

# NATIONAL CHILD SAFE PRINCIPLES

## NEW SOUTH WALES



The National Principles for Child Safe Organisations are a set of high-level principles that provide a national approach to creating child-safe cultures within organisations, while Child Safe Standards are the specific, state-level implementations of those principles, ensuring consistency across Australia.

The Royal Commission into Institutional Child Sexual Abuse recommended 10 standards for better protection children from harm and abuse. The National Principles reflect these standards and have a broader scope to protect children and young people from all forms of abuse.

In February 2019, the National Principles were endorsed by every state and territory through the Council of Australian Governments (COAG). Each State and Territory holds the responsibility to implement the Principles in their jurisdiction through their Child Safe Standards.

### **Is my organisation required to implement the Child Safe Standards?**

The NSW Child Safe Standards legislation, implemented through the Children's Guardian Amendment (Child Safe Scheme) Bill 2021, was passed by parliament in November 2021. Religious bodies religious that provide services to children, or in which adults have contact with children must implement the Child Safe Standards.

### **What are the NSW Child Safe Standards?**

1. Child safety is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture
2. Children participate in decision affecting them and are taken seriously
3. Families and communities are informed and involved
4. Equity is upheld and diversity is taken into account
5. People working with children are suitable and supported
6. Processes to respond to complaints of child abuse are child focussed
7. Staff are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe through continual education and training
8. Physical and online environments minimise the opportunity for abuse to occur
9. Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is continuously reviewed and improved
10. Policies and procedures document how the organisation is child safe

The Child Safe Standards are designed to ensure child safety is prioritised across all aspects of an organisation from leadership and culture to the environment to documentation. Continuous quality improvement has been built into the standards to ensure that organisations must review and enhance their approach to child safety.

### **How can my organisation implement the Child Safe Standards?**

Each of the Child Safe Standards has guidance on how organisations can ensure they adhere to them and assist them to be child safe. The Office of the Children's Guardian Guide to the Child Safe Standards offers practical ideas that can assist with implementation so organisations are meeting their legislative requirements and creating a culture of safeguarding.

The OCG Guide can be found [here](#).