



# Information Sheet

## National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse (the Royal Commission) Final Report emphasised that members of the public, children and young people, parents, carers, families and communities should feel confident that organisations working with children provide safe environments in which children's rights, needs and interests are met. Ten Child Safe Standards are recommended to foster child safety and wellbeing across Australia and are mandatory for institutions that undertake child-related work.

National Principles which go beyond child sexual abuse have been created to include other forms of abuse or potential harm for children and young people. This reflects the understanding that the prevention of sexual abuse is best approached as part of broader efforts to prevent other forms of abuse and neglect.

The [National Principles](#) are underpinned by a child rights, are strengths-based and designed to allow for flexibility in implementation across all sectors engaging with children and young people, and in organisations of various sizes.

The National Principles for Child Safe Organisations are:

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.

## Information Sheet – National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

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.
10. Policies and procedures document how the organisation is safe for children and young people.

SNAICC, in partnership with the [National Office for Child Safety](#), developed resources to support organisations working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and communities to implement the National Principles.

The [Keeping Our Kids Safe](#) resources apply a cultural lens to the National Principles to help organisations think about how to make themselves safer for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

Child safe organisations create cultures, adopt strategies, and take action to prevent harm to children.

### How can we achieve this?

- Establish child safety principles in governance
- Promote child safety amongst members and the local community
- Share child safe resources and professional learning opportunities
- Balance a safety focus in all activities with positive interactions and environments that contribute to the healthy development of children

## More information

To find out more about Early Years Networks, please visit our website or contact:

- **Web:** [www.communities.wa.gov.au](http://www.communities.wa.gov.au)
- **Email:** [EY@communities.wa.gov.au](mailto:EY@communities.wa.gov.au)
- **Phone:** 0478 962 339 or 0481 061 924

Last updated: May 2022