

Query response resource for sector leaders, peak organisations and third party contact centres



This resource has been developed to assist you answer enquiries about the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework and the need for organisations to be truly child-centred and safe for children and young people.

→ Key messages

- A wide range of Tasmanian organisations that engage with children and young people (including sole traders) must comply with the Framework from 2024 onwards. [Check who it will apply to.](#)
- The Framework is represented by four elements:
 - **The Child and Youth Safe Standards:** Ten principles that organisations must put into practice when they engage with children and young people. In putting the Child and Youth Safe Standards into practice, organisations must also give effect to a Universal Principle for Aboriginal Cultural Safety. [Read more about the Standards.](#)
 - **The Reportable Conduct Scheme:** A compulsory scheme that requires leaders of certain organisations to report and investigate concerns about conduct related to child abuse involving a worker to an independent regulator. [Read more about the Scheme.](#)
 - **The Independent Regulator:** An independent regulatory body that will oversee the Framework, and make sure organisations have the support, advice, and education they need to do the right thing. [Read more about the Regulator.](#)
 - **Information sharing provisions:** Specific rules written into the law that mean leaders of organisations covered by the Framework are permitted to share personal information in certain circumstances.
- Most organisations covered by the Framework will have to comply with both the Child and Youth Safe Standards and the Reportable Conduct Scheme.
- Organisations may have procedures and practices in place that means they are already complying with the Framework.
- The Framework is similar to workplace health and safety, as it represents ongoing best-practice and is not time-limited or temporary.
- Organisations may also have other reporting obligations such as police, the Registrar of the Working with Vulnerable People Act, the Advice and Referral Line or other regulators.
- The Independent Regulator will provide support to meet the new obligations, build capability within organisations, and provide oversight of investigations.
- The Independent Regulator has the power to issue an infringement penalty as a last resort for non-compliance.

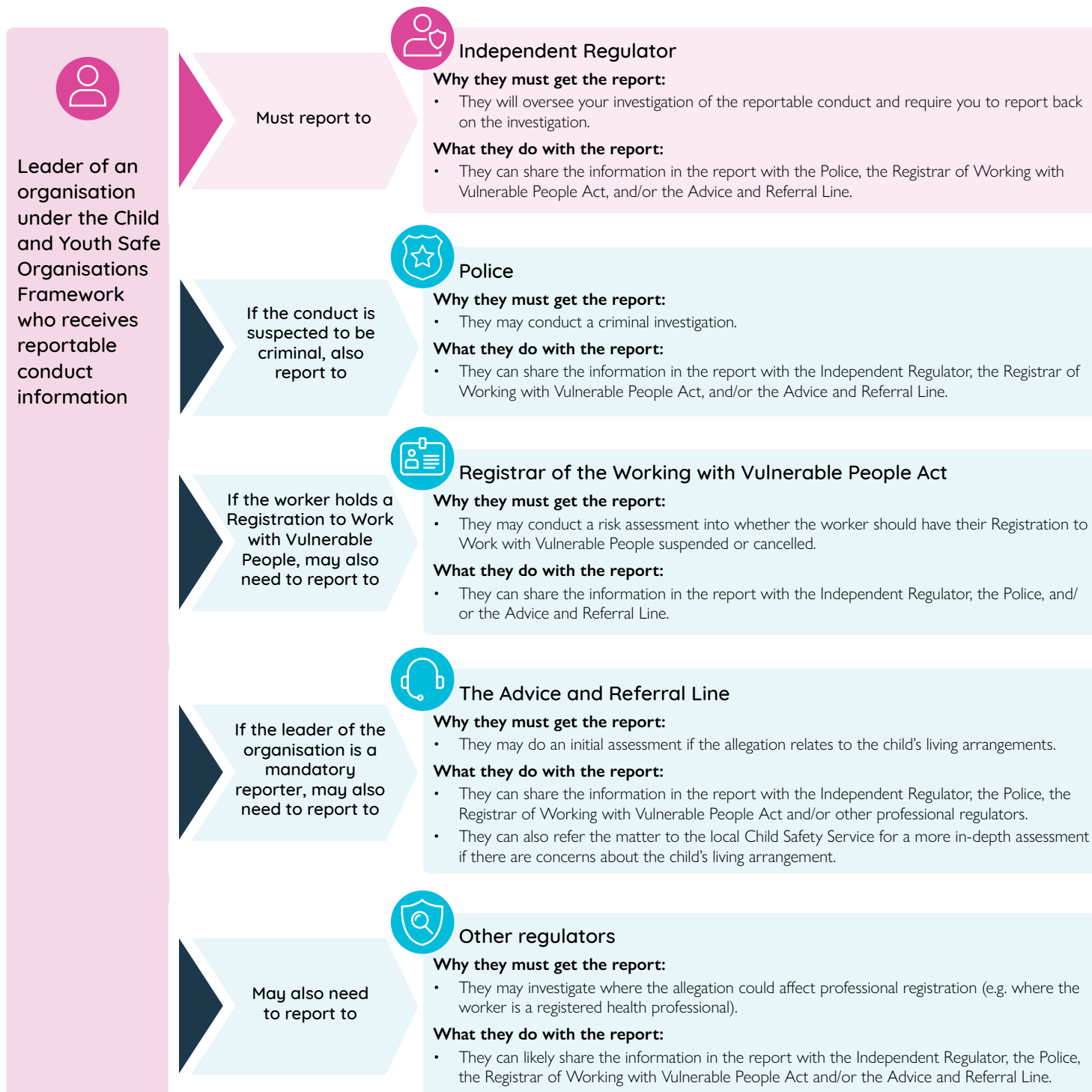


Follow the Framework so a hurt child does not become a harmed adult.

— A victim-survivor of child sexual abuse in a Tasmanian institution.



→ How does the Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework relate to other reporting schemes?



Frequently asked questions

Why does this matter?

- The Framework aims to promote the safety and wellbeing of children and young people from all forms of harm in institutional settings. For children and young people to be safe in our community, they need to be safe in our organisations. That's why we need to work together to create and maintain Child and Youth Safe Organisations.
- Over 40% of young people in Australia have experienced one or more types of child abuse, according to the [Australian Child Maltreatment Study](#).

Is my organisation legally required to follow the Framework, and when will I have to comply?

- All Tasmanian organisations should work to be child and youth safe organisations. A wide range of Tasmanian organisations that engage with children and young people (including sole traders) must legally comply with the Framework from 2024 onwards. [Check who it will apply to](#).

Is there compliance guidance available to help my organisation comply with the Framework?

- Interim compliance guidance is being developed by the Department of Justice in consultation with local subject matter experts and interstate counterparts.
- This will be made available on the [what you can do now to prepare](#) webpage, which currently has resources from other Australian states that have their versions of the Framework in place.

When will the Independent Regulator be established?

- Recruitment is underway at the moment. This is being done through an independent recruitment agency.

What is new about the Framework? What might be familiar?

- Your organisation may already know about, or be complying with, the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (the National Principles). The Child and Youth Safe Standards mirror these National Principles.
- The Reportable Conduct Scheme will be totally new to Tasmania. It is specifically aimed at strengthening oversight of how organisations with a high degree of responsibility for children and young people investigate concerns about workers' behaviour when it relates to children and young people. It will do this by requiring organisations to notify and update the Independent Regulator of the Framework about:
 - allegations of child abuse and child-related misconduct, and
 - the steps being taken to investigate it.
- When it comes to these investigations, the Independent Regulator will be there to guide and educate organisations about how child centred investigations should be run.

How do I get accreditation for meeting the Framework?

- The Framework represents ongoing best practice, meaning compliance is never 'completed' or 'finished'. In this respect, it is much like workplace health and safety.
- The Independent Regulator will determine if an organisation is meeting its legal obligations under the Framework.

How do I learn more and stay up-to-date?

- Go to the [Child and Youth Safe Organisations Framework webpage](#) to learn more about the Framework and sign up for the newsletter. You can also email any questions to: cysof@justice.tas.gov.au

Advice and support services

We encourage anyone affected by, or with concerns about, child sexual abuse or other types of child abuse to access advice and support.

National:

- For domestic, family, and sexual violence counselling and support, contact [1800RESPECT](https://www.1800respect.org.au):
Phone: 1800 737 732
- For short-term support if you are feeling overwhelmed or having difficulty coping or staying safe, contact [Lifeline](https://www.lifeline.org.au):
Phone: 13 11 14
- For free professional phone and online counselling for anyone affected by suicide living in Australia, contact [Suicide Call Back Service](https://www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au):
Phone: 1300 659 467
- For information and support for anxiety, depression and suicide prevention for everyone in Australia, contact [Beyond Blue](https://www.beyondblue.org.au):
Phone: 1300 224 636
- For information and support for anyone who is affected by complex trauma, contact [Blue Knot Foundation](https://www.blueknotfoundation.org.au):
Phone: 1300 657 380
- For counselling and support for Australian men, contact [MensLine Australia](https://www.mensline.org.au):
Phone: 1300 789 978
- For advice for men about family violence, contact [Men's Referral Service](https://www.mensreferralservice.org.au):
Phone: 1300 766 491
- For free 24/7, confidential and private counselling service specifically for children and young people aged 5 to 25 years, contact [Kids Helpline](https://www.kidshelpline.org.au):
Phone: 1800 55 1800

Tasmania:

- For information about child wellbeing and safety, contact [Strong Families, Safe Kids Advice and Referral Line](https://www.strongfamilies.org.au):
Phone: 1800 000 123
- For free and confidential support for people who have been affected by sexual violence, contact the [Tasmanian Sexual Assault Support Line](https://www.tasmaniansexualassaultsupportline.org.au) (24 hour response state-wide):
Phone: 1800 697 877
This line is run by the Sexual Assault Support Service in the South, and Laurel House in the North West.
- For information and support for children, young people and adults affected by family violence, contact [Family Violence Counselling and Support Service](https://www.familyviolencecounselling.org.au):
Phone: 1800 608 122
- For free and confidential support for people impacted by crime, contact [Victims of Crime Service](https://www.victimsofcrime.org.au):
Phone: 1300 300 238
- For support for relationships and to live positive lives, contact [Relationships Australia Tasmania](https://www.relationships.org.au):
Phone: 1300 364 277