

Royal Children's Hospital	<i>GACE DUTY/ AND INTAKE WORKER REFERRAL POLICY GACE 0212</i>	Issue date: Oct 2012
Gatehouse Centre (for the Assessment & Treatment of Child Abuse)		Review date: 01.10.13
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Policy Statement:

The Gatehouse Centre is committed to working with children, young people and their families to overcome the impact of abuse and to assist in the prevention of abuse by providing and promoting innovative services, research, education and advocacy. It is a Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA) that provides assessment, treatment and advocacy services for:

- Children and young people living in the Western metropolitan region of Melbourne and in the cities of Hume and Moreland in the Northern metropolitan region aged between 0-17, and their families where sexual abuse is known to have happened or is suspected
- Children and young people living in the Western metropolitan region of Melbourne and in the cities of Hume and Moreland in the Northern metropolitan region aged between 0-17, and their families where problem sexual or sexually abusive behaviours are a concern
- Children and young people who are inpatients of the RCH, or who are living in the Western metropolitan region of Melbourne and in the cities of Hume and Moreland in the Northern metropolitan region aged between 0-17, and their families, who have been severely traumatised by physical

Procedures:

1. A duty worker is allocated each day from 9.00am to 5.00pm to receive referrals through the Gatehouse Centre telephone number, Ph 93456391
2. The Afterhours on call Gatehouse Centre worker is available to take urgent referrals after hours via the RCH contact telephone number, Ph 93455522
3. Calls are responded to as soon as possible, at least within 24 hours, with backup provided for Crisis Calls to be responded to immediately
4. Referrals can be made by the young person, family members, carers, advocates or professionals.
5. Referrals are discussed with the Duty Worker who will advise if the referral is appropriate or if Child Protection (DHS) and/or the police (SOCIT) should be notified first
6. Referrals are then discussed at the weekly Allocations meeting, where a final decision is made regarding acceptance of the referral.
The referrer is then advised of the outcome of the referral.
7. The Duty Worker can provide also information regarding referral to other agencies, telephone consultation to professionals and the provision of community and professional education

Women & Children's Health	POLICY: GACE SABTS ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT PLAN POLICY (VOLUNTARY AND THERAPEUTIC TREATMENT ORDERED)	Policy No:GACE 0512
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1. Policy Statement

The Gatehouse Centre has a commitment to providing a safe environment where children, young people and their families who have been affected by sexual abuse can be supported to explore, make sense of and integrate their experiences.

The Gatehouse Centre also has a commitment to developing and providing services that promote healthy development of children, young people and their families who have been affected by abuse in general, who may be displaying problem sexual behaviour or sexually abusive behaviour. Such services are strongly framed within a context of prevention and are mindful of issues of power and gender, language, trauma and its impact on child development.

2. Persons Affected

All Gatehouse Centre staff.

3. Responsibility

All Gatehouse Centre staff

4. Definitions

Problem Sexual Behaviours – behaviours of a sexual nature displayed by a child under 10 years. These behaviours may or may not be known to be reactive to a child's own experience of having been sexually abused.

Sexually Abusive Behaviours - behaviours of a sexual nature displayed by a children over the age of 10 years and under 15 years. These behaviours may or may not be known to be reactive to a child's own experience of having been sexually abused. They may or may not be considered a chargeable offence within the law.

Therapeutic Treatment Orders – an order applied for by the DHS (through the Children's Court) in situations where it is deemed that a child or young person over 10 years and under 15 years of age requires treatment for SABs but does not voluntarily choose to attend treatment. TTOs are granted by the Children's Court. The DHS may choose to consult with the Therapeutic Treatment Board, as to whether an order should be sought.