

# **Supporting Staff and Managers to identify and respond proactively to issues of abuse and neglect in children with disability.**



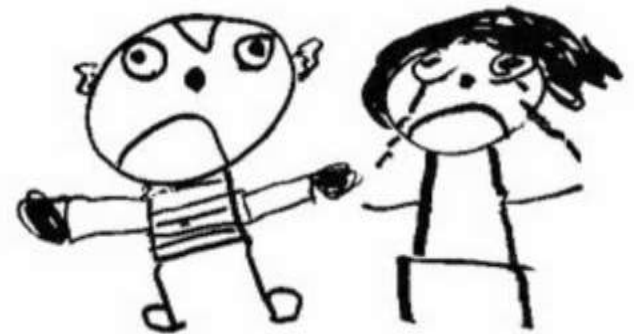
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# Background

- Children with disability are at a higher risk of abuse and neglect
- Children with disability are also subject to high levels of deprivation of liberty
- There are unique challenges in identifying abuse and neglect in children with disability
- There is an absence of research or training on these topics



“There is a range of evidence to show that abuse and neglect of children and young people with disability is at times poorly recognised by people in a position to take action against it – families, disability support workers, teachers, integration aides, child protection workers, medical professionals, police and community members”



Robinson, 2012

# 2014 - A new resource for Staff and Managers

- For all staff working with children with disabilities and their families
- Provides staff and their managers the skills to identify and respond proactively to issues of abuse and neglect in children with disabilities
- Provides a resource for educators, co-educators, disability support workers and others working with children with disabilities in the community



# The Training Package



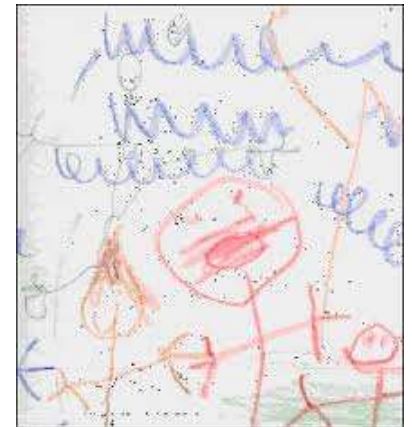
- **Work Book** – available on Yooralla’s website so it can be accessed **freely**. This is in response to the lack of available resources on this topic.
- **Training PowerPoint** – provided on request
- **1 day Workshops** run by Yooralla



**Accessible and Practical** for staff and managers

# Key Messages:

1. Targeted supports can improve child safety and reduce caregiver stress
2. Report your concerns about a child's safety and allow the experts to determine a course of action
3. Seek out your manager for support, be aware of your boundaries, look after yourself
4. Involve the family in a sensitive and timely way wherever possible

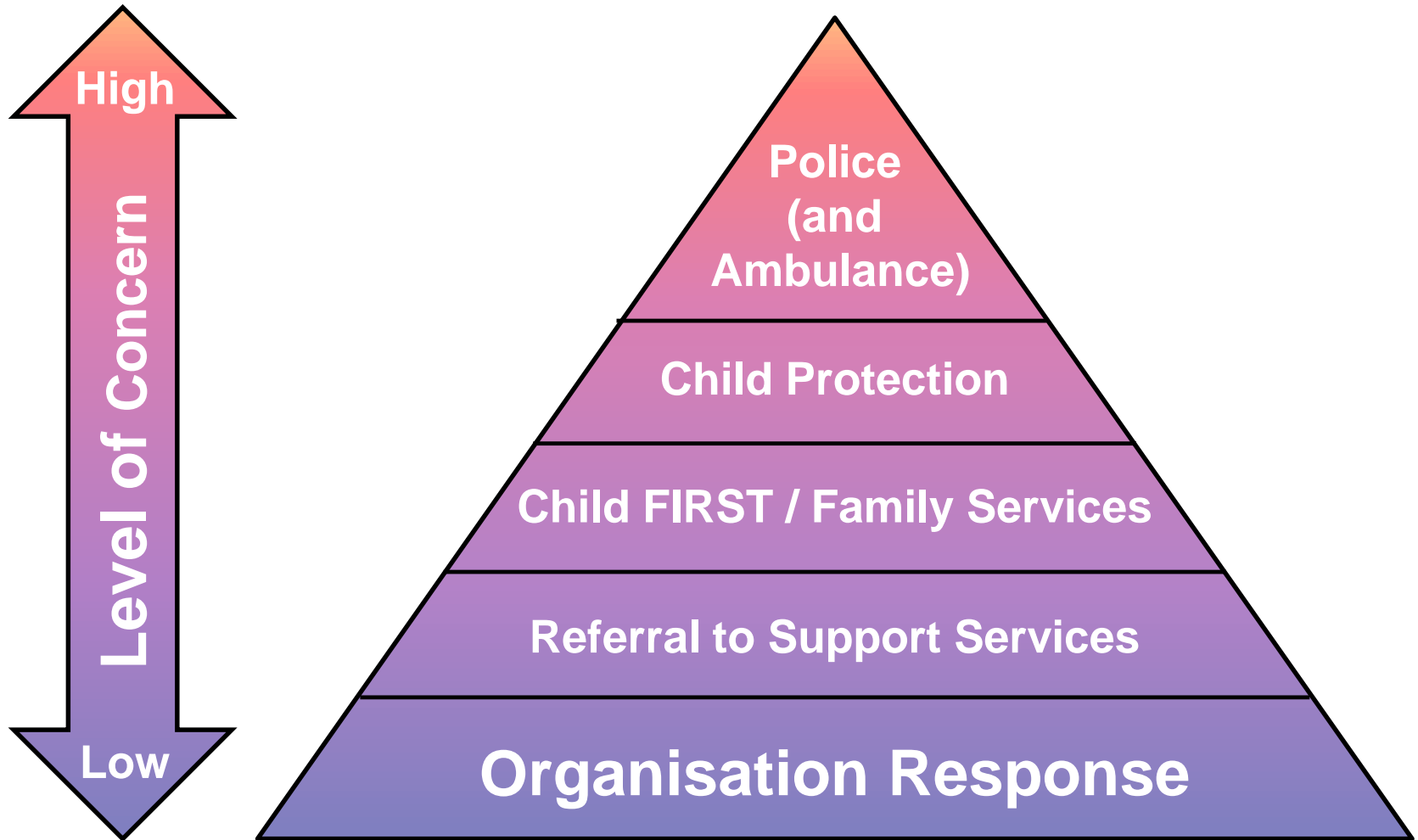


# Topics covered:

- Definitions
- Types and signs of abuse
- Risk Factors: Child, Caregiver, Organisational
- Hierarchy of who to involve
  - Organisational response, including documentation
  - Refer to Support services
  - Child FIRST
  - Child Protection
  - Police, Ambulance, Emergency 000
- Roles and Boundaries
- Difficult Conversations
- Case studies
- Additional Resources



# Concerns About Child Safety Hierarchy of Who to Involve





- Roles and Boundaries
- Difficult Conversations
- Case Studies
  - Identify possible signs of abuse
  - Identify any risk factors
  - Decide how you are going to respond and who you are going to involve



# Preventing abuse and neglect

“Disability abuse and child protection researchers are united in emphasising the importance of prevention in addressing the abuse and neglect.... While it remains essential to have well structured, personalised and responsive systems in place to take action effectively when children and young people are harmed, it is of course far better that they never experience abuse and neglect in the first place.”



Robinson 2012, p 26

- To access the Work book please go to [www.yooralla.com.au/Resources/educational-resources/child-aware-approaches-initiative](http://www.yooralla.com.au/Resources/educational-resources/child-aware-approaches-initiative)
- For information on Workshops or to access the PowerPoint which supports the Work Book please contact [meredith.fordyce@Yooralla.com.au](mailto:meredith.fordyce@Yooralla.com.au)

References used today are available within the Work Book

