The Reportable Conduct Scheme

The Victorian Reportable Conduct Scheme seeks to improve organizations' response to their worker's and volunteers' allegations of child abuse and child-related misconduct. The scheme is established by the *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005* (the Act).

The Commission for Children and Young People is responsible for administering the scheme.

The Reportable Conduct Scheme has been designed to ensure that the Commission can oversee and monitor the handling of allegations of child abuse and share information with relevant bodies (e.g. Working with Children Check Unit, relevant regulators and Victoria Police) to better prevent and protect children from misuse.

Reportable conduct includes allegations against an employee, volunteer, contractor, work experience or work placement student. It does not include claims made within a family context or those external to our schools.

There are five types of Reportable Conduct:

- **sexual offences** committed against, with or in the presence of a child
- sexual misconduct committed against, with or in the fact of a child
- physical violence against, with or in the presence of a child
- any behaviour that causes significant emotional or psychological harm to a child
- significant neglect of a child.³

Reportable Conduct includes allegations against an employee, volunteer, contractor, work experience or work placement student in the context of your School and their personal life.

- More detailed information can be found at <u>CCYP | Resources and support for the Reportable Conduct Scheme</u>
- Any disclosure made regarding alleged Reportable Conduct must be brought to the immediate attention of the Child Safe officer and the Principal.

Requirements of heads of organizations

The Reportable Conduct Scheme imposes new obligations on heads of organizations (Executive Directors and principals) within the scheme. This includes requirements to:

- have in place systems to prevent child abuse and, if child abuse is alleged, to ensure allegations can be brought to the attention of appropriate persons for investigation and response.
- ensure that the Commission is notified and given updates on the organization's response to an allegation.
- report allegations that may involve criminal conduct to the police.

³ The Commission for Children and Young People, <u>CCYP | About the Reportable Conduct Scheme</u>

The Reportable Conduct Scheme does not replace the need to report allegations of child abuse, including criminal conduct and family violence, to Victoria Police.

A snapshot of a head of XJS obligations under reportable conduct:

Notify

 You must notify the Commission within 3 business days of becoming aware of a reportable allegation.

Investigate

- You must investigate an allegation subject to police clearance on criminal matters or matters involving family violence.
- •You must advise the Commission who is undertaking the investigation.
- · You must manage the risks to children.

Update

• Within 30 calendar days you must provide the Commission detailed information about the reportable allegation and any action you have taken.

Outcomes

• You must notify the Commission of the investigation findings and any disciplinary action the head of entity has taken (or the reasons no action was taken).

Where to get help

Organizations covered by the Reportable Conduct Scheme should contact the Commission for clarification and guidance and to talk through any issues of concern.

1. Telephone: 8601 5281

2. Email: childsafestandards@ccyp.vic.gov.au

Further information is also available on the Commission for Children and Young People's website at www.ccyp.vic.gov.au

CCYP | Resources and support for the Reportable Conduct Scheme