

## Responding to Reportable Conduct Fact Sheet

*Children's Guardian Act 2019 Part 4*

Information for Workers holding a Working with Children Check (WWCC) for their role at Catholic Schools Broken Bay (CSBB)

From 1 March 2020, the Children's Guardian Act 2019 (NSW) came into effect and replaced the existing Part 3A of the NSW Ombudsman Act 1974.

The Act provides a framework for the Reportable Conduct Scheme (The Scheme). The Scheme is administered by the NSW Office of the Children's Guardian (Children's Guardian).

The Scheme applies to Workers who hold a Working With Children Clearance Check for their role at CSBB (WWCC Holders), including employees, volunteers & contractors). The scheme does not apply to individuals who are exempt from holding a WWCC Clearance.

### What is the Reportable Conduct Scheme?

The Scheme requires WWCC Holders to report any allegations regarding Reportable Conduct involving a WWCC Holder (Reportable Allegations), or convictions regarding Reportable Conduct involving a WWCC Holder (Reportable Convictions), to the head of their entity. The Bishop is the Diocese's head of entity, delegated to Director of Schools for CSBB matters, and in practice the Safeguarding Office assists the Bishop to meet his obligations.

The Scheme covers the conduct of WWCC holders towards children (under 18 years), whether that conduct occurs at home or at work.

The Scheme also requires CSBB to report any Reportable Allegation or Reportable Conviction involving a WWCC Holder to the Children's Guardian and initiate an investigation.

### The Children's Guardian Act 2019 defines Reportable Conduct, as:

- A **sexual offence** committed against, with or in the presence of a child,
- **Sexual misconduct** with, towards or in the presence of a child,
- **Ill-treatment** of a child,
- **Neglect** of a child,
- An **assault** against a child,
- An **offence** under section **43B or 316A** of the **Crimes Act 1900**, and behaviour that causes significant **emotional or psychological harm** to a child.

### How to report an allegation of Reportable Conduct?

Reportable Allegations or Reportable Convictions regarding WWCC should be reported to the school Principal who in turn will report the concern to the CSBB Safeguarding Office. Alternatively, you can report directly to the CSBB Safeguarding Office at [safeguarding@dbb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:safeguarding@dbb.catholic.edu.au) or phone 02 7256 2211

### More Information

For further information on the Reportable Conduct Scheme you can visit the Children's Guardian website at

<https://ocg.nsw.gov.au/organisations/reportable-conduct-scheme>

If you have specific questions about the Children's Guardian Act 2019 in relation to Reportable Conduct, you can email CSBB Safeguarding Office

**The Matter will be taken seriously**