



NEW STREET FAR WEST

Information for Referrers

Who is eligible to be referred?

- Any child or young person aged 10-17 years residing in Far West Local Health District who has engaged in harmful sexual behaviour* towards another, and
- The sexual behaviour has been investigated and confirmed** by the Joint Child Protection Response Program (JCPRP) team or Department of Communities & Justice (DCJ) as harmful sexual behaviour towards another, and
- The child or young person has sufficient capacity to participate in the program. It is expected young people with mild intellectual disability can be provided with a service. Coordination with other service providers is required for referrals of young people with moderate or severe intellectual disability as it is unlikely New Street can provide services to this client group, and
- The behaviour has been reported, investigated and confirmed as harmful sexual behaviour and the young person has not been charged***

Notes:

* harmful sexual behaviour is defined as sexual behaviour which causes harm, distress and/or is targeted to a younger and/or more vulnerable person (e.g. size, cognitive ability, lacking same level of power as the abuser) and/or where informed consent has not been given.

**It is not sufficient that JCPRP or DCJ have made a determination the child or young person is “associated with risk of harm”. It must be confirmation (substantiation) that the child or young person has engaged in harmful sexual behaviour.

***it is possible to accept a referral of a young person who has been charged with a criminal offence provided that the criminal prosecution has been concluded. For example a decision has been made not to proceed criminally or the young person has been convicted and has completed the terms of any sentencing, Youth Justice NSW is no longer involved and the young person or family/carers are seeking a service.

Who can make a referral?

Any person connected with or involved in the care of the child or young person. This could be a family member, GP, School Counsellor, as well as JCPRP, Department of Communities & Justice, Health or other government or non-government service provider.

Some referrers may call before an investigation has been concluded and in some cases, the investigation may not have been commenced. In this case, the New Street Far West counsellor will discuss the investigation process with the caller and in some instances the counsellor will be need to make a report to the Helpline and initiate a report or contribute information to an investigation.

It is preferable to call 08 8080 1100 and discuss the referral with a New Street counsellor in the first instance.

Far West Local Health District
ABN 71 030 541 064

Mental Health Drug and Alcohol Service
Broken Hill Community Centre

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Tel 08 8080 1539
Website www.fwlhd.health.nsw.gov.au