

Tharawal Housing Aboriginal Corporation

Care and Protection of Children and Young Persons Policy

Content:	Care and Protection of Children and Young Persons Policy
Version:	2
Applies to:	Tharawal Housing Aboriginal Corporation
Date:	Endorsed by board 05/08/2025

Background:

Tharawal Housing Aboriginal Corporation is a Community Housing Provider that specialises in providing social housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People. Tharawal Housing Aboriginal Corporation aims to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to successfully sustain tenancies by linking clients into support services where applicable. Tharawal Housing Aboriginal Corporation aims to educate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by providing pathways into improved housing outcomes delivered in a culturally appropriate manner.

Scope:

This policy applies to all applicants and tenants who reside in properties managed by Tharawal Housing Aboriginal Corporation and should be read in conjunction with Housing Pathways Children and Young People at Risk Policy.

Definition:

Child:

A child is a person under the age of 16 years.

Young Person:

A young person is a person aged between 16 to 18 years.

Mandatory Reporters:

Mandatory Reporters are people who are required by law to report any suspected risk or harm to a child or young person to Family and Community Services.

All workers of Tharawal Housing Aboriginal Corporation are mandatory reporters.

Risk of Significant Harm:

A child or young person is considered at 'risk of significant harm' if there are any concerns raised/identified for their current safety, welfare or well-being. Red flags include, but are not limited to:

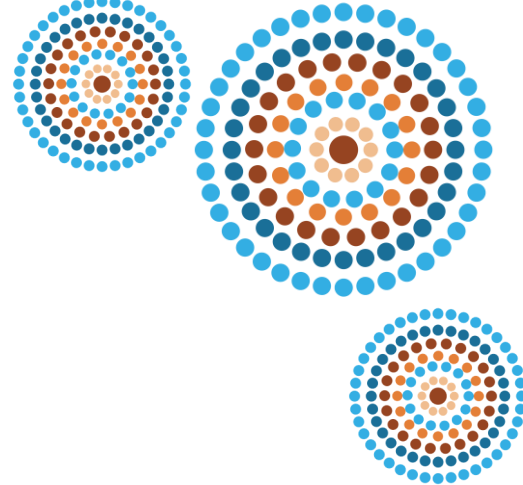
- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Psychological harm

Compliance

Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998
The Child and Young Person Act 1998
Residential Tenancies Act 2010
Housing Act 2001
The Health Records and Information Protection Act 2002

References

Housing Pathways: Children and Young People at Risk
Keep them Safe



- Neglect
- Exposure to domestic or family violence
- Substance abuse by their parent/caregiver
- Concerns for the mental health of their parents/caregiver

Rights and Responsibility:

Child/young person:

A child or young person has the right to the following:

- Be safe
- Be heard
- Be help as needed
- Be referred to other people who can help them if needed
- Be respected

Our role:

As a Community Housing Provider, Tharawal Housing Aboriginal Corporation staff are a prescribed body under relevant laws. Tharawal Housing Aboriginal Corporation staff work with government and non-government agencies such as: the Department of Community Services (FACS), NSW Health Departments, NSW Police, Local Government Authorities and any other agencies that supervise and are responsible for the provision of health care, welfare, education, children services and residential services to promote a safe and nurturing environment for children and young persons.

As mandatory reporters, staff at Tharawal Housing Aboriginal Corporation have a duty of care to:

- Make sure the safety, welfare and well-being of a child or young person is protected.
- Look for signs of abuse or neglect
- Refer families and/or individuals that need help to agencies that can assist and support them.
- Report any concerns of significant harm as required by law
- Protect any child or young person suspected to be at risk of harm
- Assist applicants and tenants to resolve their housing needs where practical.

Staff at Tharawal Housing Aboriginal Corporation are provided with training and regular updates about mandatory reporting. Staff are always made aware of their role and responsibilities as a mandatory reporter.

Information can be exchanged between agencies in relation to the safety, welfare and well-being of a child or young person with other prescribed bodies as required and permitted by law.

Confidentiality:

When dealing with matters of child protection, the privacy of all parties is taken into account. All reports are treated in the strictest confidence in accordance with the *Child and Protection Act 1998*. By law, staff are to exchange and share information with other agencies. The *Child Protection Act 1998*

Compliance

Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998
The Child and Young Person Act 1998
Residential Tenancies Act 2010
Housing Act 2001
The Health Records and Information Protection Act 2002

References

Housing Pathways: Children and Young People at Risk
Keep them Safe



over rules the *Privacy and Personal Information Act 1998* and the *Health Records and Information Privacy Act 2002*.

Appeals:

There is no appeals process in relation to concerns for a child or young person safety, welfare and well-being. Staff are required by law to make report if they suspect any concerns.

Compliance

Privacy and Personal Information Protection Act 1998
The Child and Young Personal Act 1998
Residential Tenancies Act 2010
Housing Act 2001
The Health Records and Information Protection Act 2002

References

Housing Pathways: Children and Young People at Risk
Keep them Safe