

Mandatory reporting requirements throughout Australia

Jurisdiction	Who is mandated to notify	What is to be notified
ACT	Doctors, dentists, nurses, teachers, police, school counselors, child-care providers public servants providing services relating to the health or well being of children, young people or families, the community advocate, or the official visitor	A reasonable suspicion that a child or young person has suffered or is suffering sexual abuse or non-accidental physical injury
NSW	Persons who deliver health care, welfare, education, children's services, residential services or law enforcement to children	Current concerns that a child aged under 16 is at risk of harm
NT	Police; all other people with reasonable grounds	Reasonable grounds to believe that a child has suffered or is suffering maltreatment
QLD	Doctors; nurses.	Aware of or reasonably suspects a child has, is, or is likely to suffer harm.
	Officers employed to implement the Act 1999; all staff of residential care services.	Reasonable suspicion of abuse or neglect to a child in residential care.
	Educational staff (teaching and non-teaching staff in government and non-government schools).	Aware of or reasonably suspects sexual abuse of a child under 18 by an employee of the school.
SA	Doctors, pharmacists, nurses, dentists, psychologists, police, community corrections officers, social workers, teachers, family day care providers, employees/volunteers in a government department, agency or instrumentality, or a local government or non-government agency that provides health, welfare, education, child care or residential services wholly or partly for children. Current reforms include religious personnel (with the exception of disclosures made in the confessional).	Reasonable grounds that a child has been or is being abused or neglected
TAS	Professionals working with children and employees or volunteers working in government or government-funded organizations	Suspicion of knowledge of abuse or neglect
	Any adult	Reasonable grounds to believe or suspect that a child is suffering, has suffered or is likely to suffer abuse or neglect. Current reforms include exposure to domestic violence
VIC	Police, doctors, nurses and teachers	Reasonable grounds that physical or sexual abuse is occurring
WA	Court personnel, counselors and mediators.	Allegations or suspicions of child abuse in Family Court cases.
	Licensed providers of child care or outside school hours care services.	Allegations or suspicions of child abuse in a child care service.

What are the benefits of mandatory reporting requirements? Mandatory reporting is considered to be a symbolic acknowledgement of the seriousness of child abuse in a community. Mandatory reporting requirements reinforce the moral The introduction of mandatory reporting aims to overcome the reluctance of some professionals to become involved in suspected cases of child abuse by imposing a public duty to do so. It has been found that the awareness of child abuse both within the mandated professional groups, as well as in the community at large, increases with the publicity that surrounds the introduction of mandatory reporting.