

TIP SHEET

Additional Considerations - Child and Youth

Data collection:

- Parents/carers and siblings are important sources of collateral information.
- School personnel (e.g. Deputy Principal, Guidance Officer, Teacher Aids/Teachers) can also provide collateral information about the consumers behaviour and presentation within the school context including aggressive behaviours within school, experience of bullying (as the victim or perpetrator), coping and problem-solving strategies, relationships with adults and teachers.
- Some young people can have previous convictions/court orders, for example probation orders, which may be gathered from the relevant Youth Justice Service Centre (Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women) or the Queensland Police Service.

Risk Management:

- Parents/carers have a vital role to play in managing the risk of violence. This could include supervising the interaction between the consumer and other children/young people (victims) or restriction around access to violent media (e.g. games/internet sites).
- Ensure parents/carers/school personnel are prompted to secure items within the home or school that have been or could be used as a weapon. Young consumers are more likely to be impulsive in their use of violence or aggression and are more likely to use items which are easy to access when heightened. Consider securing knives, replacing ceramic plates/glassware with plastic or melamine, removing scissors, garden tools, curtain rods and sporting equipment to a secure location.
- Ensure that parents/carers can maintain the safety of other children within the home or residential facility. If there are concerns about the parent/carers ability or willingness to protect other children within the home, consider whether a report to child safety services is required. The 'Suspected child in need of protection' form will need to be completed online.
- Suggest to parents/carers that they consider locations within the home/residence that other children or adults can retreat to should a consumer become aggressive or violent.
- Ensure that parents/carers/school personal remove access to drugs and alcohol which may be used by the young person; a consumer's use of substances may increase their use of violence.

