

The Child and Youth Safe Standards



The Child and Youth Safe Standards are 10 principles that outline how an organisation can develop a culture with child safety and wellbeing at its centre.

→ What you need to know

The Child and Youth Safe Standards play a vital role in harm prevention.

The Standards contribute to preventing abuse and harm by requiring organisations to meet a benchmark that means the right of children and young people to safety is respected and upheld.

The Child and Youth Safe Standards are principle-based.

By 'principle-based', we mean the Standards are written so that it is possible to put them into practice in lots of different ways.

This flexibility means that smaller organisations can comply in ways that suits their organisation and resources.

All 10 Child and Youth Safe Standards must be put into practice in accordance with a Universal Principle for Aboriginal Cultural Safety.

The Universal Principle says organisations must provide an environment that ensures that the right to Cultural Safety of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children is respected.

→ Why it matters



When someone respects and listens to you, they will also follow through with any requests you have.

This tells you they are actually listening and not just ticking a box or saying words that they don't actually mean.

— Elise, who wants to start a dog-walking business.



→ Where this comes from



Tasmania's 10 Child and Youth Safe Standards mirror a national set of principles.

The National Principles for Child Safe Organisations emerged from the work of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

Find out more about the National Principles at childsafef.humanrights.gov.au/national-principles.

→ What the Standards say

The Universal Principle to embed Aboriginal Cultural Safety



Standard 1: Child safety and wellbeing is embedded in organisational leadership, governance and culture.

This means: All people in the organisation care about children and young people's safety and wellbeing above everything else, and make sure they act that way and lead others to act that way.



Standard 2: Children and young people are informed about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.

This means: Children and young people are told about their human rights, have a say in decisions and are taken seriously.



Standard 3: Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.

This means: Families, carers, and communities know about and are involved in the organisation's child and safety and wellbeing activities.



Standard 4: Equity is upheld and diverse needs respected in policy and practice.

This means: The rights of every child and young person are being met, and children and young people are treated with dignity, respect and fairness.



Standard 5: People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.

This means: People working with children and young people are safe to work with children and young people and are respectful of them. They are taught how to keep children safe and well.



Standard 6: Processes to respond to complaints and concerns are child focused.

This means: Children, young people, families, carers, staff and volunteers are listened to and can share problems and concerns.



Standard 7: Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.

This means: Staff and volunteers keep learning all the time so they know how to keep children and young people safe and well.



Standard 8: Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.

This means: Children and young people are safe in online and physical spaces.



Standard 9: Implementation of the Child and Youth Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved.

This means: The organisation keeps reviewing and improving its child safety and wellbeing practices.



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

This means: The organisation writes down how it keeps children and young people safe and well, and makes sure that everyone can see these documents.