



Vulnerable Children's' Act – Overarching Policy

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

A statement of intent that demonstrates a commitment to safeguard children from harm. It clearly defines for everyone what is required in relation to the protection of children.

It helps to create a safe and positive environment for children and to show that your organisation is taking its duty and responsibility of care seriously.

Lynmore School Statements of Commitment:

- Lynmore School is committed to acting at all times in the best interest of the children, young people and vulnerable adults to whom it provides a service in line with the Vulnerable Children Act (2014)
- Lynmore School is committed to the safety of all children engaging with our service in line with CYFA (1989) and VCA (2014)

Scope:

- This policy applies to all children who are clients of this organisation, and to those with whom personnel come into contact in the course of their work with Lynmore School.
- It applies to staff, volunteers and management of Lynmore School
- All staff (including contractors and volunteers) have a responsibility to discuss any child protection concerns, including suspected abuse or neglect with the Principal.

Our policy is intended to protect all children staff may encounter-including siblings, the children of adults accessing service and any other children encountered by staff.

PRINCIPLES

A Child Protection Policy should include principles and values that inform staff decision-making and help promote your organisation's culture of Child Protection

Principle Statements:

1. Lynmore School will work together to produce the best possible outcomes for the child and to work towards continuous improvement in child protection practices.
2. We recognise the culture of the family/whanau, its importance and the rights of family/whanua to participate in decision-making about their children.
3. The safety and wellbeing of children is our primary concern, with the child at the centre of all decision making.
4. We commit to open and transparent relationships with clients/service users, including being willing to share concerns about child safety issues with family/whanau unless this would result in an escalation of risk.
5. We commit to promote a culture where staff feel confident to constructively challenge poor practice and raise issues and concerns without fear of reprisal.
6. Lynmore School recognises that all staff and Trustees have a full and active part to play in protecting students from harm. Overall responsibility, implementation and review of this policy rests with the Principal.
7. All services provided by Lynmore School for the safety and wellbeing of children adhere to the principles of partnership, protection and participation; and the rights and responsibilities accorded by Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

CYF TIME FRAMES:

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Urgency required

24 HOURS (Critical)

No safety or care identified; mokopuna is at risk of serious harm, and requires immediate involvement to establish safety.

Examples include:

- mokopuna has been physically hurt, harmed or sexually abused (*see CPP*) or is at immediate risk of serious harm
- mokopuna requires immediate medical attention and/or evidence gathering is required
- alleged adult perpetrator has easy access to mokopuna who is at immediate risk of further harm
- environment is seriously disordered and dangerous, and mokopuna is at risk of immediate and serious harm
- mokopuna is under extreme stress with suicidal ideation and plan (*call emergency services and duty supervisor if the case is allocated*)
- mokopuna is left home alone, unaccompanied, abandoned or refusing to go home and all options of safety have been explored. Consider the vulnerability of mokopuna.

48 HOURS (Very Urgent)

At risk of serious harm but has some protective factors present for the next 48 hours. However, as the situation and/or need is likely to change, high priority follow up is required.

Examples include:

- mokopuna has been, or is at risk of serious injury or harm but does not require immediate medical attention. There is no need for the gathering of evidence (or this has already occurred)
- an adult protector is present and is willing to provide mokopuna's immediate safety needs
- an alleged adult perpetrator may have limited, or some access to mokopuna (victim). There is the presence of a safe protective adult, however a safety plan is required to ensure safety beyond 48 hours
- home environment or adult decision making is likely to cause serious harm to mokopuna (immediate rather than long term).



Urgency required

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7 WORKING DAYS (Urgent)

At risk of harm or neglect and the circumstances are likely to negatively impact on mokopuna.

Options of safety and supports have been explored but remain unmet.

Vulnerability and pattern exists which limits the protective factors.

Examples include:

- adult behaviours and issues, (e.g. adult substance abuse, mental illness, family violence and decision making) are having a negative impact on the physical, emotional, psychological and developmental needs of mokopuna
- unborn mokopuna whose health and development is significantly at risk of harm due to adult behaviours (e.g. drug abuse) with other factors such as young mother, transiency, non-engagement with health
- mokopuna are displaying behaviours that are causing harm to self or others. This behaviour is not in the context of developmental behaviours and it is likely to increase in severity; AND there are no adults or services able to respond to, or meet the needs of mokopuna
- incidents of harm which don't meet CPP and these are having a serious and detrimental impact on mokopuna.

Note: Consider the 'Vulnerability, pattern and impact' prompt provided on page 2.

20 WORKING DAYS (Low Urgency)

A range of protective factors are present; mokopuna is currently safe or has some capacity to provide for their own safety.

The complexity of concerns require an assessment and there is a likelihood the concerns will escalate if they remain unmet.

The circumstances are negatively impacting on mokopuna.

Options of safety and support have been explored but the concerns remain unmet.

Note: CPP cases cannot have a 20 working day response.

Examples include:

- the cumulative effect of compounded experiences of abuse or neglect is impacting on the ongoing and long term developmental needs of mokopuna and the issues remain unresolved
- environment is disordered and adult behaviours are impacting on the ongoing health and developmental needs of mokopuna
- mokopuna displays at risk behaviours (e.g. substance abuse) which are not in the context of developmental experimentation or boundary pushing. The behaviours are having a detrimental impact on development and wellbeing.

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