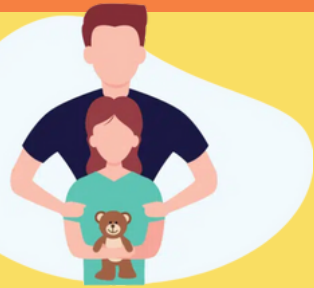# Child Abuse is not OK

A guide to understanding child abuse and neglect

SEXUAL ABUSE

is when someone involves a child or young person in sexual activity by using their power over them or taking advantage of their trust.

Child sexual abuse is a crime.

It can include having or sharing sexual images of a child or young person, developing a special relationship with a child or young person to pursue sexual activity, and sexual touching.

NOTE: a child under 16 years cannot legally consent to sexual activities.

PHYSICAL ABUSE

is a non-accidental injury or pattern of injuries caused by a parent, caregiver or anyone else.
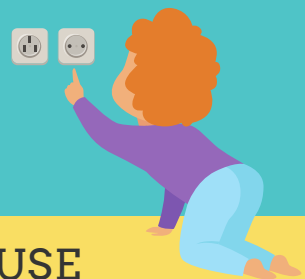
It might include shaking, slapping or beating a child (especially around the head, or with a stick, belt or other object), cigarette burns, strangling or female genital mutilation.

Serious physical abuse of a child is a crime.

NEGLECT

happens when parents or caregivers are unwilling or unable to give a child or young person what they need for their growth and development (like a safe place to live, food, clothing, medical and dental care, education and adequate parenting care and supervision).

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

is when there is violent, abusive or bullying behaviour or actions towards a partner, former partner or family member to scare and control them. It can happen at home or outside the home.

Domestic Violence is a crime.

Children are impacted if they live with a parent or caregiver who is using or experiencing violence, even if they do not witness the violence or are personally abused.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Serious psychological harm can be caused when a parent or caregiver damages the confidence and self-esteem of a young person or child, especially if it happens repeatedly and over time.

Emotional abuse includes criticising or shaming, witholding affection, isolation, threatening violence, name-calling or public humilation.

NSW Child Protection Helpline 132 111
DV Helpline 1800 737 732
Translating and Interpreting Service 131 450

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