

The Seven Child Safe Standards

Standard 1: Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety, including through effective leadership arrangements

Standard 2: A child safe policy or statement of commitment to child safety

Standard 3: A code of conduct that establishes clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children

Standard 4: Screening, supervision, training and other human resources practices that reduce the risk of child abuse by new and existing personnel

Standard 5: Processes for responding to and reporting suspected child abuse

Standard 6: Strategies to identify and reduce or remove risks of child abuse

Standard 7: Strategies to promote the participation and empowerment of children



Creating a Safer Victoria for children

The Victorian Government has introduced Child Safe Standards for organisations with direct and regular contact with children, and is committed to supporting and working with them to build their capacity to meet these standards.

These seven standards aim to drive cultural change, so that protecting children from abuse is embedded in everyday thinking and practice. Anyone needing assistance in complying with the Child Safe Standards can access the online training which explains the requirements for Faith Communities one standard at a time.



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Victorian Council of
Churches

Child Safe Standard One

Changing Attitudes
to Child Safety

Victorian Child Safe Standards

Child Safe Standard One

Changing Attitudes to Child Safety



Standard 1: Strategies to embed an organisational culture of child safety, including through effective leadership arrangements

A Culture of Safety vs Cultural Safety

At first the statements “Cultural Safety” and “A Culture of Safety” might sound the same. However, understanding the difference is important.

A Culture of Child Safety

The Child Safe Standards aim to drive cultural change in organisations so that protecting children from abuse is embedded in everyday

“Creating a culture of child safety within your organisation is vital to lowering the risk of harm to children. Child abuse must be acknowledged, expectations of behaviour must be clearly explained and accepted, and strategies such as robust recruitment practices must be in place. By building a strong culture of child safety, you will reduce the ability for potential abusers to be opportunistic. There should be a high expectation that everyone in your organisation is committed to child safety.”

(Commission for Children and Young People (2015), A guide for creating a child safe organisation 2.0, pg 16)

thinking and practice. Protecting children from abuse will be the foundation of daily life.

Creating a culture of child safety within your Faith Community is vital to lowering the risk of harm to children. It is important to build a strong culture of child safety within your Faith Community. There should be a high expectation that everyone in your organisation is committed to child safety.

It is also important to apply strong governance arrangements, documenting how your duty of care responsibilities to children will be met. Make child safety a top priority in your organisation’s operations.

The 3 Principles

Cultural Safety is important to the Commission for Children and Young People as they have ensured that these three principles are a part of each standard:

- Promoting the cultural safety of Aboriginal children
- Promoting the cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds
- Promoting the safety of children with a disability



The Self Review Tool helps your organisation build a Culture of Safety

Cultural Safety

Cultural Safety for **Aboriginal children** is about the environment and about respect. They need to feel that their Aboriginal identity is valued. Culture is about family relationships, Elders and ancestors. It includes language heritage, spiritual connection, ceremony, stories and dance.

Acknowledging the Country where your community is located shows a willingness to preserve Aboriginal culture. You can also display images and symbols.



“A child safe organisation respects cultural differences and variations in child rearing practices due to a family’s personal, cultural or religious beliefs. However, a child safe organisation recognises that these differences do not reduce a child’s right to be safe or the organisation’s responsibility to protect the child from harm.”

(Commission for Children and Young People (2015), A guide for creating a child safe organisation 2.0, pg 12)

Cultural Safety for **children from culturally diverse backgrounds** is about being respectful, inclusive and welcoming. Include positive cultural images and artwork. Parenting styles vary across cultures, however, culture should not be an excuse for child abuse or neglect. Creating a Child Safe environment is everyone’s responsibility!

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