POLICY STATEMENT

Mallee COGS has a responsibility to all children attending the Service to uphold their right to care and protection. To support this right, staff will follow the Families SA guidelines set down in "Reporting Child Abuse and Neglect: Mandated Notification Guidelines" when they become aware of possible abuse or neglect of a child, to ensure the child's and other children's protection.

The Service also has a responsibility to its employees to uphold their right to confidentiality unless allegations of abuse against them are substantiated.

For the purpose of this Policy, 'Parents' includes parents, guardians and families.

Rationale:
Children have the right to care and protection, and adults who care for them have the responsibility to uphold this right and to act in the best interests of each child.

Children need:
- Care, safety and protection from abuse
- Counselling and support in the event of abuse

Parents need:
- To be assured that every effort is being made to ensure their child is safe
- Need counselling and support in the event of the abuse of their child

Staff need:
- Information about their legal obligation to report suspected child abuse
- Allegations against them to be kept confidential unless substantiated
- Counselling and support in the event of an unsubstantiated allegation

Mallee COGS Management needs:

- To meet its legal obligation to report suspected child abuse
- Clear guidelines and lines of communication with Families SA if abuse is suspected

Other Relevant Policies/Procedures

Child Protection Procedure – 4.01.01

National Quality Framework:

QA2 Children's Health and Safety		
Standard 2.2	**Safety**	**Each child is protected.**
Element 2.2.3	Child protection	Management, educators and staff are aware of their roles and responsibilities to identify and respond to every child at risk of abuse or neglect.

Education and Care Services National Regulations:

Regulation 84 - Awareness of child protection law
Regulation 85 - Incident, injury, trauma and illness policies and procedures
Regulation 86 - Notification to parents of incident, injury, trauma and illness
Regulation 87 - Incident, injury, trauma and illness record
Regulation 177 - Prescribed enrolment and other documents to be kept be approved provider:
(1)(b) An incident, injury, trauma and illness record as set out in regulation 87

Legislation:

Educational and Early Childhood Services (Registration and Standards) Act 2011
Department for Families & Communities (Families SA) requirements reporting of abuse.
Children and Young People (safety) Act 2017

Policy Name and Version No.	Child Protection Policy V1.3
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Responsibility	COGS Child Care Coordinator