# Appendix 1: IDENTIFYING CHILD ABUSE

## Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional ill treatment of ākonga such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effect on their emotional development. This can include a pattern of rejecting, degrading, ignoring, isolating, corrupting, exploiting or terrorising ākonga. It may also include age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on ākonga. It also includes the seeing or hearing the ill treatment of others.

### Physical Indicators:

* Bed wetting or bed soiling with no medical cause
* Frequent psychosomatic complaints (e.g. headaches, nausea, abdominal pains)
* Non-organic failure to thrive
* Pale, emaciated
* Prolonged vomiting and/or diarrhoea
* Malnutrition
* Dressed differently to other children in the family

### Behavioural Indicators:

* Severe developmental lags with obvious physical cause
* Depression, anxiety, withdrawal or aggression
* Self-destructive behaviour. This can include self-harm, suicide, alcohol and drug abuse
* Overly compliant
* Extreme attention seeking behaviours or extreme inhibition
* Running away from home, avoiding attending at school
* Nightmares, poor sleeping patterns
* Anti-social behaviours
* Lack of self esteem
* Obsessive behaviours
* Eating disorders

### Caregiver Indicators:

* Labels the ākonga as inferior or publicly humiliates the them (e.g. name calling)
* Treats ākonga differently from siblings or peers in ways that suggest dislike for them
* Actively refuses to help ākonga
* Constantly threatens ākonga with physical harm or death
* Locks ākonga in a closet or room for extended periods of time
* Teaches or reinforces criminal behaviour
* Withholds physical and verbal affection
* Keeps ākonga at home in role of servant or surrogate parent
* Has unrealistic expectations of ākonga
* Inappropriately involves ākonga in adult issues such as separation or disputes over child's care
* Exposes ākonga to witnessing, either seeing or hearing, situations of arguing and violence in the home

## Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet the basic physical and/or psychological needs of ākonga, causing long term serious harm to the their heath or development. It may also include neglect of basic or emotional needs of ākonga. Neglect is a lack: of action, emotion or basic needs.

### Physical Indicators:

* Dressed inappropriately for the season or the weather
* Often extremely dirty and unwashed
* Severe nappy rash or other persistent skin disorders
* Inadequately supervised or left unattended frequently or for long periods
* May be left in the care of an inappropriate adult
* Does not receive adequate medical or dental care
* Malnourished - this can be both underweight and overweight
* Lacks adequate shelter
* Non-organic failure to thrive

### Behavioural Indicators:

* Severe developmental lags without an obvious physical cause
* Lack of attachment to parents/caregivers
* Indiscriminate attachment to other adults
* Poor school attendance and performance
* Demanding of affection and attention
* Engages in risk taking behaviour such as drug and alcohol abuse
* May steal food
* Poor social skills
* No understanding of basic hygiene

### Caregiver Indicators:

* Puts own need ahead of ākonga
* Fails to provide basic needs of ākonga
* Demonstrates little or no interest in the life of the ākonga - does not attend school activities, social events
* Leaves ākonga alone or inappropriately supervised
* Drug and alcohol misuse
* Depressed

## Physical:

Physical abuse is a non-accidental act on ākonga that results in physical harm. This includes, but is not limited to, beating, hitting, shaking, burning, drowning, suffocating, biting, poisoning or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical abuse also involves the fabrication or inducing of illness.

### Physical Indicators

(often unexplained or inconsistent with explanation given):

* Bruises, welts, cuts and abrasions
* Burns - small circular burns, immersion burns, rope burns etc
* Fractures and dislocations - skull, facial bones, spinal fractures etc
* Multiple fractures at different stages of healing
* Fractures in very young children, especially those not yet mobile

### Behavioural Indicators:

* Inconsistent or vague explanations regarding injuries
* Wary of adults or a particular person
* Vacant stare or frozen watchfulness
* Cringing or flinching if touches unexpectedly
* May be extremely compliant and eager to please
* Dresses inappropriately to hide bruising or injuries
* Runs away from home or is afraid to go home
* May regress (e.g. bedwetting)
* May indicate general sadness
* Is violent to other children or animals

### Caregiver Indicators:

* Inconsistent or vague explanations regarding injuries
* May appear unconcerned about the wellbeing of ākonga
* May state ākonga is prone to injuries or lies about how they occur
* Delays in seeking medical attention
* May take ākonga to multiple medical appointments and seek medical treatment without an obvious need

## Sexual:

Sexual Abuse involves forcing or enticing ākonga to take part in sexual activities (penetrative and non-penetrative, for example, rape, kissing, touching, masturbation) as well as non-contact acts such as involving ākonga in the looking at or production of sexual images, sexual activities and sexual behaviours.

### Physical Indicators:

* Unusual or excessive itching or pain in the genital or anal area
* Torn, stained or bloody underclothing
* Bruises, lacerations, redness, swelling or bleeding in genital, vaginal or anal area
* Blood in urine or stools
* Sexually transmitted infections
* Pregnancy
* Urinary tract infections
* Discomfort in sitting or fidgeting as unable to sit comfortably

### Behavioural Indicators:

* Age-inappropriate sexual play or language
* Bizarre, sophisticated or unusual sexual knowledge
* Refuses to go home, or to a specific person's home, for no apparent reason
* Fear of a certain person, place, sound or smell
* Depression, anxiety, withdrawal or aggression
* Self-destructive behaviour. This can include self-harm, suicide, alcohol and drug abuse
* Overly compliant
* Extreme attention seeking behaviours or extreme inhibition
* Dresses inappropriately to hide bruising or injuries
* Eating disorders
* Compulsive behaviours

### Caregiver Indicators:

* May be unusually over-protective of ākonga
* Accuses ākonga of being sexually provocative
* Misuses alcohol or drugs
* Invades ākonga privacy (e.g. during dressing, in the bathroom)
* May favour the victim over other ākonga

## Intimate Partner Violence

Intimate Partner Violence or Family Violence includes threatening to harm people, pets or property, and causes family members to live in fear. Ākonga are always affected either emotionally or physically where there is family violence even if they are not personally injured or physically present.

While some men experience violence from partners and family members, women and ākonga are the most likely victims of family violence.

### Indicators in the Child:

* Physical injuries consistent with the indicators of Physical Abuse
* Absenteeism from school
* Bullying or aggressive behaviour
* Complaints of headaches or stomach aches with no apparent medical reason
* Talking or describing violent behaviours

### Indicators in the Victim:

* Physical Injuries including: bruising to chest and abdomen, injuries during pregnancy
* Depression and/or anxiety
* Inconsistent explanations for injuries
* Fearful
* Submissive

### Indicators in the Perpetrator:

* Isolates and controls partner and ākonga
* Threatens, criticises, intimidates, uses aggressive and physical abuse towards partner and ākonga
* Minimises and denies own behaviour, or blames victim for the perpetrators own behaviour