

Policy: Responding to Concerns for the Safety and Wellbeing of Children in Care

Policy Purpose

To provide guidance when responding to concerns for the safety and well-being of a child in the care of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Policy Statement

Concerns relating to the safety and wellbeing of a child in care includes all forms of physical, sexual, emotional harm and neglect. All concerns for the safety and well-being of a child in the care of the CEO, regardless of their placement type, must be thoroughly assessed in order to:

- address immediate safety concerns for the child in care to mitigate risk of harm;
- establish whether harm has occurred and what appropriate actions that need to be undertaken;
- determine if the placement arrangement remains suitable for the child or if an alternative arrangement needs to be sourced;
- determine what type of response is most suitable and what actions may be required to resolve the child protection concerns.

Section 84A Child Protection Investigations

A Child Protection Investigation must be undertaken under s84A of the [Care and Protection of Children Act 2007](#) for all reports of harm related to a child in care where:

- there is an allegation of physical, emotional, psychological or sexual harm or serious neglect, which has had a significant detrimental effect or is likely to have a significant detrimental effect on a child in care, and that harm has been perpetrated by a person connected to the Place of Care; **or**
- there is a recurrence or emerging pattern of concerns including cumulative harm about the care provided by the place of care that may have a significant detrimental impact on the child's emotional, physical and psychological development if not addressed.

Section 83B Inquiries

A s83B Inquiry must be undertaken for all reports of concerns for the wellbeing related to a child in care where:

- the care provided to the child is not consistent with the standards of care as defined in s13 of the [Care and Protection of Children \(Placement Arrangement\) Regulations 2010](#); and
- this is affecting or is likely to affect the child's physical, psychological and emotional wellbeing (s14).

or

- there are significant concerns for the child's physical, psychological and emotional wellbeing (s14) ; and
- the care provided to the child is not consistent with the standards of care as defined in s13 of the [Care and Protection of Children \(Placement Arrangement\) Regulations 2010](#).

Legislative Basis and Related Documents

[Care and Protection of Children Act 2007](#)

[Care and Protection of Children \(Placement Arrangement\) Regulations 2010](#)

Standards of Professional Practice

Authorised by:

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