

FACT SHEET CHILD SAFE ORGANISATION

Do you work or volunteer for an organisation that provide services or facilities for children?

Surf Coast Shire is committed to being a child safe organisation and has zero tolerance for child abuse.

Victorian organisations that provide services or facilities for children are required by law to implement Child Safe Standards to protect children from harm.

BACKGROUND

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (Royal Commission) examined what makes an organisation child safe. The Royal Commission highlighted the need to provide an environment in which children and young people are safe, protected and respected, and where staff have the skills, confidence and knowledge to safeguard children.

In response, the Australian Government has introduced the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework (the Framework), a whole-of-government policy that sets minimum standards for creating and embedding a child safe culture and practice. The Framework incorporates the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

At Surf Coast Shire we have been working to ensure compliance with the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations. More information on the principles can be found on the Australian Human Rights Commission website or <https://childsafe.humanrights.gov.au/national-principles/download-national-principles>

WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR YOU?

Organisations who work directly with children or in child-related work areas, play a vital role in protecting them from abuse and harm.

As a hirer participating on the premises it is an expectation the organisation considers and is working towards implementing the 10 National Principles for Child Safe Organisations (which encompass the Standards). <https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safety/being-a-child-safe-organisation/the-child-safe-standards/complying-with-the-standards/>

We all have an obligation to do the best we can to keep children safe from harm and abuse.

WHAT TYPES OF CONDUCT ARE REPORTABLE?

There are five types of 'reportable conduct' listed in the Child Wellbeing and Safety Act 2005:

- sexual offences (against, with or in the presence of, a child)
- sexual misconduct (against, with or in the presence of, a child)
- physical violence (against, with or in the presence of, a child)
- behaviour that causes significant emotional or psychological harm
- significant neglect.



FURTHER SUPPORT

If your organisation has limited or no funding from government and no regulatory arrangements with government the Commission for Children and Young People will be the primary contact on child safe standards issues for your organisation;

<https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/>

Or contact your Community Asset Committee representative for further support.



Child Safe
Organisations
National Principles

National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

1

Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.

6

Processes to respond to complaints and concerns are child focused.

2

Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.

7

Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.

3

Families and communities are informed, and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.

8

Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.

4

Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.

9

Implementation of the national child safe principles is regularly reviewed and improved.

5

People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.

10

Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.



For information and resources, go to
<https://childsafe.humanrights.gov.au>