



## PRESS RELEASE:

### Tutors as mandatory reporters overdue

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The proposal put forward by NSW *Family and Community Services* that the definition of a mandatory reporter be broadened within NSW and nationally is fully supported by the Australian Tutoring Association (ATA). A new broader definition is, in the view of the Association, necessary not just in NSW but as a national standard that places child protection foremost in the minds of tutors.

ATA CEO Mohan Dhall said, ***“Accountable and accredited private tutors are well placed to support a framework for improved protections for vulnerable children. Tutors need to understand their obligations, including that of placing the welfare of the child ahead of their commercial interests. If children present with serious anxiety, are afraid of their parents, refuse to disclose ‘bad’ marks to parents and or present other symptoms of abuse then tutors may be the first and only point of contact that can help raise issues and bring them to light”.***

The ATA supports the system of expanding the definition but would want greater resources allocated to training and development so that tutors are well aware of their obligations under an expanded regime.

The ATA has consistently argued for a uniform and progressive national approach to child protection matters and fully support the government. However, the government needs clear guidelines and training so that the children are being protected from abuse, and so that risks can be ameliorated early.

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