

### Notification of Child Abuse

#### Purpose

Respond within the Child Protection Act 1999 (amendments 2002)

#### Policy

Lions Emergency Accommodation Centre Inc. (LEAC) aims to provide a safe and supportive environment for all resident children that respond effectively to suspected child abuse situations

#### Procedure

When a caseworker believes that a child is being neglected, abused or not adequately protected this will be raised with the co-ordinator and child support workers, to discuss an action plan.

Staff members will approach the parent with their concerns and offer support in addressing the issues involved, as part of the client's on-going case management.

If the parent is unwilling to work with staff, or the child remains 'at risk', then LEAC will proceed with both a telephone and written notification to the Department of Child Safety outlining staff concerns, as part of our 'duty of care' obligations.

Whenever possible a parent will be informed that a notification is being made, except in exceptional circumstances where a family may either abscond or further harm the child.

If a notification is made and the DOCS respond, LEAC staff will support the client through the process if welcome to do so or refer to another agency for support if requested. The service will also provide access to its premises to the Department.

If a notification is made and DOCS does not respond an urgent direct approach will be made to the Area Manager, to discuss the family concerned.

If no action is still apparent then LEAC will contact the Child Protection Implementation Unit on 1800 009 765.