

## Types of Abuse and Harm

Table 1: Relationship between abuse and harm

Type of abuse <i>Actions behaviours by parent/carer</i>	Physical	Emotional	Sexual	Neglect
	Hitting Punching Scalding Domestic and family violence	Scapegoating Rejection Persistent hostility Domestic and family violence	Penetration Sexual exploitation Exposure to pornography	Failure to attend to medical needs Poor hygiene / nutrition Inadequate supervision

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Resulting harm <i>Impact experienced by the child</i>	Physical <i>Refers to the body</i>	Emotional <i>Refers to the ability to express emotions</i>	Psychological <i>Refers to the mind and cognitive processes</i>
	Bruising Fractures Internal injuries Burns	Depression Hyper vigilance Poor self-esteem Self harm Fear / anxiety	Learning and developmental delays Disorganised attachment Impaired self-image In infants, neurological changes in the developing brain

The *Child Protection Act 1999* (section 9) defines harm as, “any detrimental effect of a significant nature on the child’s physical, psychological or emotional wellbeing”.

The *Child Protection Act 1999* (section 10) defines a “**child in need of protection**” as a child who:

- a) has suffered harm, is suffering harm or is at unacceptable risk of suffering harm; **and**
- b) does not have a parent able and willing to protect the child from harm.

Child Safety intervenes when there is a reasonable suspicion that a child is in need of protection, as defined above.