

Order in the Court! Workers in Support!



Presentation at the
DVCAN 5th State-wide Conference
Cairns October 2005





Domestic Violence Court Assistance Network Conference

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Cairns 2005

Overview

- Interface and correlation between child protection and domestic violence
- Department of Child Safety response to domestic violence
- Challenges and opportunities going forward



Child protection/domestic violence interface

- Domestic violence
 - emotional, social and psychological impacts
- 30%-60% incidence of child abuse



Violence in Indigenous communities

- Over-representation in child protection system
- Link to cultural dispossession, marginalisation, assimilation issues and racism

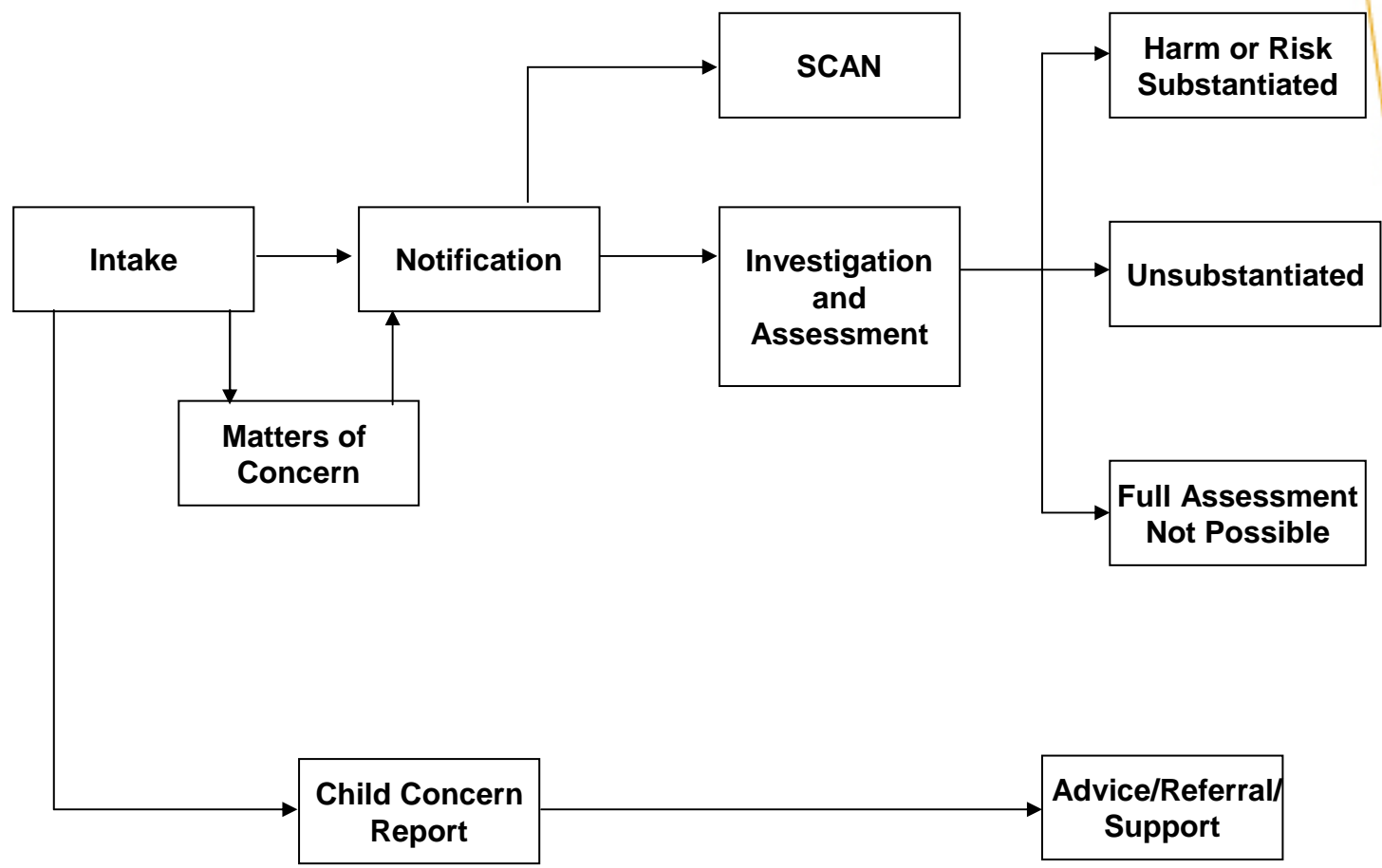


Department of Child Safety child protection mandate

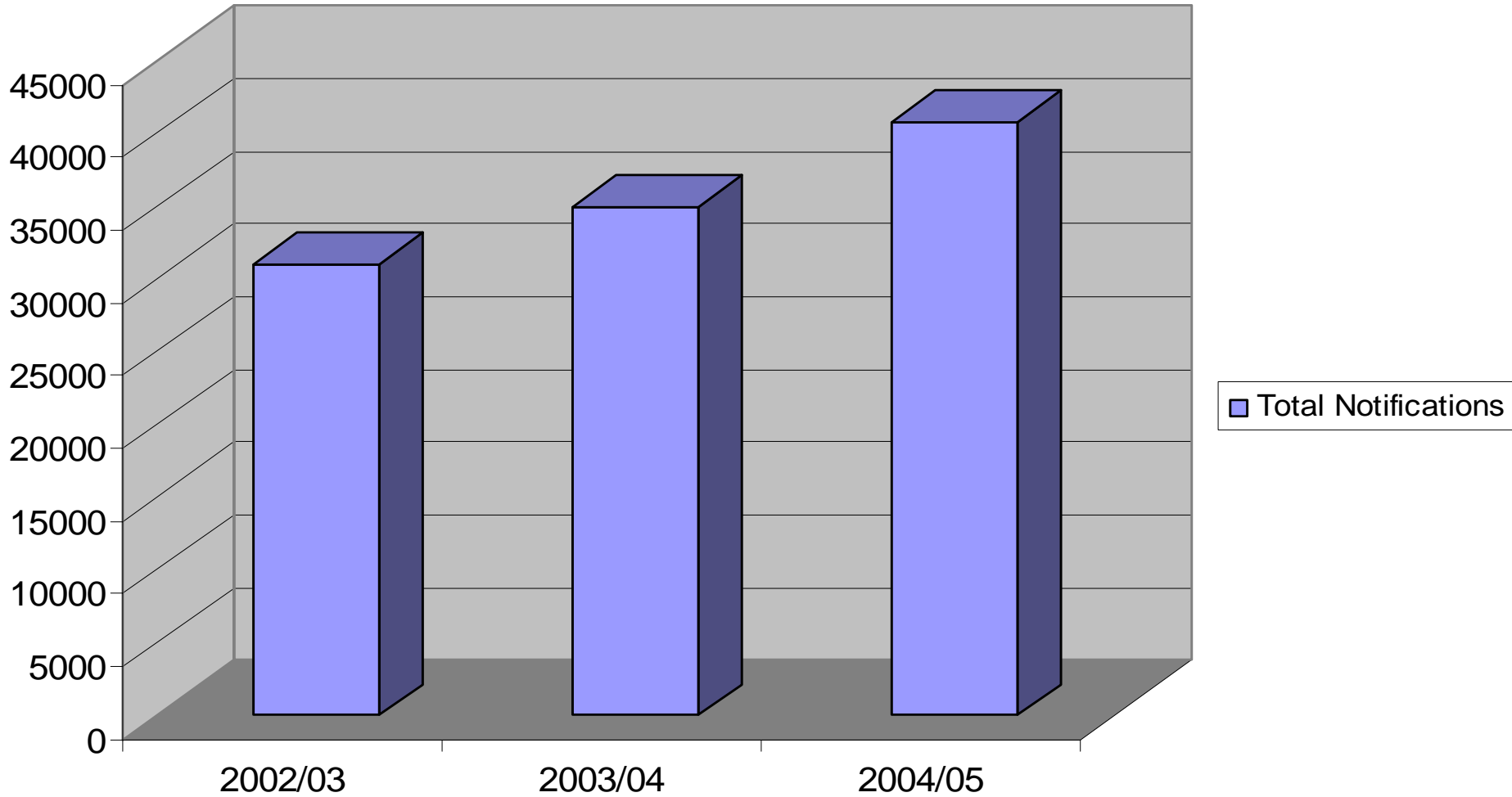
Child Protection Act 1999 defines a child in need of protection as being someone who “has suffered harm, is suffering harm, or is at unacceptable risk of suffering harm; **and** does not have a parent able and willing to protect the child from harm”.



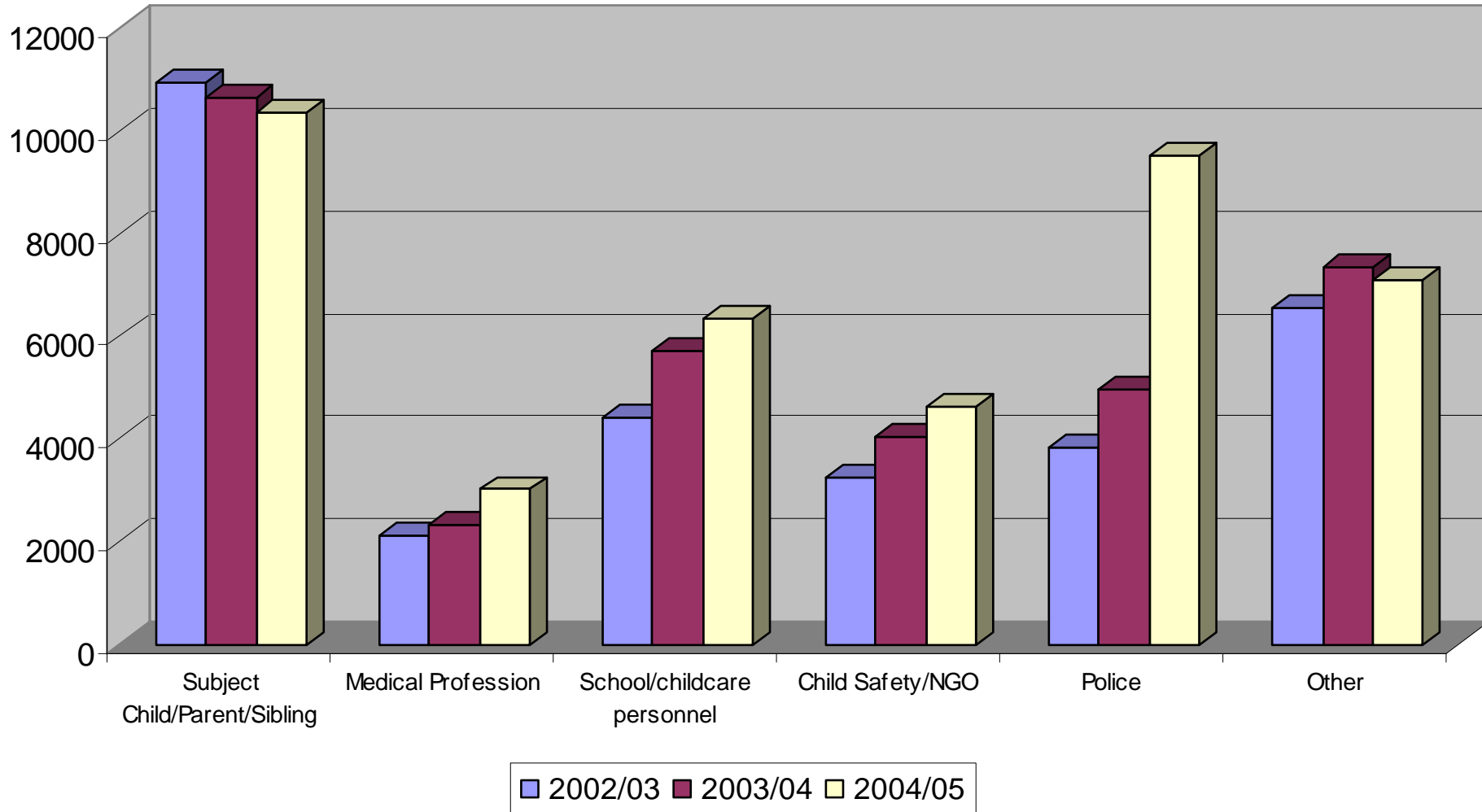
Notification and assessment process



Number of Notifications, Queensland 2002/03 to 2004/05



Notification^(a), by Primary Source of Notification, Queensland 2002/03 to 2004/05



(a) The term notification refers to a report of alleged abuse or neglect. A notification can only involve one child: where a report relates to more than one child, a separate notification is counted for each child

Department of Child Safety response to domestic violence

- Structured Decision Making
 - Screening Tool
 - Response Priority Tool
 - Child Strengths and Needs Assessment Tool
 - Parental Strengths and Needs Assessment Tool



Other domestic violence initiatives

- Induction training
- ICARE training
- SCAN
 - Assessment and Management Teams
 - Community Implementation Teams
- Child Safety Practice Manual
- Domestic and family violence practice paper



Challenges

- Child-centred versus woman-centred philosophies
- Statutory intervention versus prevention and early intervention



Opportunities

- Emergent focus on prevention and early intervention
- Cross government networks



Conclusion

Best of times...

Worst of times...





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