

January 2015



Fact Sheet

EVERYONE'S BUSINESS

At LAA we acknowledge that the initial response to any disclosure of child sexual assault or form of abuse can be the first step in stopping the harm and protecting the child from further harm. It is the first step to guarantee the child's safety and well-being.



This Fact sheet provides a guideline of how to respond to a child's disclosure.

It is important to remember that if a child is disclosing to you, then it is more than likely that they trust you.

Don't be afraid of saying the wrong thing. The child will benefit from you listening and providing support.

How do I respond to a child?

What to do if a child discloses to you?

Once a child makes a direct disclosure or allegation regarding their safety or well-being, or an adult makes a disclosure re: a child's safety and well-being, Little Athletics staff, volunteers and Committee members have a duty of care to take immediate action.

The person to whom the child has disclosed should:

- ✓ Listen carefully to all they say.
- ✓ Tell them it is not their fault
- ✓ Let them know you will do everything in your power to ensure that something is done
- ✓ Document all – use the child's exact words as best you can
- ✓ Do not force them to talk about it, you are there to listen to what they want to tell you.
- ✓ Do not use direct questions
- ✓ Do what you need to do to make the child feel safe
- ✓ Importantly: follow your obligation to report as soon as practically possible to the Little Athletics Child Protection Officer

What to do if you have concerns?

It can be incredibly hard for a child or young person to disclose. Sometimes their behaviour or words may mean that we become concerned that something has happened. It is important to:

- ✓ Not frighten the child or young person by asking confronting questions
- ✓ Let the child or young person know that you are there for them if they ever need to talk to someone
- ✓ Record your concerns including any behavioural observations or conversations you may have had with the child or young person
- ✓ Importantly: follow your obligation to report as soon as practically possible to the Little Athletics Child Protection Officer



Do you need to speak to someone?
Bravehearts: 1800 272 831



For our full Child Protection Policy visit: [\(Hyperlink to CP Policy on LA's website\)](#)