Yoorana Mandatory Reporting & Information Sharing Statement

Our Commitment to Safety

Yoorana is committed to the safety, wellbeing and rights of children, young people and adults experiencing vulnerability. We recognise that protecting people from harm is a shared responsibility and, in some circumstances, the law requires us to report concerns or share information to keep people safe.

This statement explains when and why Yoorana may report concerns or share information, and how this is done respectfully, lawfully and with care.

Mandatory Reporting

Under Queensland and Australian law, some staff and volunteers have mandatory reporting obligations, particularly where there are **reasonable** grounds to suspect that a child has been harmed, is being harmed, or is at risk of significant harm from physical or sexual abuse, or neglect, and may not have a parent willing/able to protect them. *(Mandatory Reporting in QLD)*

Yoorana will:

- Comply with all mandatory reporting laws and child protection requirements
- Act promptly where there are concerns about abuse, neglect, exploitation or serious harm
- Support staff and volunteers to understand and meet their legal reporting responsibilities
- Make reports to the appropriate authorities, including Child Safety Services or Police, where required

Mandatory reporting is about protecting safety, it is not about blame.

Information Sharing to Keep People Safe

In some situations, Yoorana may need to share relevant information with other services or authorities to:

- Protect a person, child or young person from harm
- Reduce serious threats to life, health or safety
- Respond to domestic and family violence risks
- Meet legal, regulatory or funding obligations

Information sharing is guided by Queensland information sharing frameworks, child safe requirements and domestic and family violence legislation. (Part 5A of the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012 (Qld))*

Privacy and Respect

Yoorana respects privacy and confidentiality. Personal information is handled in line with the *Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)* and the *Information Act 2009 (Qld).*

We aim to:

- Share only the information necessary to keep people safe
- Share information lawfully, securely and appropriately
- Involve and inform clients wherever it is safe and appropriate to do so
- There are times when information must be shared without consent, such as where there is a serious risk of harm or a legal requirement to report.

Children and Young People

Yoorana is a child safe organisation. When information is shared about a child or young person:

- The best interests of the child are the primary consideration
- Children's rights, dignity and cultural safety are respected

Yoorana Women's Domestic Violence & Resource Service Inc.
PO Box 630, Maryborough Qld 4650
ABN: 40 806 738 400
IA03842

- Information sharing is age-appropriate, trauma-informed and culturally safe

Domestic and Family Violence Context

Yoorana recognises the complexity and risk associated with domestic and family violence. Information sharing may occur to:

- Support safety planning and risk management
- Coordinate responses with other specialist services
- Prevent serious harm or escalation of violence
- Yoorana takes care not to share information in ways that may increase risk to victim-survivors.

Questions or Concerns

If you have questions about mandatory reporting or information sharing, you can speak with a Yoorana staff member or contact us at **admin@yoorana.com.au**.

Further information about your rights is available through our Privacy Statement, Complaints & Feedback Statement, and Children's Rights & Participation Statement.

This statement aligns with Queensland child protection legislation, information sharing frameworks, domestic and family violence legislation, and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

Yoorana Women's Domestic Violence & Resource Service Inc.
PO Box 630, Maryborough Qld 4650
ABN: 40 806 738 400
IA03842