm' arise;
- Assist your Principal with staff training in SP obligations and policy;
- Ensure all in your school know how to access SP policy and procedures;

A teal silhouette of two hands shaking, positioned diagonally across the lower half of the slide. The hands are rendered in a solid teal color with some shading to suggest depth and movement. The background is a solid brown color.

NB: Student Protection Contacts do not investigate allegations of ‘harm’. Investigations of suspected or alleged ‘harm’ will be conducted by officers of the Department of Child Safety and/or the Police who are authorised to carry out such investigations.

ROLE...

- Assist your Principal ensure that all know reporting requirements and reporting forms;
- Send documentation to your SPO as needed;
- Assist Principal to ensure support for students;
- Assist with organising staff training;
- Attend Contact training;
- Meet with SPO during annual school visit, or...;
- Support the principles of privacy and the need for confidentiality.
- Assist Principal with a review of the School Student Protection Risk Management Strategy each year prior to the Annual School Visit by the SEO.

2. Student Protection Focus for 2009 (Reflection/planning sheet)

- Staff Code of Conduct
- Parent education in Student Protection
- Protective Behaviours for Students
- Record Keeping for Student Protection

3. Review Student Protection Update No.2 29.4.2009

- Clarifications and discussion



4. Scenarios & discussion of school issues.

Grateful acknowledgement to Bev Patterson for use of the following scenarios which have been adapted for local use.



Scenario 1

The school football team wins the grand final in extra time. Everyone is excited, especially the football coach. He jumps up, slaps a boy on the back and then lifts another up into the air triumphantly. All the players are acting in a similar way. They have just won against a team they had been trying to beat for the past couple of years.

Is this action reportable to the police and/or the Principal?

YES

NO



NO is correct

An allegation of physical assault requires there to be some application of force and the act is seen to have caused the child or young person to believe that the act was of a hostile nature and/or immediate force will be used resulting in fear of imminent harm.

In this scenario the complaint contains:

- **no indication that the act was hostile**
- **no indication that the young person was experiencing fear or harm**



Scenario 2

A student is sent to the Deputy Principal's office for misbehaviour. He complains that the teacher pushed him out the door and he hit his side on a railing opposite the door. You know this student is one of the most difficult in the school. You also know that this teacher had 2 similar complaints last year which were both sustained.

Is this situation reportable to the police and/or Principal?

YES

NO



YES is correct

The alleged incident meets the criteria of a physical assault.

This matter would not be exempt from reporting as ‘trivial or negligible in all the circumstances’ as the incident allegedly indicates a pattern of behaviour by the teacher. Also the level of force alleged is high (pushing into a railing).

The matter would be referred to the Principal who would report the incident to the Senior Education Officer for the school.

The student and his parents could also report the incident to the Police.



Scenario 3

A parent complains that a relief teacher made rude comments and shouted at her son's class. Her son was reluctant to go to school for the rest of the week. The parent is concerned that this may affect her son's OP exams due to commence soon.

Is this reportable to the police or the Principal?

YES

NO



NO is correct

This is not an allegation of psychological harm as the three criteria required for an allegation of psychological harm have not been alleged. That is, the alleged conduct is not targeted at the child, and it is not alleged that the child has suffered harm. If those elements were present, there would also need to be an alleged causal link between the two.

The matter is not reportable to the police. Standard school complaint/grievance process applies



Scenario 4

A 15 year old girl from a girl's school attending a disco night at the neighbouring boy's school complains that a supervising teacher at the boy's school makes her feel uncomfortable. She says that the teacher also tries to get her alone and makes comments about her long legs. She also alleges that he leans too closely to her when she is at the disco dances which she attends whenever they are held and recently touched her on the breast when walking past her.

Is this reportable conduct?

YES NO



YES is correct

This is an allegation of sexual misconduct. It includes a pattern of alleged behaviour such as unwarranted and inappropriate touching and inappropriate comments of a sexual nature.

The matter must be referred to the Principal to take the appropriate action outlined in the Student Protection Policy.



Scenario 5

A year 11 student is concerned about another year 11 student aged 15 years who has been doing a work experience placement at a photographic studio. Apparently the student is telling everyone how the men there are really 'sic' and 'cool'. He said that he 'loves' his workplace experience. They allegedly show him 'porno' sites on computer and there is no shortage of 'R' rated magazines for him to access during lunch breaks.

Is this a reportable matter?

YES NO



YES is correct

It includes a pattern of alleged behaviour such as exposing a person under age to internet and hard copy pornography. It is sexual misconduct because it involves behaviour by an employer/ee towards a student who they are responsible for and accountable for.

What steps do you think need to be taken in this incident?

Why?



References

**The proceeding scenarios were adapted from the
*Catholic Commission for Employment
Relations NSW'S* training materials.**



Scenario 6

You notice a fellow taking photos of the boys you have taken on an excursion. You ask him who he is and why he's taking photos. He tells you he is doing a photography assignment on movement for his TAFE diploma. You politely send him on his way.

Later two of the boys tell you they gave him their names and addresses because he promised to use their photos in a magazine and he would send them some money when the photos were published

I this a situation that needs to be followed up?

YES NO



YES is correct

- **Why does this need to be followed up?**
- **How would you follow this up?**
- **Who needs to be informed?**
- **What could your school put in place as a Risk Management Strategy when taking boys on excursions?**



Scenario 7

Joy is a 25 year old volunteer at your school helping out at school functions and sports activities. Lately, she's noticed that Jim, a 15 year old student at the school, has not been joining in much at dances etc. but always seems to be at her side when the school has BBQs for the football club.

When Joy asks Jim if he is okay, Jim says that he is going through a low patch and would like to have some time alone with Joy to talk about his feelings. Joy gives Jim her phone number and says, "call me any time". A teacher at the school is concerned and brings it to your notice.

Is this a reportable matter?

YES NO



YES is correct

- **Why is it a reportable matter?**
- **Who do you report it to?**
- **What section of the *Student Protection Policy* would you follow?**
- **What Risk Management strategies need to be put in place to prevent these situations from occurring?**



Scenario 8

You are in the school yard during lunch break. You notice Matt and Jake engaging in a furtive exchange of something. You jokingly say to Harry, another student, “What are those two up to? Planning some mischief? Harry nonchalantly replies, “Nah, Matt’s their marijuana supplier. Everyone knows he steals it from his parents. Serves them right.”

Is this a reportable matter?

YES NO or MAYBE



MAYBE is correct

- **Why maybe?**
- **Why not Yes or No?**
- **What further information would you need to help you make a decision?**
- **Who would you report the conversation to?**
- **If it was found that Matt and Jake had marijuana at school would you need to inform the Police?**
- **What about the comment that insinuates that Matt's parents do drugs? What are the complications if this is true?**



Scenario 9

Bob is looking more and more unhappy and withdrawn lately. A couple of his friends tell you quietly that Bob's mother Joan is really mean to him. They say they have heard Joan calling Bob horrible names, saying he is a born loser and wishes that she'd adopted him out years ago. Joan also tells Bob, according to his friends, that she can't keep a relationship with a man because they can't stand Bob and that Bob has ruined her life. The friends are telling you this information because they say that Bob has come to school today with severe bruising on his back. He told his friends that his mother hit him repeatedly with a solid piece of wood.

Is this a reportable matter?

YES NO



YES is correct

- **What definition of ‘harm’ does this matter fall under?**
- **What section of the *Student Protection Policy* would you find the procedures for reporting?**
- **Who would you report the matter to in the first instance?**
- **What statutory agency would the matter need to be reported to?**



Scenario 10

You notice that Ted a year 12 student spends his time with one particular year 9 student, Tom. Ted is 17 years of age turning 18 years of age in 2 months time. They sit very close to each other in the school yard and at times you have noticed that Ted buys Tom food from the tuckshop. Other students are beginning to make inappropriate comments about the friendship. Ted and Tom's families do not socialise and you are not even certain that they know each other. The situation is really concerning you. Do you question whether you are reading things into the situation that is not valid?

YES NO



YES and NO?

Any time that you have a concern about a matter you need to speak to someone. There may be a simple answer but also it can be an opportunity to preventing a serious situation from happening.

- **Who could you talk to?**
- **If there was more to the situation than friendship what section of the *Student Protection Policy* would you follow?**

Scenario 11

You are at the movies in the city when you see a year 11 boy with a female teacher at your school. They are sitting in seats at the back of the theatre. There is no other person with them. You have been concerned for awhile about the situation between the student and the teacher because you have seen them at other places. Once when you were at a local coffee shop and another time when you were at Southbank. You like the teacher and don't want to jump to conclusions or get her into trouble but feel that you must talk to someone about it.

Is this any of your business?

YES NO



YES is correct

It is your responsibility to speak with someone about the situation. It is considered to be inappropriate behaviour and could be defined as professional misconduct if a teacher is socialising with a student on her own and not as part of her teaching responsibilities.

- **Who would you speak to about your concerns?**
- **What would be the consequences that you might be worried about if you spoke to someone about your concerns?**

Discussion of any school issues...





To do list...

Student Protection School Contact In-service:

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