

Pathways to report child sexual abuse or seek support

The Legislative Assembly Legal and Social Issues Committee has prepared this information to ensure that anyone who has shared information containing disclosures of child sexual abuse is aware of the appropriate avenues for reporting child sexual abuse, or seeking advice or support, should you wish to do so.

If your submission contains information about possible criminal conduct involving a child, you may wish to contact one or more of the following organisations.

Please note:

The Committee does not have the authority to investigate allegations of criminal conduct.

Victoria Police

If you believe a child is in immediate danger, call [Triple Zero \(000\)](tel:131444).

To report a criminal offence involving child sexual abuse, contact your local police station or the Victoria Police Sexual Offences and Child Abuse Investigation Team (SOCIT).

 [131 444](tel:131444) (Police Assistance Line for non-emergency situations)

 police.vic.gov.au/report-sexual-offence

Please note, the *Crimes Act 1958* (Vic) sets out mandatory reporting obligations for child sexual abuse. Find more information about these requirements on the [Department of Justice and Community Safety \(DJCS\) website](https://www.djcs.vic.gov.au).

Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP)

The CCYP promotes and protects the rights, safety and wellbeing of children and young people in Victoria, and they can help you with general enquiries about reporting.

The CCYP can receive information about reportable conduct involving workers or volunteers in organisations that work with children. If you believe that your allegations fall under the Reportable Conduct Scheme, you can report to CCYP directly. This can include historical allegations of abuse.

 [1300 782 978](tel:1300782978)

 contact@ccyp.vic.gov.au

 ccyp.vic.gov.au/report-an-allegation

Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH)

If you believe a child is at risk of harm, you can report this to Child Protection. Individuals in some professions have mandatory legal obligations to report their concerns to Child Protection. However, anyone can make a discretionary report if they believe a child is in need of protection or therapeutic treatment.

Find your Child Protection division contact on the [DFFH website](https://www.dffh.vic.gov.au).

 [13 12 78](tel:131278) (After hours Child Protection Emergency Service)

 providers.dffh.vic.gov.au/mandatory-reporting



If you need support

If you or someone you know are distressed or need to speak with someone, the following services offer free and confidential assistance:

- **Lifeline**
Call [13 11 14](tel:131114) for crisis support and suicide prevention service, available 24/7, or visit [Lifeline.org.au](https://www.lifeline.org.au).
- **Kids Helpline**
Call [1800 55 1800](tel:1800551800), available 24/7, or visit [KidsHelpline.com.au](https://www.kidshelpline.com.au).
- **Blue Knot Helpline and Redress Support Service**
If you or someone you care about is living with the effects of abuse, neglect, violence or exploitation – Call [1300 657 380](tel:1300657380), available 9 am to 5 pm, 7 days a week, or visit [BlueKnot.org.au](https://www.blueknot.org.au).
- **Sexual Assault Crisis Line**
Call [1800 806 292](tel:1800806292), or contact your [local sexual assault service](#).
- **Victims of Crime Helpline**
Call [1800 819 819](tel:1800819819), available 8 am to 7 pm Monday to Friday and 8 am to 5 pm Saturday, Sunday and public holidays, or text [0427 767 891](tel:0427767891), or visit [victimsofcrime.vic.gov.au](https://www.victimsofcrime.vic.gov.au).

Knowmore Legal Service

Knowmore is an independent community legal centre providing free, confidential legal advice and support to survivors of child sexual abuse, including guidance on reporting options.

Knowmore offers a range of services to survivors such as trauma-informed legal assistance, financial counselling, social support, and specialised cultural support for First Nations peoples.

 [1800 605 762](tel:1800605762)

 info@knowmore.org.au

 [knowmore.org.au](https://www.knowmore.org.au)