



**Child Safe  
Organisations**  
National Principles

**National Principles for  
Child Safe Organisations**

# Principles for Child Safe Organisations – making places and spaces good for kids

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**NATIONAL CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER**



Australian  
Human Rights  
Commission



## **Role of the National Children's Commissioner**

To promote, and advocate for, the rights of children and young people in Australia



# The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child



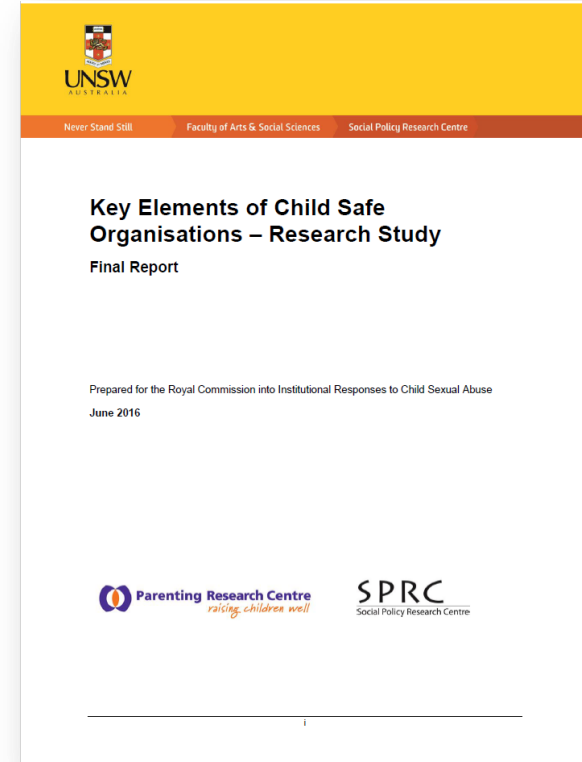
“What institutions and governments should do to better protect children against child sexual abuse and related matters in institutional contexts in the future”

*Royal Commission's Terms of Reference*



# Engagement with the Royal Commission

- Preventing child sexual abuse in out-of-home care
- Improving working with children checks
- Children's Safety Study
- eSafety expert panel
- Consultation with children and young people on eSafety
- Key elements of child safe organisations





## Organisations can foster wellbeing by helping children to:

- develop positive relationships with peers and adults
- learn about the world around them
- explore things they are interested in
- empower them to have a voice.



# The National Quality Framework for Early Childhood Education and Care

- The NQF aligns with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which ensures that children have the right to be heard, to be free from violence, abuse and neglect, to have the opportunity to thrive, to be engaged in civics and citizenship and opportunities to take action and be accountable.
- A rights-based approach to delivering education and care means understanding these rights and implementing practice which reflects them.





# National Principles for Child Safe Organisations

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 through education and training with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe.
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.

# Consultations

## Implementation Advisory Group

- Affinity Intercultural Foundation
- Australia Council for the Arts
- Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission
- Australian Children's Education and Care Quality Authority
- Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care
- Australian Institute of Company Directors
- Australian Local Government Association
- Australian Medical Association
- Australian Sports Commission
- Early Childhood Australia
- Families Australia
- Insurance Council of Australia
- National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation
- National Council of Churches in Australia
- National Disability Service
- Principals Australia Institute
- Scouts Australia
- SNAICC
- YMCA Australia

## Consumer Advocacy Advisory Group

- Australian Centre for Child Protection
- Australian Childhood Trauma Group
- Australian Multicultural Foundation
- Australian Youth Affairs Coalition
- Children and Young People with Disability Australia
- CREATE
- Headspace
- Healing Foundation
- Institute of Child Protection Studies
- Multicultural Youth Advocacy Network
- National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect
- National LGBTI Health Alliance
- Our Watch
- Parenting Research Centre
- SNAICC



# What Children and Young People Said They Would Like Organisations to Promise Them



- Treat everyone equally and fairly
- Include and welcome everyone
- Help them with their hopes and dreams
- Make places happy and comfortable
- Be good at what you do
- Provide access to technology and care
- Understand and individual children and young people
- Make sure there are lots of ways to have a say
- Don't just listen, act





**Wheel of Child Safety**



## Principle

# 2

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



# Tools and Resources

- A new **Child Safe Organisations website**
- **Online training modules** that will take people through the ten National Principles in an interactive way
- A **self-assessment tool** which will help organisations consider their current child safe practices and areas for improvement
- A template that organisations can use to develop a **Charter of Commitment to children and young people**
- An example **Code of Conduct** that organisations can adapt
- A template that organisations can use to develop a **Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy** that addresses the ten National Principles
- An **online safety checklist** for organisations we are developing with the Office of the e-Safety Commissioner
- A **guide for parents and carers** to help assess whether an organisation is child-safe.



# A Whole of Organisation Approach



# Thank you

Visit our project page at  
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