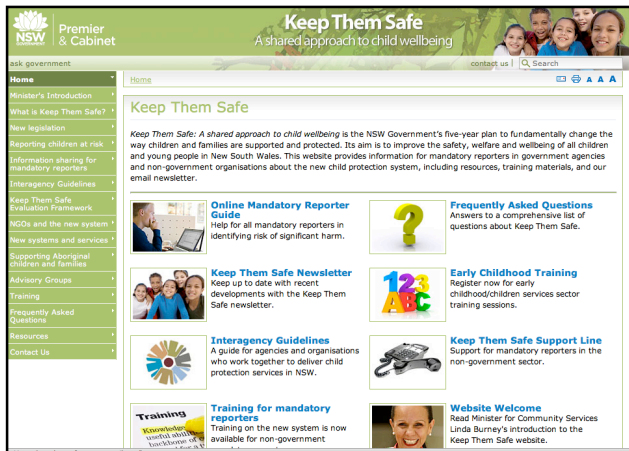




NSW CHILD PROTECTION KEEP THEM SAFE & NGOS



“Keep Them Safe radically reshapes the way family and community services are delivered in NSW, sharing responsibility across government agencies and NGOs. Building a stronger partnership between government and NGOs is fundamental to changing the way we support children and families. Keep Them Safe includes commitments to develop the capacity of the non-government sector to take an expanded role in service delivery, as well as strategies to change the culture and develop skills and capacity across the public and non-government sector workforces.” (The KTS website 2010)

To assist non-government mandatory reporters with changes under Keep Them Safe, the NSW Government has also established a [KTS Support Line](#). The **Keep Them Safe Support Line** is available to workers in non-government organisations who may need assistance or advice when they have applied the Mandatory Reporter Guide. 1800 772 479 during 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday. Church workers can phone this number instead of the Helpline to talk through their outcome from the Mandatory Reporting Guide.

The Human Services Network (HSNet) and 'Servicelink' is another resource available to all workers in the community welfare sector (government and non-government). It includes a database of services available within the community. For example, if a family needs some community support to help them with parenting or health issues for instance, the church can register with the HSNet and find out what services are available in the local community and refer the family to that service.

Chapter 16A of the legislation enables agencies and services involved with a family to exchange information about any concerns for the safety, welfare and wellbeing of a child or young person. Churches are part of the community's shared responsibility to engage with families and other agencies in supporting families.

The **Mandatory Reporting Guide (MRG)** is a tool to help a person assess whether to make a report about the safety, welfare and wellbeing of a child or young person in NSW. It is not a report. It does not replace professional judgment but helps to guide a worker's decision. If the child or teen is at risk of significant harm, the church worker still has to make a report.

See the website for more information <http://www.keepthemsafe.nsw.gov.au/>



Acknowledgement: This resource is an adaptation from Colleen Morton © 2010. Thank you Colleen for sharing this with the wider church.

Disclaimer: This is not legal advice but rather good practice advice for holistic Safe Church ministry produced by the NCCA-SCTA Unit 2010. If you are concerned about legal issues you are advised to seek your own legal opinion.