

COUNCIL POLICY

Child Safety Statement	Adopted By Council:	24/05/2018	
	Date/s Revised:	17/02/21, 27/07/22	
	Next Review Date:	02/25	
	Document No:	CP045	
	Directorate:	Community	
	Responsible Officer:	Community Services Officer	

CONTEXT

In response to the Betrayal of Trust Inquiry (Parliamentary Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and Other Non-Government Organisations), the Victorian Government has introduced compulsory minimum standards for organisations that provide services for children to help protect children from abuse.

The Victorian Government has now introduced new Child Safe Standards which came into effect on 1 July 2022. The eleven new Standards now replace the previous seven standards and principles.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this statement is to affirm the Borough of Queenscliffe's commitment to child safety in the delivery of Council services and activities.

DEFINITIONS

Child means a person under the age of 18 years

Child abuse means sexual abuse (including grooming, with the intent to sexually harm a child), physical abuse or violence, psychological or emotional abuse and neglect

STATEMENT

The Borough of Queenscliffe is committed to the management of child safety in providing Council services and conducting its activities. This commitment includes:

- having a zero tolerance for child abuse
- ensuring Council actively work to listen to and empower children
- ensuring that systems are in place to identify risks and protect children from abuse, and that all allegations and concerns are taken seriously and responded to expeditiously and in a consistent manner
- ensuring that we foster a culture and environment of openness which encourages and supports children and adults to safely disclose risks or incidents of harm or abuse in the knowledge their concerns will be taken seriously, investigated and responded to appropriately

- ensuring Council promote the cultural safety for Aboriginal children and children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse backgrounds and provide a safe environment for children with a disability
- ensuring that screening procedures and recruitment practices are in place for all staff, volunteers and contractors, including, but not limited to, working with children and police checks
- Acknowledging that training and education is important to ensure that everyone in our organisation understands that child safety is everyone's responsibility.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

This statement will be reviewed on a continuous basis, but as a minimum every three years from the date of adoption.

OTHER REFERENCES

Child Wellbeing and Safety Amendment (Child Safe Standards) Act 2015

<https://ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safety/being-a-child-safe-organisation/the-child-safe-standards/>

END