# information Sharing scenario

**Scenario**

Samantha is in Year five and has twice engaged in sexual behaviour that has been directed at younger children in the school. The second episode was serious resulting in physical and emotional harm to another young student, Kelly. The principal meets Samantha’s parents to amend the original Behaviour Support Plan that the school had established with them. The amended plan includes getting the parents’ consent for the classroom teacher to share information with the psychologist who currently meets with Samantha on a weekly basis.

The principal then asks the parents to consent to the school sharing information with the director of the out-of-school-hours care (OSHC) service where Samantha attends. Samantha’s mother becomes very distressed and expresses her fear that her daughter will be labelled forever and be ostracised by other children. She says she won’t consent to the information being shared and her husband backs her up.

The principal explains that Samantha would be most harmed if she engages in another incident of coercive sexual behaviour and that the best way for her to establish a positive reputation with her peers will be by ensuring she is protected from the opportunity to harm others. The principal explains that only information relevant to children’s safety will be shared. Only the OSHC director would be told the detail of the incidents; the other staff would have instructions about where and with who Samantha could play and how she would need to be monitored.

The principal suggests the parents go home to think further about things but explains that ultimately she will need to talk to with the OSHC director and her preference is to do so with the parents’ consent. The parents give consent the next day by telephone. The principal records this information along with all the action she has taken supporting Samantha. The principal is aware that although the parents have consented there are still possibilities that the situation may become contentious.

Information is shared only in order for people to understand and protect against risks so, in Samantha’s case, the following information sharing might occur.

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| Individuals involved | Relevant information  shared |
| Principal and OSHC director | * History of Samantha’s behaviour and the school’s behaviour support plan * Samantha’s parents’ consent for the information sharing * Name of the child attending the OSHC site who has been affected by Samantha’s behaviour – Kelly * Kelly’s parents’ consent for the information sharing |
| OSHC director and OSHC staff | * Details of Samantha’s school’s behaviour support plan that are relevant to the OSHC site and can be reinforced by OSHC staff (e.g. not playing with Kelly) * How OSHC staff can redirect Samantha if she doesn’t follow her behaviour support plan, and what to report to the OSHC director |
| OSHC director, Samantha and Samantha’s parents | * Information the OSHC staff have been given about how to assist Samantha with her behaviour support plan * Information that Kelly and her parents have been given about Samantha’s behaviour support plan |
| OSHC director and parents of Kelly, the affected child | * Details of Samantha’s behaviour support plan that involve contact with Kelly at the site and the instructions OSHC staff have been given to help Samantha follow her behaviour plan |