

Royal Children's Hospital	POLICY: GACE Assessment Policy	Policy No: GHC 0612
Gatehouse (for the Assessment & Treatment of Child Abuse)	Issue Date: March 2014	Review Date: March 2015
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1. Policy statement

The Gatehouse Centre has a commitment to the provision of quality services to all Gatehouse Centre clients. This includes ensuring that our clinical practices –

- hold the clients (children, young people and families) at the centre of our provision of care.
- Are inclusive and respectful of ethnicity, gender and religious affiliations
- Are informed by best practice approaches
- Occur in line with best interest principles
- Are carried out in keeping with the professional ethics and codes of conduct of relevant professional bodies and associations and the RCH.

2. Persons affected

All Gatehouse Centre Staff

3. Responsibilities

3.1 Internal Processes

- At the point of referral, Gatehouse Centre staff will provide information to families which clearly outlines the two phases of engagement, namely assessment and treatment and the timelines associated with these (see Information packs)
- Assessments will actively engage the client in a strengths based, holistic and collaborative approach, identifying and building on strengths
- While each clinician will bring their own knowledge base and professional training to the assessment process, current knowledge in regards to child development and the impact of trauma and child sexual abuse will inform the assessment process
- Clinical assessments are systemically informed and formulation driven
- The assessment will take into account people's age, ability, gender, sexual identity, culture, religion or spirituality
- Families and key parties are engaged in the assessment process, the development of goals and the plans to attain these goals
- The assessment plan will include all appropriate referrals to relevant organizations including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse organisations
- Assessment findings are clearly articulated to the family
- People's language and other communication needs will be identified and met

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3.2 Processes with External Agencies

- Gatehouse, as a department of the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) works collaboratively with Victoria Police, and DHS Child Protection in accordance with mandatory reporting and guidelines to ensure the safety and protection of vulnerable children, young people and families
- Gatehouse will notify DHS Child Protection of any information they become aware of during the course of clinical services that may impact upon the safety of children, young people and families for investigation.
- Gatehouse staff will make recommendations regarding the risk posed either to a child, young person and family or by a child, young person or family for implementation by a statutory agency.
- Clinical reports will be provided to Child protection on issue of a subpoena for court proceedings and after the contents of the Clinical report have been discussed with the family.

4. Other relevant references

- GACE Interpreter Policy GCH 9012
- RCH Interpreter and Non-English Speaking Services policy
- SASS and SABTS Clinical Guidelines