Consider:
- Physical
- Emotional
- Sexual
- Neglect
- Cumulative

Consider:
- Connection to primary caregiver
- Connection to family
- Connection to school and friends
- Connection to community
- Connection to culture

Consider:
- Health and growth
- Education and learning
- Social, Emotional and Behavioural

A copy of this snapshot should be recorded on CRIS or CRiSSP. This page can be accessed by downloading it from <www.dhs.vic.gov.au/for-service-providers/children,-youth-and-families/child-protection/specialist-practice-resources-for-child-protection-workers>.
Simple Guide to Genograms

A genogram or family tree is a useful tool to gather information about a young person’s family. This visual representation of a family can help you to identify patterns or themes within families that may be influencing or driving the young person’s current behaviour.

Most young people really enjoy this opportunity to talk about their family history, and it can work as a good tool to build trust and rapport in a working relationship. However be aware that some young people may find seeing a visual picture of the state of their relationships confronting, particularly if the majority of relationships in their life at present are conflictual or distant. Use this tool sensitively and in cases where you think it will be useful to help promote healthy change and the development of more positive relationships in the young person’s life. A copy of this genogram should be recorded on CRIS or CRISSP.

With the young person

- Aim to gather information about at least three generations: the young person’s generation, their parents and their grandparents.
- Include significant others who lived with or cared for the family.
- Start with drawing the family structure, who is in the family, in which generations, how they are connected, birth/marriage, deaths etc.
- You may ask them to tell you a bit about each person.
- As the young person tells you about family members and relationships, make a note alongside the name.
- Ask about relationships between family members
  - Who are you closest to?
  - What is/was your relationship like with...?
  - How often do you see...?
  - Where does...live now?
  - Is there anyone here who you really don’t get along with?
  - Is there anyone else who is very close in the family? Or others who really don’t get along?
- Ask about characteristics or habits of family members, particularly those relevant to your role: health issues, alcohol/drug use, physical and mental health, violence, crime/trouble with the law, employment, education.
- Ask about family values, beliefs and traditions.
- Try to explore patterns and themes.
  - Who are you most like?
  - What is...like? Who else is like them?
  - Did anyone else leave home early? Is anyone else interested in art, etc?

Symbols for drawing the genogram or family tree

- Female symbol - name, age
- Male symbol - name, age
- Unknown gender
- Married - add the year or ages
- De facto relationship - commencement date or ages
- Separation - date or ages
- Divorce - date or ages

List children in birth order and put names and ages either within the symbol or underneath.

Include significant others who lived with or cared for the family.

• Start with drawing the family structure, who is in the family, in which generations, how they are connected, birth/marriage, deaths etc.
• You may ask them to tell you a bit about each person.
• As the young person tells you about family members and relationships, make a note alongside the name.
• Ask about relationships between family members
  - Who are you closest to?
  - What is/was your relationship like with...?
  - How often do you see...?
  - Where does...live now?
  - Is there anyone here who you really don’t get along with?
  - Is there anyone else who is very close in the family? Or others who really don’t get along?
• Ask about characteristics or habits of family members, particularly those relevant to your role: health issues, alcohol/drug use, physical and mental health, violence, crime/trouble with the law, employment, education.
• Ask about family values, beliefs and traditions.
• Try to explore patterns and themes.
  - Who are you most like?
  - What is...like? Who else is like them?
  - Did anyone else leave home early? Is anyone else interested in art, etc?