

NATIONAL CHILD SAFE PRINCIPLES

SOUTH AUSTRALIA



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.

How does South Australia implement the National Principles?

The South Australian Department of Human Services have implemented the National Principles through the Child Safe Environments Program. This initiative helps organisations to create and keep environments that are safe and welcoming for children and young people. This is done by supporting organisations to create child-safe policies and procedures that follow state laws and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

Organisations providing services to children must also lodge a Child Safe Environments compliance statement. This statement is developed through a process where organisations must answer a set of questions about their approach to child safety and upload their policies for assessment by the Department of Human Services.

Is my organisation required to lodge a Child Safe Environments Compliance Statement?

All organisations providing services to children and young people must lodge a statement, including those provided by religious organisations.

What are the National Principles?

1. Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.
2. Children and young people 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.
5. People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.
6. Processes to respond to complaints and concerns are child focused.
7. Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.
8. Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.
9. Implementation of the national child safe principles is regularly reviewed and improved.
 - Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.

How can my organisation implement the National Principles?

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More information about the Child Safe Environments Program can be found [here](#).