

# Are you concerned about a Child or Young person in your care?



## Are you concerned that a child you work with may be experiencing:

- Family violence? Including witnessing incidents, being the direct victim or hearing about incidents in the family unit?
- Their family may need assistance to get through a stressful time? Including substance use, mental illness, disability or bereavement?
- Experiencing wellbeing issues affecting their development?
- Neglect or difficulties having their needs met by their caregivers?
- May need assistance in managing their behaviour?
- Is unlikely to be protected from harm by their care givers?

## If a child or young person makes a disclosure:

- Give the child or young person your full attention.
- Maintain a calm appearance.
- Don't be afraid of saying the "wrong" thing.
- Reassure the child or young person it's okay to talk.
- Accept the child or young person will disclose only what is comfortable and recognise the bravery/strength of the child for talking about something that is difficult.
- Let the child or young person take their time.
- Let the child or young person use his or her own words. Try not to prompt or predict what the child/young person will say.
- Don't make promises you can't keep.
- Tell the child or young person what you plan to do next.
- Do not confront the perpetrator or use the term perpetrator in front of the child or young person.

(Child Family Community Australia Responding to a Disclosure)

## Young people have also told us that they preferred to be asked:

How is everything at home?

I have noticed you haven't been coming to school....

They want to be asked **often**, as it might take time until they are ready to disclose. **Always tell the child, if you need to tell others about the disclosure/conversation.**

(I believe you: Children and young people's experiences of seeking help, securing help and navigating the family violence system)

## Family Violence Support Services

Family violence services are **free and available to anyone**. They can help manage and assess risk, and link individuals and families in with other services and provide access to appropriate resources. **If you or someone you know is in immediate danger, always call 000.**



**Inner Gippsland**  
Latrobe, Baw Baw, South Gippsland & Bass Coast  
**1800 319 354**  
MON-FRI 9AM-5PM

**Outer Gippsland**  
Wellington & East Gippsland  
**1800 512 358**  
MON-FRI 9AM-5PM

**Child Protection – South Division Intake**  
**1300 655 795** MON-FRI 8:45AM-5PM



Scan the QR code to see a list of additional support services via the Gippsland Family Violence Alliance website.



Gippsland Family Violence Alliance acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government.