

Child Protection & Well-being

1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to support staff and tenants and clarify our responsibilities concerning the well-being of children, particularly around mandatory reporting.

2. Policy

The Housing Trust will, with adhere to this policy;

- At all times we will endeavour to ensure the safety and welfare of children and young people by completing actions as mandatory reporters
- As a mandatory reporter we will report suspected cases of risk of significant harm to children to the relevant authorities
- Staff will be trained to use the NSW Mandatory Reporting Guide (MRG) to determine the risk and appropriate action required as identified by the MRG
- Support tenants who have children removed by conducting timely changes in rent and circumstances and respond with sensitivity to their changes
- Support tenants who have children placed with them, for example foster children, by conducting timely changes in rent and circumstances, including changes in household members where we will not unreasonably withhold approval
- We will work collaboratively with any services and supports in place for the tenants and the children/ren and young people
- Recognise a tenant, who has had children removed, may be under occupied in their property, however no action will be taken for six months and then reviewed in collaboration with FACS to ascertain status of the children
- All staff, working in Customers and Communities, Paddy's Place and Property Services, will undergo Working with Children Checks
- All new staff will undergo Working with Children Checks
- All Board members will undergo Working with Children Checks

The Housing Trust will work with sensitivity and care around these issues however it will not neglect its legal responsibilities.

3. Working with services

The Housing Trust will work with our tenant and their child/ren and family to support them when they are working towards addressing any child/ren related issues if consent to exchange or permission has been granted