

Child Protection Unit
Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service

The Child Protection Unit (CPU) is the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service's single point of contact for all child protection matters.

Contact Details:

Location: Gold Coast University Hospital

Hours: Monday to Friday 0800-1630

Central Intake: 5687-1375

Fax: 5687-1397

Email: CPU-GoldCoast@health.qld.gov.au

Staff:

Child Protection Advisors (Paediatricians)

Child Protection Liaison Officers (CNC)

Child Protection Social Worker

Child Protection Administration Officer

Meeting the primary health care needs of Children and Young people

Out of home care (OOHC) is a term used to describe all forms of alternate accommodation for children and young people under 18 years of age who are unable to live with their parents, it can include short and long foster care, kinship care and residential care. Children and young people in OOHC exhibit a higher prevalence of many chronic health conditions compared to the average child in Australia.

The National Clinical Assessment Framework highlights the continuity of care for these children. Children and young people in OOHC are required to be medically reviewed within the first three months of their placement.

Referral By GP to Child Protection Unit:

- 1) **Children and young people in OOHC** can be referred to the Child Protection Paediatric Clinic after the initial screening by the GP (if the GP determines that the child/young person has complex needs and a paediatric review is required). The Child Protection Paediatrician will provide an assessment of health, development, growth, behaviour and psychological wellbeing. The Child Protection Paediatrician will refer on to a relevant service if deemed required.
- 2) **Children and young people currently under assessment** by the Department of Child Safety, Youth & Women may be referred to the Child Protection Paediatric Clinic after the initial screening by the GP (if the GP determines that the child/young person has complex needs and a paediatric review is required). The Child Protection Paediatrician will refer on to a relevant service if deemed required.
- 3) **Children and young people requiring child abuse medical and forensic assessments/examinations** can be referred to the CPU. Please contact the CPU before making the referral.

NB: Please contact the CPU for the Paediatrician's name for any of the above referrals.

The Child Protection Unit also provides education, training and advice on child protection matters including clinician's mandatory responsibilities in reporting to the Department of Child Safety, Youth & Women.

Please feel free to contact the Child Protection Unit for advice or to discuss any concerns.