

## Parent fact sheet

# Keep children and young people safe

Have you ever been in a situation where you should report a concern about the conduct of a teacher or early childhood teacher or about how the education setting may have handled the conduct? What about a situation that involved another member of the school community, such as a parent, student or non-teaching staff member?

Did you know how to report it and was the process clear? Did you feel confident to make the report?



### Picture this scenario...

You're a parent of a child who attends a local primary school.

You arrive to the school one morning to drop your child off and notice another student engaging with a teacher in the playground. As you walk past, you hear the teacher using offensive language and can see the student is distressed. The student is a close friend of your child's, and the teacher is a popular and well-respected staff member at the school.

You understand that you have an obligation to tell someone about this, but you feel uncomfortable about the allegation and you're unsure how to go about it.

- What do you do?
- What if it wasn't a teacher using offensive language, but another parent? What if it was a non-teaching staff member at the school?
- What would you do if you reported the incident to the school, but you didn't believe the school was handling the incident correctly?
- Would you react differently if the incident involved physical violence, rather than verbal conduct?

## Conduct Reporting Guide

The impact of the Betrayal of Trust Inquiry and Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has dramatically changed the public expectations of teacher conduct and behaviour.

The Victorian Institute of Teaching (VIT), the Commission for Children and Young People (CCYP), the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) and the Quality Assessment and Regulation Division of the Victorian Department of Education and Training (QARD) work with each other as co-regulators who are committed to the safety and wellbeing of children and young people.

These organisations regularly receive reports regarding the conduct of registered teachers, schools or early childhood services. Conduct reporting obligations can vary for members of the community (e.g. parents, students), registered teachers, schools and early childhood services.

The conduct reporting guide assists individuals understand which organisations they should (or could) contact to report the conduct of a registered teacher, a school or early childhood service, or other members of the school community.

The guide unpacks a wide range of practical scenarios to demonstrate the various conduct concerns you could be obligated to report on, including criminal behaviour (sexual and non-sexual), inappropriate conduct, teacher registration concerns and school / service based concerns.

It outlines who to report to and identifies which organisations are involved following a report, including the reporting lines between these organisations and other agencies, such as Victoria Police.

### Download the guide

To report conduct concerns about registered teachers within a school setting or early childhood service

### Child safety co-regulators

Find out more about the child safety co-regulators

### Case study for students

Share this scenario with your children so they know who they should report matters to



COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN  
AND YOUNG PEOPLE

