

Over the past few years, Australian communities have been impacted by a range of natural disasters coupled with a global pandemic. We refer to these events and other major challenges that educators may experience as 'big situations'.

**Before you do anything... safety comes first. If you are experiencing a 'big situation' now...**

- ▶ Keep everyone safe. Avoid injuries or harm by making your site physically safe and promoting a calm environment as much as possible
- ▶ Follow the directions of emergency services
- ▶ Follow regulatory requirements and implement relevant policies, including informing management, and your Regulatory Authority where needed e.g. critical incident or service closure
- ▶ Be ready to say no if people ask you to do things that are outside your scope or that could be harmful for children and calmly explain why
- ▶ Seek or ask for help as needed



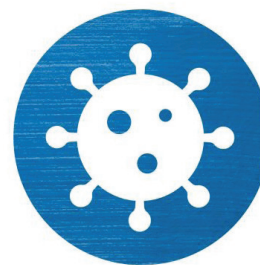
#### **Child Safety and Wellbeing**

Concerns relating to child safety and wellbeing arise in response to things educators observe and hear when working with children and families.



#### **Critical Incidents...**

A critical incident is an unexpected event that can impact on a service.



#### **Epidemics and Pandemics**

When infectious disease affect communities, educators are responsible for following health requirements... as well as helping children understand the big changes around them.



#### **Family Violence...**

Supporting children affected by family violence situations can be part of an educator's role.



#### **Loss and Grief...**

When there is a death within your service's community, educators will have a role in supporting children and their families who are experiencing loss and grief.



#### **Natural Disasters...**

When communities are affected by natural disasters, educators may have time to prepare children beforehand and will need to support them and their families afterwards.

### **Role of the educator**

This is not about educators needing to know everything, or feeling pressured to resolve or fix big situations. It is about educators having confidence and access to the supports and resources they need to keep going in their important work with children and families when big situations happen.

### **Role of the Inclusion Professional**

An Inclusion Professional can support educators to proactively prepare to have the skills and confidence to respond to big situations that may occur. This preparation could include support to use this resource and may involve strategic planning. Inclusion Professionals can help educators connect with external organisations and agencies as needed.

