

Reporting Crimes to NSW Police Fact Sheet

Crimes Act 1900 (NSW)

Information for those in child-related roles at Catholic Schools Broken Bay (CSBB)

The NSW Government introduced reforms to strengthen child sexual abuse laws. The new laws are based on the Royal Commission's Criminal Justice Report. The Criminal Legislation Amendment (Child Sexual Abuse) Bill 2018 made these changes and was introduced into the NSW Parliament in June 2018.

The changes relevant to CSBB staff are:

Failure to report offence

Under the Crimes Act 1900 (NSW) all adults in NSW are required to report information to police if they know, believe or reasonably ought to know that a child (Under 18 years) has been a victim of a serious indictable offence, including child abuse.

Failing to report information to police without a reasonable excuse is an offence punishable by up to two years imprisonment. The penalty is five years if the person has accepted any benefit in exchange for failing to report.

A person will have a reasonable excuse for not reporting if the victim is now an adult and doesn't want the offence reported, or if the offence has already been reported to the Child Protection Helpline, the Office of the Children's Guardian under the Reportable Conduct Scheme or the person believes on reasonable grounds that another person reported or if the person fears for their safety or another person's safety if they report.

Failure to protect offence

Under the Crimes Act 1900 (NSW) an adult working in an institution (including CSBB Schools) who has the power to minimise risk will commit an offence if they know another adult working there poses a serious risk of abusing a child and they have the power to reduce or remove the risk, and they fail to do so. The offence will be punishable by up to two years imprisonment.

More Information

For further information you can visit the NSW Department of Communities & Justice website at dcj.nsw.gov.au
If you have specific questions about the new legislation, you can email the CSBB Safeguarding Office at safeguarding@dbb.catholic.edu.au or phone 02 7256 2211.