

REPORTING SUSPECTED HARM PROCEDURE

The following procedure is to act only as a guide. Depending on the level of risk it may be appropriate to call 000 immediately.

1. Reporting to the Child Protection Helpline

If there is a “risk of significant harm” then the situation must be immediately reported to the **Child Protection Helpline on 132 111**. Refer to the NSW Government, Family & Community Services website - <http://www.community.nsw.gov.au> for details on what is considered “significant harm” and the below extract.

“Anyone who suspects, on reasonable grounds, that a child or young person is at risk of being neglected or physically, sexually or emotionally abused, should report it to Community Services. Reasonable grounds is the standard that reporters must use in deciding whether or not to report to Community Services. It does not mean that reporters are required to confirm their suspicions or provide solid proof before making a report. A useful rule of thumb is to consider whether another person, when faced with similar information, would also draw the same conclusion. You can make a report by phoning the **Child Protection Helpline on 132 111** for the cost of a local call, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.”¹

2. Reporting to the Senior Minister

In addition to contacting Child Protection or if there is no immediate risk, report the situation to the senior minister, unless you feel the senior minister cannot remain unbiased in which case report directly to the diocese.

Rev Michael Marklew
0417 263354 (Direct Mobile)
PO Box 254, Waratah NSW 2299 (Private Mail Box)

3. Reporting to the Diocese

Director of Professional Standards
1800 774 945 dps@newcastleanglican.org.au
PO Box 494, Newcastle NSW 2300

¹ NSW Government - Family & Community Services “Reporting suspected abuse or neglect”, <http://www.community.nsw.gov.au/preventing-child-abuse-and-neglect/reporting-suspected-abuse-or-neglect> , accessed 15th of Nov 2017.