

Responding to Disclosures of Adult Abuse

Aim

This paper exists to help the NBBC community respond appropriately when they become aware that an adult (aged 18 or over) has experienced or is experiencing abuse. It serves to reduce the risk of abuse occurring within or through NBBC by:

- Providing clear guidance to all members of NBBC on how to receive disclosures of abuse with sensitivity and wisdom (**Part One: Receive**)
- Establishing a clear and accountable process for reporting abuse. (**Part Two: Report**)
- Establishing a clear and accountable procedure for church leadership in responding to reports of abuse (**Part Three: Respond**)

Biblical Position

- Abuse in any form is not tolerated at North Beach Baptist Church. Every person has the right to live free from abuse and neglect because they are made in the image of God (Genesis 1:27).
- The Bible clearly teaches that any form of abuse is wrong. In direct contrast to abuse, love, other-person-centredness and gentle care are the hallmarks of the believer (Galatians 5:19-26).
- Furthermore, Jesus' life & words teach that those in positions of power are to humbly serve others (Mark 10:42-45). Jesus, Lord of heaven and earth, embodied and exemplified this teaching by becoming a servant who suffered and died in the place of sinful humanity (Philippians 2:1-11).

Scope

- This policy applies to any person who regularly attends NBBC and who receives a disclosure of abuse involving one adult against another where the alleged perpetrator currently attends or otherwise has a close association with NBBC, posing risk of harm to others.
- Different parts of the policy apply to different groups of people. Part one is for all attendees of NBBC. Part two is for key volunteers, leaders and staff. Part three is for the Safe Team and senior church leadership.
- This policy does not relate to historic abuse of an adult unless the alleged perpetrator or perpetrators currently or previously attended or were associated with NBBC and may pose an ongoing risk of harm to others. In cases where historic allegations of abuse are made against staff members or volunteers directly working with minors, these are to be reported as per the Reportable Conduct Scheme.
- While some incidents of adult abuse impact children (for example, a child's exposure to domestic abuse is reportable), this policy does not directly relate to disclosures of abuse to children (someone under the age of 18). In those instances, state legislation (including mandatory reporting) and NBBC's Church Safe Policies and Procedures should be followed immediately.

Revisions

This policy is to be reviewed regularly to ensure it remains current, effective, and informed by best practice, with input from relevant stakeholders (e.g., individuals with lived experience of abuse where appropriate, counsellors, legal advisors).

Review period: 12 months post-approval, with provision for earlier revisions prompted by operational learnings.

Legal and Duty of Care

There is no legal (mandatory) reporting requirement for attendees of NBBC to report disclosures and / or suspicions of abuse involving one adult against another. There are some limited circumstances in which reporting is mandatory if the abuse and / or neglect relates to adults living in a residential service, but this does not apply to our church setting.

The church has a common law duty to take reasonable care to avoid causing foreseeable harm. The church therefore requires all staff, leaders and key volunteers to adhere to the procedures set out in this Governance Paper to manage and minimise the risk of harm in circumstances relating to disclosures and/ or suspicions of abuse involving one adult against another.

Creating a Safer Church Culture

All staff, leaders, and key volunteers must be trained in recognising, reporting, and responding to disclosures of abuse. This training will form a standard component of NBBC's regular SafeChurch program. Ensuring a broad base of trained individuals increases safe and accessible disclosure pathways for our congregation.

Following the finalisation of this governance paper, a copy—including the reporting pathways flowchart and the NBBC Service Guide—will be made available to the congregation in an accessible format.

Guiding Principles

- **Safety First:** Protecting the safety of the individual and others is the top priority.
- **Agency & Confidentiality with Limits:** A core principle in responding to adult disclosures of abuse is the protection of the individual's dignity, agency and confidentiality to the greatest extent possible. Adults must be allowed to make their own decisions about who they disclose information to and what kind of support they receive, sometimes even in cases that involve ongoing risk of harm to that adult person experiencing abuse. Exceptions to confidentiality are outlined below:

Exceptions to Confidentiality	
Where there is immediate risk to life or immediate risk of serious harm	Call Emergency Services on 000
Where harm to children is present	Call Department of Communities 1800 273 889

Where an alleged perpetrator of abuse currently attends NBBC or is otherwise closely associated to NBBC, presenting an ongoing risk of harm to others. *Do not report intimate partner violence without explicit consent of the person who disclosed	Contact NBBC Safe Team using the website form (sends to SafeReports@nbbc.org.au). If there is a conflict of interest with the Safe Team, contact the Baptist Churches WA Safe Church Liaison Officer: 08 6313 6300
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Definitions:

There are many kinds of abuse, and these are normally defined by the type of harm and the type of victim.

- **Domestic Abuse**

An incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence, in most cases by a partner or ex-partner (this is referred to as **Intimate Partner Violence**), but also by a family member or carer. Domestic abuse can involve behaviour that makes a person feel scared, involves threats to the person/children/pets, or denies choice. Domestic abuse often involves coercive control but can involve many forms of abuse.

**** Exposure to family and domestic abuse is considered child abuse** and should be reported to the Department of Communities on 1800 708 704. NBBC Safe Church Policy and Procedures should also be followed.

- **Coercive Control**

Coercive control is a pattern of controlling and manipulative behaviors used to dominate, isolate, intimidate, or exploit another person, often within an intimate or domestic relationship. It is designed to strip away the victim's sense of autonomy, dignity, and safety. Coercive control is ongoing and cumulative, often more subtle (but no less harmful) than other forms of abuse. Examples include monitoring or restricting a person's movements, communications or social interaction, using displays of emotion (both "affection" and aggression), rewards & punishments and/or gaslighting to manipulate and subjugate.

- **Physical abuse**

Physical abuse involves intentionally or recklessly using physical force or aggression in a way that *may* result in bodily injury or physical pain. It can also include the threat of physical harm, even if the person never does what they say they will do. It includes actions that lead to harm – such as refusing someone sleep or medical care.

- **Emotional abuse**

Emotional abuse, which can also be categorised as mental, verbal, or psychological abuse, is a pattern of behaviour that promotes a destructive sense of fear, obligation, shame, worthlessness or guilt in a victim. It can include regularly embarrassing a person in front of others, calling a person names, threatening to harm them, ignoring them, intentionally making a person question their own memory or sanity (i.e., gaslighting). Emotionally oppressive people seek to dominate, and they do so by employing a variety of tactics. They may

emotionally neglect (*neglect has also been defined as a form of abuse in its own right*), frighten, isolate, belittle, exploit, criticize, play mind games, lie, blame, shame, or threaten.

- **Sexual abuse**

Also referred to as molestation, sexual abuse is normally considered to be undesired sexual behaviour from one person toward another. Usually this involves force or taking advantage of a position of power to coerce, bribe, threat or exploit the other person. Survivors of sexual abuse can suffer physical and psychological damage. Sexual abuse includes but is not limited to unwanted sexual comments or touch, taking or distributing sexual images without consent (if this involves a minor it is a criminal offence even if underage “consent” was offered), engaging in oral sex, vaginal or anal penetration without voluntary and explicit consent, and undesired sexual behaviour (without consent) within marriage.

- **Spiritual abuse**

This form of abuse occurs when one person misuses spiritual or religious beliefs to intentionally hurt, scare or control another. Spiritual abuse often involves an oppressor establishing a relationship of control and domination by using Scripture, church tradition, doctrine or their “leadership role” as a weapon. This form of abuse can be subtle because it can be masked as religious practice. Signs of potential spiritual abuse include a husband exhibiting control-oriented leadership over their wife (e.g., demanding submission, which is not biblical), misusing Scripture to shame or punish others or to force/coerce a person to stay in a damaging relationship/environment or to excuse violence or abuse.

NB. This definition does not extend to how someone might feel in response to traditional biblical doctrines being upheld and taught by the church (e.g., teachings on same-sex activity or the roles of men and women).

- **Institutional abuse**

Institutional abuse is the maltreatment of people who receive care within a system of power. Examples of institutional abuse settings include children within state care, a school environment, home care environment (such as a foster home), or aged persons within a nursing and/or aged care environment. This type of abuse can include neglect, sexual abuse, or physical abuse such as using harsh methods to modify or control behaviour.

- **Elder abuse**

Elder abuse includes both the lack of appropriate action, as well as a single or repeated harmful action that occurs within a relationship between a younger and older person, where there is an expectation of trust – whether that action is physical, chemical, emotional, sexual, or financial. It can also include intentional or unintentional behaviour. The idea of someone being an older person is a relative concept without a precise definition, with age, relationship status and cultural heritage all potentially being relevant. An older person is usually but not always someone aged 65 or over.

- **Financial abuse**

This form of abuse occurs when one person has control over the economic resources of another person which then forces that person to rely on the abuser for support. Financial abuse includes the illegal use of a person’s money, property, and possessions. Changing someone's will to include the abuser as a beneficiary and/or evicting the victim from their own home are also forms of financial abuse. Financial abuse often occurs between

spouses/partners, or between a guardian and a dependent. This form of abuse is often accompanied by emotional abuse and domestic violence. Financial abuse of older adults is often referred to as Elder Abuse.

- **Technological Abuse**

Technological abuse involves the misuse of technology to control, monitor, harass, threaten, or intimidate another person. It is often used as part of broader patterns of coercive control or domestic abuse and can occur through digital, online, or electronic means. Examples include monitoring someone's location or activity through GPS, apps, or spyware, accessing or controlling someone's devices, emails, or social media accounts without consent, using technology to stalk, impersonate or isolate, publicly sharing or threatening to share private information or images.

- **Grooming**

Grooming is when someone builds a relationship of trust and emotional connection with someone with the intent to manipulate, exploit or abuse them. Grooming can include manipulation of a wider circle of people to turn them against or to disbelieve the victim of their abuse, deterring them from accessing resources to stop the abuse.

PROCEDURES

PART ONE: Supporting Someone Who Discloses Abuse

Applies to all attendees of NBBC

This section is a vital part of cultivating a safe and accountable culture at NBBC. We want all attendees to be equipped to respond appropriately and compassionately to disclosures of abuse. By preparing more people to respond well, we prioritise safety and increase the likelihood that those experiencing abuse will be heard and supported. It also broadens the pathways for safe disclosure beyond just the Safe Team or pastoral staff.

Abuse can happen in any community. Perpetrators may appear socially acceptable and trustworthy, making it difficult to identify them based on appearance alone. We should be mindful that it is statistically probable for abuse to be occurring in our church.

This section outlines a compassionate pathway for supporting someone who discloses abuse. For reporting requirements and processes, see Part Two.

1. Receiving Disclosures

DO:

- Move to a private space away from others

- Explain confidentiality and its limits (e.g., risk to life or others). If someone begins sharing concerning information, gently interrupt to let them know the limits of your confidentiality.
- Then listen patiently without interrupting; their disclosure may not be complete or coherent
- Let them know you believe them; respond with concern and sympathy, but not alarm – remain even-tempered
- Assure them the abuse is not their fault
- Ascertain if there is risk to life or serious risk of harm. If so, call 000 regardless of consent.
- Let them lead; don't pressure them to speak
- It's not your job to investigate, however, if appropriate, gently ask about:
 - Involvement of children
 - Whether the abuse is a pattern
- Remind them of God's love for them and offer prayer if appropriate.
- Assure them it is good that they have shared, and that you will follow up with them in the near future.

DON'T:

- Share your own or others' stories
- Excuse, explain or minimise the alleged abuser's behaviour (e.g., "he was stressed / he has trauma in his background" or "at least he didn't _____").
- Promise unconditional confidentiality
- Tell them what to do. We must help restore their agency (their ability to make and trust their own decisions) and honour the complexity of their situation.
 - Do not say "leave" or "stay" in a domestic abuse situation
 - Do not recommend couples counselling in abusive contexts
 - Do not spiritualise by claiming to know what God wants them to do

2. Warm Referral

A warm referral means actively helping someone connect with support, not just giving information. This reduces barriers and increases trust.

1. Outline supports using the NBBC Services Referral Guide. You may also suggest:
 - Crossway Counselling Centre: 0435 032 777 / hello@crosswaycounselling.org.au
 - Ongoing pastoral support / one-to-one discipleship relationship

Do not pressure action; support their autonomy

2. Help access support:
 - Call a helpline or GP together
 - Book a counselling appointment together
 - Attend first appointments with them if helpful
 - Personally connect them with appropriate church staff or care teams

3. Record

Record the disclosure promptly and confidentially (within 24 hours):

- If you need to report this disclosure (see Part Two), use the NBBC Safe Report form to record what you heard.
- If you do not need to report the disclosure, use any safe and confidential means of recording (e.g., emailing yourself, 'Notes' app on your phone).
- Use the person's words as much as possible
- Note safety concerns, plans discussed, and actions taken
- Include the date
- Store securely (e.g., email to yourself)

4. Follow Up

- Check in soon after the conversation (if safe to do so)
 - E.g., "Hi ____, just checking in after our conversation yesterday. How are you doing?"
- Offer reassurance and ask about next steps
 - E.g., "How are you feeling about your appointment?"
- Clarify expectations for your ongoing involvement
 - Be honest about your capacity and help connect them with someone for regular support if you are unable to do that for them
- Continue walking with them in a supportive way according to your capacity
- Encourage them, over time, to widen their circle of support by sharing with more trustworthy people.

5. Self-care

Supporting disclosures is emotionally weighty. Create sustainable rhythms of care:

- Schedule space after difficult meetings to process, record, and pray
- Debrief with someone safe and capable
 - Seek consent first and decide together who that should be (e.g., pastor, supervisor, anonymous helpline like 1800 RESPECT)
- Don't neglect what fills your cup: time with God, exercise, friendships, massage, etc.

PART TWO: Reporting Abuse

Applies to key volunteers, leaders and staff of NBBC

Duty of Care Responsibility

Duty of care may be triggered when any key volunteer, leader or staff member within the church becomes aware of an individual within our community who poses a risk of abuse to others. The responsibility to report disclosures of abuse applies especially to those in senior leadership roles—such as pastors, elders, deacons and paid staff—but also extends to ministry leaders, leaders within ministries and key volunteers who contribute to people-ministry of the church.

Note: Attendees of NBBC who are not a key volunteer, leader or staff member are **not** subject to NBBC's reporting requirements under this procedure in cases involving abuse of adults. However, we believe it is in the best interest of the NBBC church community for the Safe Team to be made aware of individuals who do or may pose a risk to others, so that

Required Reporting

Subject to the Key Considerations and Key Exceptions below, key volunteers, leaders and staff members of NBBC are required to report disclosures of adult abuse to the NBBC Safe Team if the (alleged) perpetrator of abuse:

1. currently attends NBBC or is otherwise closely associated to NBBC;
AND
2. presents or may present an ongoing risk of harm to others.

These reports should be made, wherever reasonably possible, with the consent of the person experiencing abuse; however, reporting is still required even if such consent cannot be obtained.

Key Consideration – Intimate Partner Violence

In situations of intimate partner violence, while ongoing risk to the person who disclosed may remain, risk to others may be extremely remote. Making a report – even a de-identified one - has the potential to increase risk of harm for the person who disclosed. For these reasons, no report —even de-identified—should be made without the explicit consent of the person experiencing the abuse (unless the ongoing risk of harm to others is assessed to be serious and / or more than extremely remote).

The person who disclosed intimate partner violence must be free to decide when and with whom their information is shared.

Key Exceptions – Required Reporting to Baptist Churches Western Australia

- Conflict of Interest

If a disclosure of abuse involves a member of the NBBC Safe Team, someone closely associated with them, or creates any other conflict of interest, then a report is required to be made directly to Baptist Churches Western Australia (BCWA) on 6313 6300.

- Allegation Involving Senior Church Leadership

If a disclosure involves a Pastor, Elder, or Deacon of NBBC, the report is required to be made either:

- directly to BCWA: OR
- through the NBBC Safe Team, who will then notify BCWA

Reporting Responsibilities Following a Disclosure

When any key volunteer, leader or staff member receives a disclosure of abuse where the (alleged) perpetrator attends or is closely connected to NBBC and poses actual or potential risk of harm to others, they:

1. should follow the procedure for supporting the person experiencing abuse outlined in Part One;

AND

2. are required to report this abuse to the NBBC Safe Team **as soon as possible, and within 24 hours of the disclosure**, using the designated Safe Report form available on the NBBC website.

When completing the form:

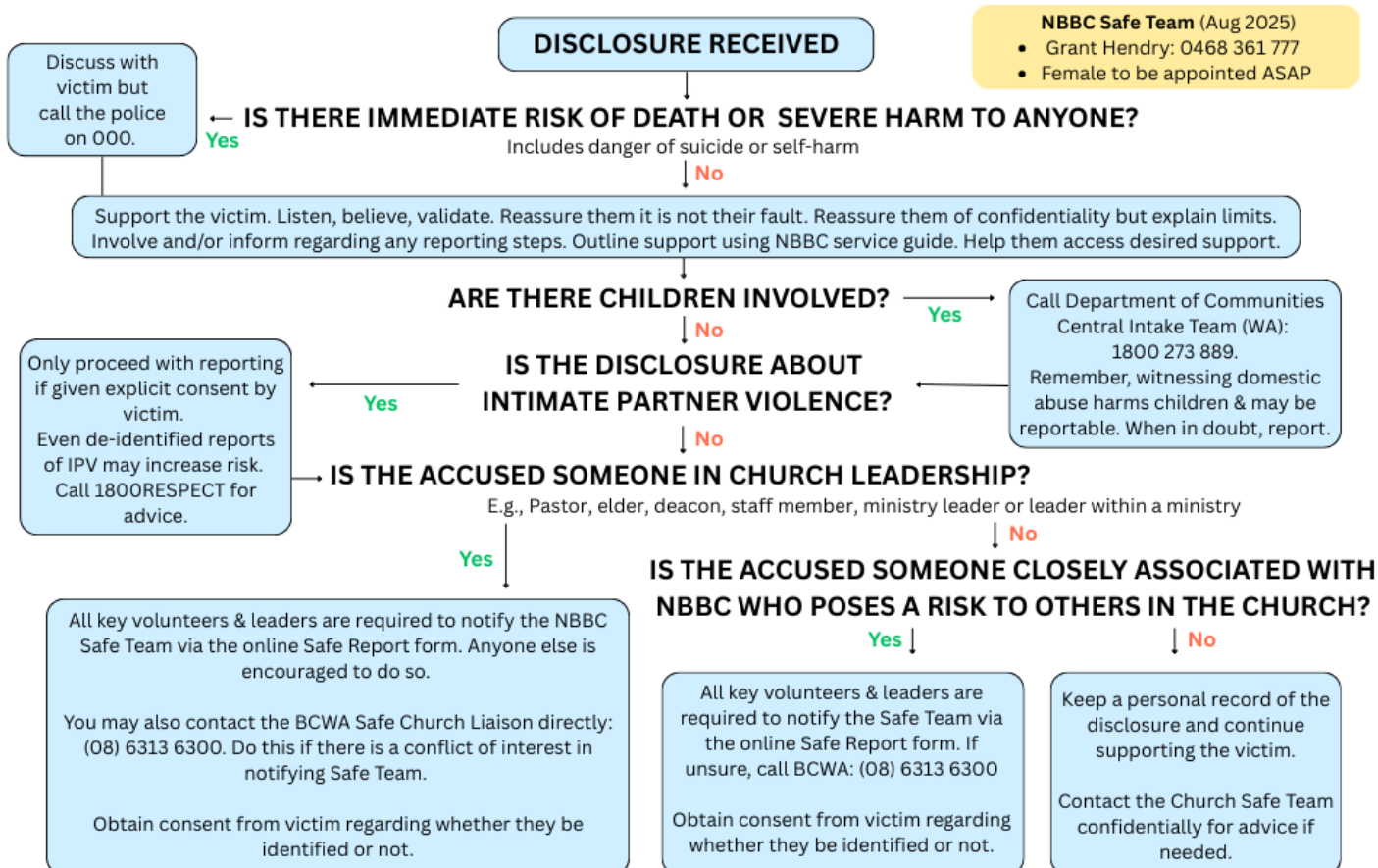
- Use the individual's own words as much as possible.
- Focus on factual details rather than personal opinions or interpretations.
- Avoid including emotional responses or assumptions.

Remember, assess the risk of making a report and do not proceed if this would endanger the person who has disclosed. You may always call a support line like 1800Respect for professional advice.

Below is a flowchart outlining the reporting pathways for attendees of NBBC. A larger copy can be found in the appendix.

REPORTING PATHWAYS FOR DISCLOSURES OF ADULT ABUSE

At any time in this process and if in any doubt, you may seek advice from 1800RESPECT or the BCWA Safe Church Liaison Officer (08 6313 6300.) Within 48 hours of a disclosure, we advise debriefing with such a professional.



The following steps are designed to balance the need to protect others with the need to care for the person who has disclosed.

1. Be Transparent About the Need to Report

When someone shares an experience of abuse, always be clear that—due to safety and duty of care obligations—it needs to be reported (except in cases of Intimate Partner Violence). You might say something like:

"Thank you so much for trusting me with this. I can see how hard it was to share. Because the person you've mentioned may pose further risk of harm to yourself/others, I need to share this with the church's Safe Team. I won't do this behind your back—I want to walk with you through whatever comes next."

2. Involve them in the process

Where appropriate, offer options that allow them to participate in the process, upholding safety and accountability in a way that respects their dignity and choice. For example:

- *“Would you like me to support you in speaking directly with someone from the Safe Team?”*
- *“There’s a report form for situations like this—would you like to sit with me while I fill it out?”*

3. Clarify Disclosure Preference

Ask the person who has experienced abuse whether they would like their identity to remain anonymous in the report, or if they are comfortable with their situation being shared.

Make sure they are informed about what will happen to the report, including the possibility of it being shared with the senior pastor or elders if the Safe Team decide it needs to be escalated.

4. Respect their choice

If they wish to remain anonymous, de-identify the report before submitting it. If they give consent for their disclosure to be shared, ask whether they are open to being contacted by the Safe Team. Assure them this is entirely their choice and they are not obligated to be contacted or involved further.

5. Follow through accordingly

If they agree to engaging with the Safe Team, proceed with organizing a phone call, arranging a meeting and/or writing the report.

If they do not want to be contacted or involved further, make a note of this in the report.

PART THREE: Responding to Reports

Applies to the Safe Team and the Senior Pastor / Church Leadership

[A] – The Safe Team

Purpose: This process is to be followed by the Safe Team members once a disclosure or Report Form has been received to assess the information and decide what next steps should be taken.

NBBC Safe Team

Key Responsibilities

- **Receiving and Assessing Reports:** Receive reports from NBBC members regarding abuse allegations, assess the level of risk involved, and determine appropriate next steps, including whether escalation is required and to whom.

- **Providing Support and Guidance:** Offer support and counsel to individuals making reports and church leadership, helping NBBC members and leaders respond in a way that prioritizes safety, care and appropriate boundaries.
- **Supporting Survivors:** Be available to help support those who have experienced abuse.

Composition

- The Safe Team will consist of two members: one female and one male to enable gender-specific support.
- Both members should be well known and easily recognizable within the church community to ensure approachability and accessibility.
- Both members will be appropriately trained to receive and respond to disclosures of abuse. This includes a working knowledge of:
 - state and federal legislation
 - church and denominational policies
 - local support services and referral pathways
- Having two response officers ensures shared responsibility and a well-defined circle of confidentiality.

Recording and Accountability

- All submissions to SafeReports.nbbc.org.au are distributed to the members of the Safe Team via their NBBC email addresses.
- Safe Team must maintain an audit trail of all considerations, actions taken, and justifications, stored confidentially.
- If one member receives a report individually, they must send it to the other within 24 hours.
- If the discloser does not grant permission to share, information should be de-identified.
- Reports received in person/phone must be entered into the online form, by the reporter or on their behalf.
- All disclosures must be recorded in written form and stored via the SafeReports email account.
- De-identified summaries should be submitted to the Eldership Board at the next meeting. Redact details as needed to protect confidentiality.

Exception: In cases involving intimate partner violence, no information should be shared without explicit consent, due to safety risks.

Upon Receiving a Report

1. Incomplete Report:

- If contactable, gently follow up for more context.
- If not contactable, file the Report Form and submit a de-identified version to the Eldership Board.

2. Risk Assessment:

- If there is **immediate risk to life/severe harm**, call **000**.

- Seek advice from BCWA (08 6313 6300) or 1800Respect if needed.
- **Low/No Risk to Others:**
 - Maintain confidentiality.
 - Consider pastoral care steps.
 - If the individual is open to contact, reach out, provide support, and facilitate care.
 - Record all actions; submit de-identified report to eldership.
- **Risk of Harm to Others:**
 - If possible and safe, involve the person who disclosed in next steps.
 - If not, proceed without contact.
 - Notify church leadership of person of risk.
 - Record all actions and submit de-identified report to eldership.

3. Allegation Against Pastor/Elder/Deacon:

- Notify **BCWA** immediately (08 6313 6300)
- If involving the **Senior Pastor**, inform the **Chair of Elders** and proceed in consultation with **BCWA**.

[B] – Senior Pastor / Church Leadership

This process applies once the Safe Team provides notice that a person of risk attends or is associated with NBBC.

1. Ensure Immediate Safety

- Assess for urgent concerns and take protective steps if needed.

2. Seek Advice

- Stay in contact with Safe Team and BCWA as needed throughout the process

3. Support the Discloser (if applicable)

- Offer appropriate pastoral/professional care.
- Respect their agency and preferences.

4. Maintain Confidentiality by only sharing on a need-to-know-basis

5. Contacting the Alleged Abuser

- Contacting the alleged abuser or taking any visible action may endanger the person who disclosed. All steps must be taken with caution, professional advice, and, where safely possible, in line with the wishes of the person affected.

5. Conduct an Investigation

- In conflict-of-interest situations or as needed, request BCWA support.

- Seek to:
 - Identify unfounded or bad faith reports
 - Assess community risk
 - Gather evidence
 - Act in line with legal and ethical standards

6. Limit Involvement if Needed

- Senior leaders are usually stepped down while an investigation is underway
- Others may be restricted depending on risk (e.g., supervision, exclusion)
- Some reasonable steps to assess and eliminate unfounded or bad faith reports should take place before these measures are taken

7. Document All Steps

- Keep clear, dated records on NBBC email accounts.
- A tracking system may be introduced if reporting increases.

9. Care for the NBBC Community

- Work with leadership to decide if church-wide communication is needed.
- Use "ready responses" to reduce speculation and protect confidentiality.

10. Care for the Broader Church Community

- All abuse concerns should be shared with BCWA within one week. This supports tracking of concerns across churches.

Handover: On leadership changes, ensure full policy and case handover to prevent loss of information.

APPENDIX

NBBC Services Referral Guide 2025

CRISIS/EMERGENCY Services		Description
Police/ Fire/ Ambulance	000	Is someone seriously injured or in urgent need of medical assistance? Is life or property under threat? Have you witnessed a serious accident or crime?
Non-English speaking First Call Interpreting Service (TIS)	13 14 50	Interpreting service
Mental Health Emergency Response Line (MHERL)	1300 555 788 (Perth) 1800 676 822 (Peel)	24/7 telephone referral and response line for people experiencing a mental health crisis The service aims to keep people safe during the crisis and connect them to appropriate services
13 YARN	13 92 76	24/7 crisis support run by Aboriginal and Torres strait Islander peoples
Family and Domestic violence/ Abuse		
Sexual Assault Resource Centre (SARC)	(08) 6 458 1828 1800 199 888	Crisis services for people who have experienced a recent sexual assault in the last two weeks and counselling for sexual assault/ abuse experienced recently or in the past 24/7 for recent sexual assault 830am – 11pm for crisis counselling
Elder abuse helpline	1300 724 679	Assists older people to understand their rights and provides free confidential information and support to older people who are at risk of or experiencing elder abuse 830am -430pm (M-F)
WA Women's Domestic Violence 24 Hour help line	1800 007 339	Support for women with or without children and referrals to refuges

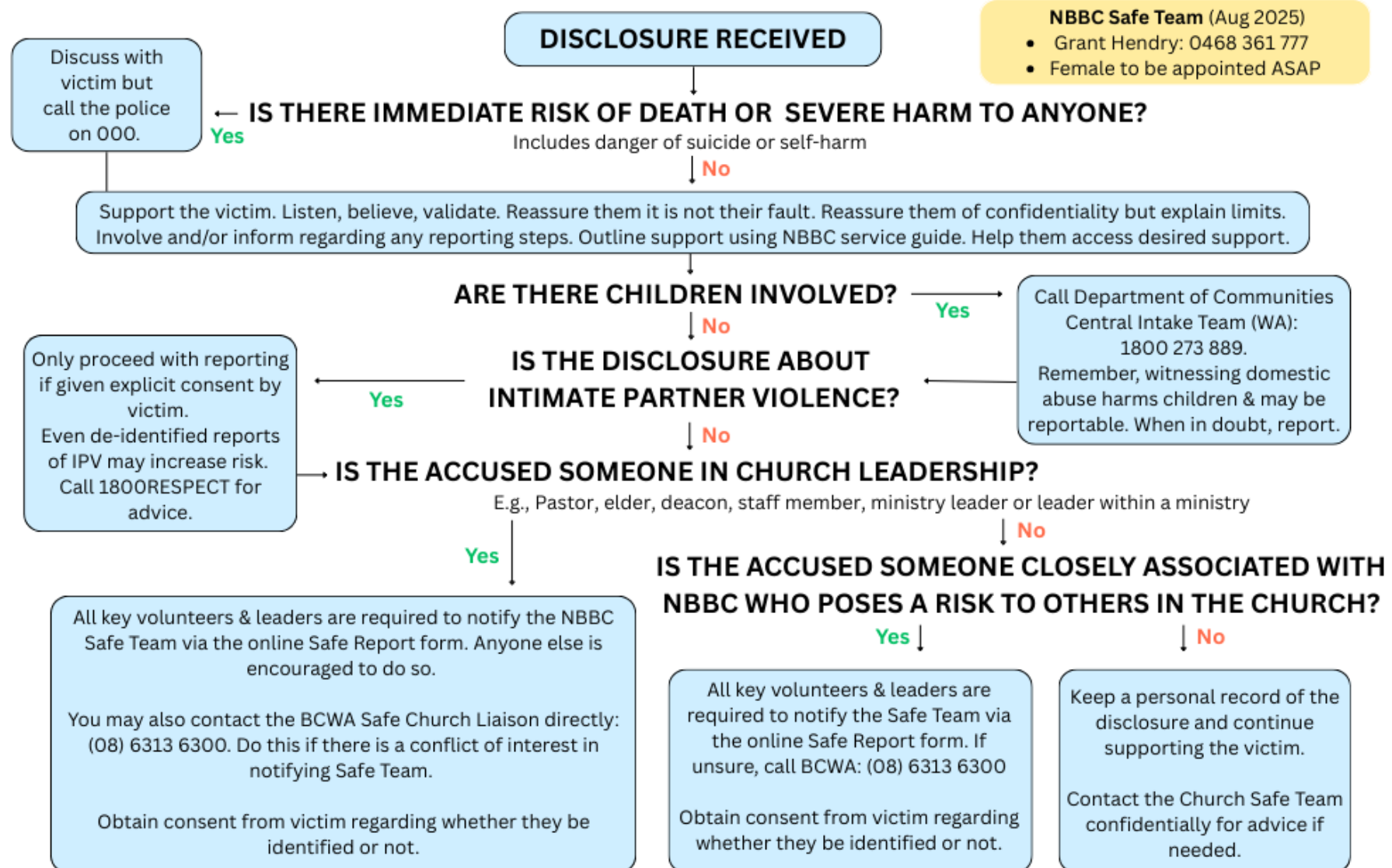
WA Men's Domestic Violence Helpline	1800 000 599	For men concerned about their own abusive or violent behaviour and for male victims of FDV Referrals to support services
MensLine Australia	1300 78 99 78	Telephone counselling support for men
Kids Helpline	1800 551 800	Free telephone counselling and support for 5 – 25 year olds
Department of Communities Child Protection Intake Team	1800 273 889	Concern for a child's wellbeing during business hours only
Crisis Care	1800 199 008	Concern for a child's well being after hours 24/7 Information and referrals for people experiencing a crisis
1800 Respect	1800 737 732	Telephone counselling support line for people impacted by domestic, family, or sexual violence
Lifeline	131 114	24/7 crisis counselling line for people experiencing emotional distress Suicide prevention
Aftercare		
Relationships Australia	1300 364 277	Relationship support Counselling
EntryPoint Perth	1800 124 684 (08) 6496 0001	Free and voluntary assessment and referral service assisting people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness in WA Access to accommodation and support services
Uniting WA Tranby Engagement HUB	1300 663 298	Outreach, crisis support, transitional/ crisis accommodation



Governance Paper

REPORTING PATHWAYS FOR DISCLOSURES OF ADULT ABUSE

At any time in this process and if in any doubt, you may seek advice from 1800RESPECT or the BCWA Safe Church Liaison Officer (08 6313 6300.) Within 48 hours of a disclosure, we advise debriefing with such a professional.





Governance Paper

CONFIDENTIAL

SAFE REPORT FORM

This form is intended for documenting and reporting information having witnessed abuse or received a disclosure of abuse concerning one adult against another (persons over 18). This form will be sent to the NBBC Safe Team at SafeReports@nbbc.org.au.

Date of report lodgement:

Name of person making this report:

Contact details of person making this report:

- **Mobile:**
- **Email:**

Relationship to person who experienced abuse:

Date of disclosure/observation:

Has the person who experienced abuse given consent for their identity and situation to be shared with the Safe Team? Yes / No

Record any notes or concerns:

If yes

- **Name of person who experienced abuse:**
- **Email:**
- **Mobile:**
- **Are they willing to be contacted by a member of the Safe Team?** Yes / No

Record any notes or concerns:

Type of incident being reported (tick all that apply)

- ☐ Disclosure of (potential) abuse.
- ☐ Witness of (potential) abuse.
- ☐ Personal experience of (potential) abuse
- ☐ The alleged perpetrator is in an NBBC position of leadership (including staff, deacons, elders, ministry leaders and growth group leaders).

☐ Police were called

(FORM CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

Details of incident:

(Please describe the incident including the alleged perpetrator name(s), behaviour, sighted injury or other indicators of abuse. Use the person's own words as much as possible.)

Alleged perpetrator's name:

Action undertaken (if any):

(E.g., What was discussed? Did you outline support services? Did you call a helpline together?)

Did anyone else see it happen or does anyone else know about it? If so, supply details:

For Safe Team

Report received by	Date	Signature
Grant Hendry		