

NATIONAL CHILD SAFE PRINCIPLES & CHILD SAFE STANDARDS QUEENSLAND



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?

In 2024, Queensland passed new legislation, the Child Safe Organisations Act 2024, which will bring into effect the Child Safe Standards in 2025 and will be governed by the Queensland Child and Family Commission.

The 10 Child Safe Standards will be brought into effect through the Child Safe Organisations System, which will be introduced in a phased approach from 1 October 2025. Different sectors will have to meet their legal responsibilities at different times.

From 1st April 2026, Religious Bodies who provide the following services will be required to implement the Child Safe Standards:

- provides community or support services e.g. chaplaincy service or children's recreation service
- activities or services - church services, youth groups

What is the Universal Principle?

From October 1st 2025 Queensland's new child safeguarding law (the *Child Safe Organisation Act 2024*) comes into effect. Under this new law, your organisations who work with children, will need to meet 10 [Child Safe Standards](#) and provide a culturally safe environment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people—which in the law is known as the Universal Principle.

The Universal Principle refers to developing environments which are culturally safe for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, where they feel included, welcomed valued and respected.

What are the Queensland Child Safe Standards?

1. Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.
2. Children are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
3. Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.
4. Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.
 - People working with children are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing in practice.
6. Processes to respond to complaints of child abuse are child focused.

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7. Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children safe through ongoing education and training.
8. Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing and minimise the opportunity for children to be harmed.
9. Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved.
10. Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children.

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?

Further information regarding the implementation of the Child Safe Standards in Queensland can be found [here](#).