# Consultation Paper

**CHC Identify and Report Children and Young People at Risk**

## Project scope

This project proposes the adjustment of packaging rules to replace the unit *CHCPRT001 Identify and respond to children and young people at risk* with *CHCPRT025 Identify and report children and young people at risk* to ensure qualifications are aligned with current regulatory standards.

As a result of significant changes to several national, state, and territory standards and regulations related to the safety, care, and protection of children and young people, the unit *CHCPRT001 Identify and respond to children and young people at risk* (Release 2) was reviewed in December 2022. The unit *CHCPRT025 Identify and report children and young people at risk* (Release 1) was subsequently released and *CHCPRT001 Identify and respond to children and young people at risk* (Release 2) was superseded and deemed not equivalent to the previous version due to changes and additions to Application, Performance Criteria and Knowledge Evidence, as well as changes to Assessment Conditions.

At the time, when *CHCPRT025 Identify and report children and young people at risk* (Release 1) was released as part of the *CHC Community Services Training Package (Release 9.3),* this update was not incorporated into 12 qualifications. This project looks at incorporating these changes ensuring graduates are trained using the most current and fit for purpose unit that reflects updated child safety and protection requirements.

Project background

Mandatory reporting legislation outlines who is required to report cases of suspected child abuse and neglect, as well as other obligations that aim to protect children and young people from the risk of harm, abuse, and neglect. Various occupations are listed as mandatory reporters in these Commonwealth, state, and territory regulations, including many that sit within the *CHC Community Services Training Package*. Within HumanAbility’s scope, this includes early childhood educators, teaching assistants, welfare practitioners, community services workers, and health practitioners.

There have been significant updates to mandatory reporting legislation that have expanded the knowledge and skills required of individuals working across these sectors who are mandatory reporters. As a result, stakeholders have advised that *CHCPRT001 Identify and respond to children and young people at risk* is no longer fit for purpose as it does not meet national, state, and territory regulatory requirements that have been introduced since 2022. These concerns were raised by stakeholders from the NSW Department of Education as well as industry participants that attended HumanAbility’s entry requirements consultation workshops for *CHC50121 Diploma of Early Childhood Education and Care* in 2024.

## *CHCPRT025 Identify and report children and young people at risk* has a broader scope than *CHCPRT001 Identify and respond to children and young people at risk*. The updated unit explicitly addresses various types of abuse and enhances understanding of protective factors. It emphasises practical application and includes engagement techniques, equipping practitioners to better address child protection issues across complex contexts.

This project aims to ensure qualifications in the *CHC Community Services Training Package* align with current regulatory standards and enable graduates to be ready for the workforce and able to provide essential, quality education and cares services for children and young people.

This fast-tracked project is being conducted by an internal project team at HumanAbility that includes a project manager and technical writer, supported by a project coordinator. A Technical Committee has been established (from relevant existing Technical Committees) to review all training products and consultation material prior to it being made public and review training products prior to submission to DEWR.

Public consultations will be held online to discuss the proposed change to training products with industry stakeholders, relevant government department representatives including from skills and training departments, and representatives from TAFEs and private RTOs.

## Proposed changes

This project proposes the adjustment of packaging rules to replace the unit *CHCPRT001 Identify and respond to children and young people at risk* with *CHCPRT025 Identify and report children and young people at risk* in 12 qualifications in the *CHC Community Services Training Package*.

**Qualifications on scope**

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| **Code** | **Title** | **Essential** |
| *CHC22015* | *Certificate II in Community Services* | Elective |
| *CHC30121* | *Certificate III Early Childhood Education and Care* | Core |
| *CHC30221* | *Certificate III in School Based Education Support* | Elective |
| *CHC32015* | *Certificate III in Community Services* | Elective |
| *CHC34015* | *Certificate III in Active Volunteering* | Elective |
| *CHC35021* | *Certificate III in Community Safety Services* | Elective |
| *CHC40221* | *Certificate IV in School Based Education Support* | Core |
| *CHC42221* | *Certificate IV in Housing* | Elective |
| *CHC42315* | *Certificate IV in Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care* | Elective |
| *CHC43215* | *Certificate IV in Alcohol and Other Drugs* | Elective |
| *CHC50221* | *Diploma of School Age Education and Care* | Core |
| *CHC51015* | *Diploma of Counselling* | Elective |

**Qualifications being updated earlier**

Of these 12 qualifications, 3 are currently being updated as part of another HumanAbility project and will be released earlier than this project. *CHCPRT001 Identify and respond to children and young people at risk* (Release 2) is listed as an **elective** unit in these qualifications:

* CHC42221 Certificate IV in Housing (Release 1)
* CHC34015 Certificate III in Active Volunteering (Release 5)
* CHC35021 Certificate III in Community Safety Services (Release 1)

These qualifications will undergo a **minor** change:

* to replace *CHCPRT001 Identify and respond to children and young people at risk* (Release 2) with *CHCPRT025 Identify and report children and young people at risk* (Release 1) as an elective unit
* qualification code will remain unchanged
* other elective units that are superseded will also be updated
* core units that are superseded will not be updated as this would prompt a major change and qualification code change (not in this project’s scope)
* no public consultation is required for these minor changes. Stakeholders will be informed these changes will occur as part of an earlier project.

**Qualifications where CHCPRT001 sits in the elective bank**

*CHCPRT001 Identify and respond to children and young people at risk* (Release 2) is listed as an **elective** unit in 6 of the remaining 9 qualifications:

* CHC30221 Certificate III in School Based Education Support (Release 1)
* CHC43215 Certificate IV in Alcohol and Other Drugs (Release 3)
* CHC22015 Certificate II in Community Services (Release 4)
* CHC32015 Certificate III in Community Services (Release 3)
* CHC42315 Certificate IV in Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care (Release 3)
* CHC51015 Diploma of Counselling (Release 1)

These qualifications will undergo a **minor** change:

* to replace *CHCPRT001 Identify and respond to children and young people at risk* (Release 2) with *CHCPRT025 Identify and report children and young people at risk* (Release 1) as an elective unit
* qualification code will remain unchanged
* other elective units that are superseded will also be updated
* core units that are superseded will not be updated as this would prompt a major change and qualification code change (not in this project’s scope)
* no public consultation is required for these minor changes. Stakeholders will be informed these changes will occur as part of this project.

**Qualifications where CHCPRT001 sits in the core**

*CHCPRT001 Identify and respond to children and young people at risk* (Release 2) is listed as a **core** unit in the 3 remaining qualifications:

* CHC30121 Certificate III Early Childhood Education and Care (Release 1)
* CHC40221 Certificate IV in School Based Education Support (Release 1)
* CHC50221 Diploma of School Age Education and Care (Release 1)

These qualifications will undergo a **major** change:

* to replace *CHCPRT001 Identify and respond to children and young people at risk* (Release 2) with *CHCPRT025 Identify and report children and young people at risk* (Release 1) as a core unit
* a new qualification code will be issued
* core and elective units that are superseded will be updated
* public consultation will be conducted in line with requirements for major changes to ensure *CHCPRT025 Identify and report children and young people at risk* (Release 1) is the most appropriate replacement unit for these qualifications.

The public consultations will provide opportunities for key stakeholders to submit feedback on the proposed changes and contribute to shaping the outcome of this project to ensure alignment with current regulatory standards and industry needs.