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## Terms of Reference

### North West Child Abuse Liaison Meetings

#### Mandate for Liaison Meetings

*"Vulnerable Babies, Children and Young People at Risk of Harm: Best Practice Framework for Acute Health Services. (DHS, 2006). The Best practice Framework is a Victorian Government Initiative and is evaluated on an annual basis.*

*"Hospitals do not act alone in ensuring children are protected and safe from harm. The most effective response involves collaboration and coordination of care across all relevant agencies to provide the most appropriate combination of services for each child at risk and their family".*

The framework requires health services to:

- Have interagency collaboration
- Regular ongoing liaison with local Child Protection services and community based child and family services to facilitate communication and improve coordination of care.

#### Membership

- Health service representatives including all members of the RCH Vulnerable Children's Committee:
  - Adolescent Medicine
  - Emergency Department
  - Gatehouse
  - General Medicine
  - Mental health
  - Social work
  - VFPMS
  - VFPMS
- Child Protection
- Child First
- Victoria Police
- Indigenous co-operatives / groups

