



COMMISSION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Child Safe Standards

In 2012, the Victorian Parliament embarked on a **landmark inquiry** into the handling of child abuse by religious and other non-government organisations.

The inquiry was launched in the context of growing community concern about not only the extent of child abuse occurring within organisations, but also the **lengths to which some bodies were going to conceal** or minimise this abuse.

The inquiry heard of the devastating and often life-long consequences for abuse victims.

The impact of abuse on children cannot – and should never – be underestimated.



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The **Betrayal of Trust** report, which was tabled in Parliament in late 2013, contained a number of recommendations designed to **prevent** child abuse within organisations from happening in the first place.

In responding to the recommendations in 2014, the Victorian Government committed to the introduction of **Child Safe Standards** for organisations with direct and regular contact with children.



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What do I need to know?

- Children have the **right** to feel safe and to be safe, and to be protected from sexual, physical and emotional abuse and neglect. The Child Safe Standards provide a framework to help organisations achieve this.
- **Victorian law requires** organisations to meet the standards.
- The Standards apply to all personnel in an organisation, including:
 - Board of Management
 - CEO and executive
 - Employees
 - Volunteers
 - Students on placement
 - Contractors





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- There are seven Standards. In complying with the Standards, an organisation must include the following **principles** as part of their response to each Standard:
 - **the cultural safety of Aboriginal children** -
 - **the cultural safety of children from culturally and/or linguistically diverse background** -
 - **the safety of children with a disability** -
- The Standards are designed to provide a **framework** to help organisations keep children safe from all forms of harm.
- The Standards are **flexible** and **principle based** to enable organisations to **tailor** their approach based on their type of organisation, level of responsibility for children and activities involving children.



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Standard 1: Organisational culture and leadership

Leading from the top down and embedding a culture that makes child safety everyone's business

Standard 2: Child safe policy or statement of commitment

Creating a foundation for a child safe environment

Standard 3: Code of Conduct

Setting clear expectations for appropriate behaviour with children



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Standard 4: Recruitment, induction, supervision and management

Effectively screening and training people in the organisation to reduce the risk of child abuse

Standard 5: Responding to and reporting abuse

Putting in place clear procedures for responding to and reporting child safety concerns or child abuse



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Standard 6: Risk assessment and mitigation

Identifying potential for harm and proactively planning to prevent, reduce or remove the risk of child abuse

Standard 7: Empowerment and participation

Supporting children and young people to understand their rights, contribute to child safety planning and to raise concerns



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Further assistance

- Resources and tools are available at:
<http://www.ccyp.vic.gov.au/child-safe-standards/index.htm>

These include:

- A Guide for Creating a Child Safe Organisation
 - Child safe organisations, tip sheets
 - Child safety tip sheets for parents
- An information line has been set up and can be accessed on **8601 5281** or email childsafestandards@ccyp.vic.gov.au
 - Information relating to the **Betrayal of Trust** Inquiry Report implementation can be found at:
<http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/home/safer+communities/protecting+children+and+families/betrayal+of+trust+implementation>