

## We Put Children First

At Life Without Barriers, we all share the responsibility for child safety. Every day, we offer support and care to children. We want every one of those children to feel safe and respected.

We recognise that all children and young people have important rights, including to:

- be treated fairly
- have a say about decisions affecting their lives
- live and grow up healthy
- be safe
- have an education
- play and have fun.

We recognise that physical, emotional and psychological safety is the basis for healthy development and wellbeing, and we are committed to the protection and safety of the children and young people we support. This includes protection from abuse and neglect, resulting in harm or risk of harm, both intentional and unintentional, caused by individuals and/or from our processes and systems.

## National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

The National Principles for Child Safe Organisations were developed by the National Children's Commissioner and the Council of Australian Governments following the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. We are committed to the implementation of these principles:

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.
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

## **Objectives**

All staff share the responsibility and have an obligation to:

1. Promote a culture where children and young people are treated with dignity, equality and respect.
2. Provide services in a way that strengthens the rights of children, empowers them and is ethical.
3. Provide services that are culturally safe.
4. Provide services that are effective, safe, responsive and ensure positive outcomes for children.
5. Promote practices where the protection, safety and wellbeing of children is paramount.
6. Take all reasonable steps to ensure the physical, emotional and psychological safety and protection of children.
7. Ensure children understand their rights, including access to age appropriate material explaining what they can expect when receiving services from us.
8. Ensure children can access communication channels, and people who will listen to and act on their concerns.
9. Listen to and respond appropriately to the views and concerns of children.
10. Respond quickly, fairly and transparently to any disclosure, issue or complaint made by a child, or their parent/guardian or other advocate.
11. Identify, assess and manage risks to ensure continuous, safe, responsive and efficient services.

## **Related Policy Guidelines or Documents**

- Child Protection Policy Guideline
- Our Values
- National Principles for Child Safe Organisations.