

NATIONAL CHILD SAFE PRINCIPLES

WESTERN 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 Western Australia implement the National Principles?

The Western Australian Department of Communities have implemented the National Principles through their Child Safe Organisations framework. 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.

The Commissioner for Children and Young People provides advice and support for organisations to implement the National Principles.

Is my organisation required to implement the National Principles?

The WA Government is committed to supporting the development of safe organisations for children and young people and is working to develop an independent oversight system that includes monitoring and enforcement of the National Principles.

In the meantime, the WA Government encourages organisations across the state that engage with children and young people to implement the National Principles.

What are the National Principles?

- Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.
- Children and young people are informed 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 to respond to 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 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?

More information and support on implementation can be found [here](#).