

Child Information Sharing Scheme summary

Who

Who can share information

If the scheme's threshold is met, prescribed information sharing entities can request and disclose confidential information about any person with each other.*

Why

Threshold part 1: Promoting child wellbeing or safety

An information sharing entity can **request** or **disclose** information about any person for the purpose of promoting the wellbeing or safety of a child or group of children.

What

Threshold part 2: Sharing to assist another information sharing entity

The **disclosing** information sharing entity must reasonably believe that sharing the information may assist the receiving information sharing entity to carry out one or more of the following activities:

- i. making a decision, an assessment or a plan relating to a child or group of children
- ii. initiating or conducting an investigation relating to a child or group of children
- iii. providing a service relating to a child or group of children
- iv. managing any risk to a child or group of children.

Threshold part 3: Excluded information

The information being **disclosed** or **requested** is not known to be 'excluded information' under Part 6A of the *Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005* (and is not restricted from sharing by another law).

When

When should information be shared

If the threshold of the scheme is met, an information sharing entity:

- can **share proactively** with other information sharing entities
- can **request information** from another information sharing entity
- must **respond to requests for information** from another information sharing entity and provide relevant information.

Principles

! Legislative principles to guide sharing

1. Give precedence to the wellbeing and safety of a child or group of children over the right to privacy.
2. Seek to preserve and promote positive relationships between a child and the child's family members and people significant in the child's life.
3. Seek to maintain constructive and respectful engagement with children and their families.
4. Be respectful of and have regard to a child's social, individual and cultural identity, the child's strengths and abilities and any vulnerability relevant to the child's safety or wellbeing.
5. Promote the cultural safety and recognise the cultural rights and familial and community connections of children who are Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander or both.
6. Seek and take into account the views of the child and the child's relevant family members, if it is appropriate, safe and reasonable to do so.
7. Take all reasonable steps to plan for the safety of all family members believed to be at risk from family violence.
8. Only share confidential information to the extent necessary to promote the wellbeing or safety of a child or group of children, consistent with the best interests of that child or those children.
9. Work collaboratively in a manner that respects the functions and expertise of each information sharing entity.

*The Child Information Sharing Scheme also permits information sharing entities to share information with a child, a person with parental responsibility for the child or a person with whom the child is living, for the more limited purpose of managing a risk to the child's safety.

This summary is designed to assist authorised information sharing entities and should be read in conjunction with the binding *Child Information Sharing Scheme Ministerial Guidelines* available at www.infosharing.vic.gov.au

To receive this publication in an accessible format email childinfosharing@edumail.vic.gov.au

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