



## **ACT INTERMEDIARY PROGRAM INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES AND COMMUNITY**

### **What is an intermediary?**

An intermediary is a skilled professional trained to make it easier for children to communicate with the police and in the courtroom.

The intermediary gives suggestions to the police and the court about how the child should be asked questions, so the child can understand their questions.

The intermediary is not a support person and ‘cannot take anyone’s side’. They are only focused on helping better communication with children, when children try to access justice.

### **Why do children need intermediaries?**

We know that it is difficult and stressful for our children to talk in police interviews and at court.

Other things can stop a child communicating, like:

- ❖ Language Delays
- ❖ Cognitive Issues
- ❖ Mental Health Issues
- ❖ Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- ❖ Trauma
- ❖ Learning Disabilities
- ❖ Very young age
- ❖ Autism

The intermediary helps children communicate.

### **When can I ask for an intermediary for a child?**

If a child you know is going to talk to police in the Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Team (SACAT Team) ask police for an intermediary to help the child tell their story.

Intermediaries can also help children to communicate at court in sexual assault and violence cases.

### **How do I get an intermediary?**

Ask police for an intermediary if your child is reporting a sexual assault or a violent crime to police.

Ask your lawyer for an intermediary if your child is giving evidence at the Supreme Court.

Police and lawyers can then contact the Human Rights Commission (ACT) Intermediary Program who can arrange an intermediary to help the child communicate their evidence.

**If you have any questions, contact the Intermediary Program Team on 6205 6989 or 6205 2222.**

