

NATIONAL CHILD SAFE PRINCIPLES

VICTORIA



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 Victorian Child Safe Standards came into effect on July 1st, 2022. Religious bodies including churches are legally obligated to implement the Child Safe Standards. Victoria has added an additional standard, which is specifically targeted at the experiences and needs of Aboriginal children.

What are the Victorian Child Safe Standards?

- Organisations establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued.
- Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.
- Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
- Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.
- Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.
- People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.
- Processes for complaints and concerns are child-focused
- Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.
- Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.
- Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved.
- Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.

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 Commission for Children and Young People 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 CCYP Guide can be found [here](#).